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للتربية والعلم والثقافة

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Actes de la Conférence générale

Actas de la Conferencia General

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## **NOTE ON THE RECORDS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

The Records of the 36th session of the General Conference are printed in two volumes:

The volume Resolutions, containing the resolutions adopted by the General Conference, the reports of Commissions I to V, the Administrative Commission and the Legal Committee, and the list of officers of the General Conference and of the Commissions and Committees (Volume 1);

The present volume Proceedings (Volume 2), containing the revised and corrected version of the verbatim records of plenary meetings and the list of participants.

Under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the verbatim records are published in a single edition, in which each intervention is reproduced in the working language in which it was given and interventions given in a working language other than English or French are followed by a translation into either English or French alternately meeting by meeting.

## **NOTE CONCERNANT LES ACTES DE LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE**

Les Actes de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale sont imprimés en deux volumes :

Le volume Résolutions, contenant les résolutions adoptées par la Conférence générale, les rapports des Commissions I à V, de la Commission administrative et du Comité juridique et la liste des membres du Bureau de la Conférence générale et des bureaux des commissions et comités (Vol. 1) ;

Le présent volume, Comptes rendus des débats (Vol. 2), contenant la version revue et corrigée des comptes rendus *in extenso* des séances plénières et la liste des participants.

Aux termes de l'article 53 du Règlement intérieur de la Conférence générale, les comptes rendus *in extenso* sont publiés dans une édition unique où les interventions sont reproduites dans les langues de travail employées par les orateurs et suivies, si elles ont été faites dans une autre langue de travail que l'anglais ou le français, de traductions effectuées, alternativement d'une séance à l'autre, dans l'une ou l'autre de ces langues.

## **NOTA RELATIVA A LAS ACTAS DE LA CONFERENCIA GENERAL**

Las Actas de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General se publican en dos volúmenes:

El volumen *Resoluciones*, que contiene las resoluciones aprobadas por la Conferencia General, los informes de las Comisiones I a V, de la Comisión Administrativa y del Comité Jurídico y la lista de miembros de las mesas de la Conferencia General y de sus comisiones y comités (Volumen 1);

El presente volumen "*Actas literales*" (Volumen 2), que contiene la versión revisada y corregida de las Actas literales de las sesiones plenarias y la lista de los participantes.

Con arreglo a lo dispuesto en el Artículo 53 del Reglamento de la Conferencia General, las Actas literales se publican en una edición única en que las intervenciones se reproducen en las lenguas de trabajo empleadas por los oradores, seguidas, si se han hecho en lenguas de trabajo que no sean el francés o el inglés, de traducciones efectuadas, alternativamente, de una sesión a otra, en una u otra de esas lenguas.

## **ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ К АКТАМ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОЙ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ**

Акты 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции печатаются в двух томах:

том *Резолюции*, содержащий резолюции, принятые Генеральной конференцией, доклады комиссий I – V, Комиссии по административным вопросам и Юридического комитета, а также список членов Президиума Генеральной конференции, комиссий и комитетов (том 1);

настоящий том, Стенографические отчеты (том 2), содержащий отредактированные и исправленные стенографические отчеты пленарных заседаний и список участников.

В соответствии со статьей 53 Правил процедуры Генеральной конференции стенографические отчеты печатаются в одном издании, в котором каждое выступление воспроизводится на рабочем языке, на котором оно было сделано, а выступления на другом рабочем языке, помимо английского и французского, сопровождаются переводом на английский или французский язык поочередно от заседания к заседанию.

## مذكرة بشأن سجلات المؤتمر العام

تصدر سجلات الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام في مجلدين:

مجلد القرارات، الذي يحتوي على القرارات التي اعتمدها المؤتمر العام، وعلى تقارير اللجان من الأولى إلى الخامسة واللجنة الإدارية واللجنة القانونية، وقائمة أعضاء هيئات مكاتب المؤتمر العام واللجان (المجلد الأول). وهذا المجلد "محاضر الجلسات" (المجلد الثاني) الذي يحتوي على النسخة المنقحة والمصوبة من المحاضر الحرفية للجلسات العامة وعلى قائمة المشتركين.

وبمقتضى المادة ٥٣ من النظام الداخلي للمؤتمر العام، تصدر المحاضر الحرفية في طبعة واحدة تثبت فيها كل خطبة بلغة العمل التي يستخدمها المتحدث وتعبئها، إن كانت الخطبة بلغة عمل غير الإنجليزية أو الفرنسية، ترجمة بإحدى هاتين اللغتين بالتناوب من جلسة لأخرى. وهذا المجلد "محاضر الجلسات" (المجلد الثاني) الذي يحتوي على النسخة المنقحة والمصوبة من المحاضر الحرفية للجلسات العامة وعلى قائمة المشتركين.

## 关于大会记录的说明

大会第三十六届会议记录分两卷印刷：

决议卷，包括大会通过的各项决议，第 I 至第 V 委员会、行政委员会和法律委员会的报告，以及大会总务委员会成员及各委员会主席团成员名单（第一卷）。

本卷会议录（第二卷），包括各次全体会议逐字记录的校阅本和与会者名单。

根据《大会议事规则》第 53 条规定，逐字记录应出版单行本，其中发言应以发言时使用的工作语言复印；发言使用的语言如非英语或法语而为其它工作语言时，则应附以英语或法语译文，两种语言按会议顺序轮流使用。



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS .....	1
First plenary meeting (25 October 2011 at 10.10 a.m.).....	3
Item 1.1: Opening of the 36th session of the General Conference .....	4
Item 1.2: Establishment of the Credentials Committee .....	7
Establishment of the Nominations Committee .....	8
Item 1.4: Adoption of the agenda.....	8
Item 1.7: Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those maintaining formal or operational relations with UNESCO, and recommendations of the Executive Board thereon .....	9
Item 9.3: Request for the admission of Curaçao as an Associate Member of UNESCO .....	9
Item 9.5: Request for the admission of Sint Maarten as an Associate Member of UNESCO .....	10
Second plenary meeting (25 October 2011 at 3.10 p.m.) .....	13
Item 1.5: Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees .....	14
Election of the President of the 36th session of the General Conference .....	14
Address by the President of the 36th session of the General Conference .....	17
Election of the Vice-Presidents of the 36th session of the General Conference .....	20
Establishment of the commissions and committees .....	20
Establishment of the Legal Committee .....	21
Item 1.2: First report of the Credentials Committee .....	21
Item 2.1: Report by the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2008-2009, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board .....	22
Item 2.2: Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation ....	22
Introduction by the Director-General to the general policy debate .....	28
Announcements .....	36
Third plenary meeting (26 October 2011 at 9.40 a.m.) .....	39
Leaders' Forum.....	40
Fourth plenary meeting (26 October 2011 at 3.15 p.m.) .....	63
Leaders' Forum ( <i>continued</i> ).....	64
Fifth plenary meeting (27 October 2011 at 10.15 a.m.) .....	85
Leaders' Forum ( <i>continued</i> ).....	86
Sixth plenary meeting (27 October 2011 at 3.10 p.m.) .....	107
Announcements.....	108
Report of the General Committee .....	108
Item 1.6: Organization of the work of the session.....	108
General policy debate.....	108
Seventh plenary meeting (28 October 2011 at 10.15 a.m.) .....	149
Report of the General Committee .....	150
General policy debate ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	150
Oral report by the Chairperson of the ADM Commission (Finance and administration) on item 4.4 "Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling" .....	178
Eighth plenary meeting (28 October 2011 at 3.15 p.m.) .....	181
Flag-raising ceremony for South Sudan .....	182
General policy debate ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	184
Ninth plenary meeting (29 October 2011 at 10.15 a.m.) .....	223
General policy debate ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	224
First report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee .....	252
Report of the Administrative Commission on item 1.3 "Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution" .....	253
Tenth plenary meeting (29 October 2011 at 3.15 p.m.) .....	255
General policy debate ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	256

	<u>Page</u>
Eleventh plenary meeting (31 October 2011 at 10.10 a.m.) .....	287
General policy debate ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	288
Item 9.1: Request for the admission of Palestine .....	311
Statements in explanation of vote .....	312
Twelfth plenary meeting (31 October 2011 at 4.40 p.m.) .....	329
Report of the Youth Forum .....	330
Statement by the Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – IOC .....	331
Reply by the Director-General to the general policy debate .....	332
Report of the Legal Committee on item 4.2 “Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012/2013 (36 C/5)” – Appeals for admissibility of draft resolutions relating to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) .....	337
Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.3 “Summary of the reports received by Member States on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property” .....	338
Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.6 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist” .....	338
Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.4 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace” .....	339
Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.5 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education” .....	339
Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.7 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education” .....	340
Second report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee .....	340
Announcements .....	341
Thirteenth plenary meeting (2 November 2011 at 10.15 a.m.) .....	343
Special plenary meeting .....	344
Item 5.10: Marking of the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity .....	344
Draft resolution contained in document 36 C/51 Add. & Corr. ....	361
Announcements .....	361
Fourteenth plenary meeting (2 November 2011 at 5.35 p.m.) .....	363
Report of the General Committee .....	364
Election of Members of the Executive Board .....	364
Fifteenth plenary meeting (9 November 2011 at 3.25 p.m.) .....	367
Announcements .....	368
Report of the Nominations Committee .....	368
Report of the PRX Commission (General questions, programme support and external relations) .....	370
Item 14.1: Venue of the 37th session of the General Conference .....	374
Item 10.7: Working Capital Fund: level and administration .....	374
Sixteenth plenary meeting (10 November 2011 at 10.15 a.m.) .....	385
Report of the Education Commission (ED) .....	386
Report of the Communication and Information Commission (CI) .....	388
Report of the Natural Sciences Commission (SC) .....	393
Report of the Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS) .....	396
Tribute to the Chairperson of the Executive Board .....	402
Seventeenth plenary meeting (10 November 2011 at 3.25 p.m.) .....	407
Tribute to the President of the 35th session of the General Conference .....	408
Report of the Culture Commission (CLT) .....	408
Report of the ADM Commission (Finance and Administration) .....	414
Report of the joint meeting of commissions .....	418
Item 10.7: Working Capital Fund: level and administration ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	422
Item 4.3: Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013 .....	441
Closure of the 36th session of the General Conference .....	441
List of delegates, representatives and observers .....	445

## TABLE DES MATIÈRES

	<u>Page</u>
COMPTES RENDUS IN EXTENSO DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES .....	1
Première séance plénière (25 octobre 2011 à 10 h 10) .....	3
Point 1.1 : Ouverture de la 36 <sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale .....	4
Point 1.2 : Constitution du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs .....	7
Constitution du Comité des candidatures .....	8
Point 1.4 : Adoption de l'ordre du jour .....	8
Point 1.7 : Admission aux travaux de la Conférence générale d'observateurs d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales autres que celles entretenant des relations formelles et opérationnelles avec l'UNESCO, et recommandations du Conseil exécutif à ce sujet .....	9
Point 9.3 : Demande d'admission de Curaçao en qualité de Membre associé de l'UNESCO .....	9
Point 9.5 : Demande d'admission de Sint Maarten en qualité de Membre associé de l'UNESCO .....	10
Deuxième séance plénière (25 octobre 2011 à 15 h 10) .....	13
Point 1.5 : Élection du président et des vice-présidents de la Conférence générale, ainsi que des présidents, vice-présidents et rapporteurs des commissions et comités .....	14
Élection du président de la 36 <sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale .....	14
Allocution de la Présidente de la 36 <sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale .....	17
Élection des vice-présidents de la 36 <sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale .....	20
Constitution des commissions et comités .....	20
Constitution du Comité juridique .....	21
Point 1.2 : Premier rapport du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs .....	21
Point 2.1 : Rapport de la Directrice générale sur l'activité de l'Organisation en 2008-2009, présenté par la Présidente du Conseil exécutif .....	22
Point 2.2 : Rapports du Conseil exécutif sur ses activités et sur l'exécution du programme .....	22
Introduction de la Directrice générale au débat de politique générale .....	28
Annonces .....	36
Troisième séance plénière (26 octobre 2011 à 9 h 40) .....	39
Forum des dirigeants .....	40
Quatrième séance plénière (26 octobre 2011 à 15 h 15) .....	63
Forum des dirigeants ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	64
Cinquième séance plénière (27 octobre 2011 à 10 h 15) .....	85
Forum des dirigeants ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	86
Sixième séance plénière (27 octobre 2011 à 15 h 10) .....	107
Annonces .....	108
Rapport du Bureau de la Conférence .....	108
Point 1.6 : Organisation des travaux de la session .....	108
Débat de politique générale .....	108
Septième séance plénière (28 octobre 2011 à 10 h 15) .....	149
Rapport du Bureau de la Conférence .....	150
Débat de politique générale ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	150
Rapport oral de la Présidente de la Commission ADM (Finances et administration) sur le point 4.4 « Adoption du plafond budgétaire provisoire pour 2010-2011 » .....	178
Huitième séance plénière (28 octobre 2011 à 15 h 15) .....	181
Cérémonie de lever du drapeau du Soudan du Sud .....	182
Débat de politique générale ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	184

	<u>Page</u>
Neuvième séance plénière (29 novembre 2011 à 10 h 15) .....	223
Débat de politique générale ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	224
Premier rapport du Président du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs .....	252
Rapport de la Commission administrative sur le point 1.3 « Rapport du Directeur général sur les communications reçues des États membres invoquant les dispositions de l'article IV.C, paragraphe 8 (c), de l'Acte constitutif » .....	253
Dixième séance plénière (29 octobre 2011 à 15 h 15) .....	255
Débat de politique générale ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	256
Onzième séance plénière (29 octobre 2011 à 10 h 10) .....	287
Débat de politique générale ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	288
Point 9.1: Demande d'admission de la Palestine.....	311
Déclarations en explication du vote .....	312
Douzième séance plénière (31 octobre 2011 à 16 h 40) .....	329
Rapport du Forum des jeunes .....	330
Déclaration du Président de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale de l'UNESCO – COI .....	331
Réponse de la Directrice générale au débat de politique générale .....	332
Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 4.2 « Examen et adoption du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013 (36 C/5) » – Recours concernant la recevabilité des projets de résolution relatifs au Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013 (36 C/5) .....	337
Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.3 « Résumé des rapports reçus des États membres sur les mesures prises en vue de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1970 concernant les mesures à prendre pour interdire et empêcher l'importation, l'exportation et le transfert de propriété illicites des biens culturels ».....	338
Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.6 « Rapport de synthèse sur l'application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1980 relative à la condition de l'artiste ».....	338
Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.4 « Rapport de synthèse sur l'application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 2003 sur la promotion et l'usage du multilinguisme et l'accès universel au cyberspace » .....	339
Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.5 « Rapport de synthèse sur l'application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1993 sur la reconnaissance des études et des titres de l'enseignement supérieur » .....	339
Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.7 « Rapport de synthèse sur l'application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1976 sur le développement de l'éducation des adultes ».....	340
Deuxième rapport du Président du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs.....	340
Annonces.....	341
Treizième séance plénière (2 novembre 2011 à 10 h 15) .....	343
Réunion plénière spéciale .....	344
Point 5.10: Célébration du 10 <sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle.....	344
Projet de résolution figurant dans le document 36 C/51 Add. & Corr.....	361
Annonces.....	361
Quatorzième séance plénière (2 novembre 2011 à 17 h 35) .....	363
Rapport du Bureau de la Conférence .....	364
Élection des membres du Conseil exécutif .....	364
Quinzième séance plénière (9 novembre 2011 à 15 h 25) .....	367
Annonces.....	368
Rapport du Comité des candidatures .....	368
Rapport de la Commission PRX (Questions générales, soutien du programme et relations extérieures).....	370
Point 14.1 : Lieu de la 37 <sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale .....	374
Point 10.7 : Fonds de roulement : niveau et administration .....	374

	<u>Page</u>
Seizième séance plénière (10 novembre 2011 à 10 h 15) .....	385
Rapport de la Commission Éducation (ED) .....	386
Rapport de la Commission Communication et information (CI) .....	388
Rapport de la Commission Sciences exactes et naturelles (SC) .....	393
Rapport de la Commission Sciences sociales et humaines (SHS) .....	396
Hommage au Présidente du Conseil exécutif .....	402
Dix-septième séance plénière (10 novembre 2011 à 1 <sup>o</sup> h 25) .....	407
Hommage au Président de la 35 <sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale .....	408
Rapport de la Commission Culture (CLT) .....	408
Rapport de la Commission ADM (Finances et administration) .....	414
Rapport de la réunion conjointe des commissions .....	418
Point 10.7 : Fonds de roulement : niveau et administration ( <i>suite</i> ) .....	422
Point 4.3 : Adoption de la résolution portant ouverture de crédits pour 2012-2013 .....	441
Clôture de la 36 <sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale .....	441
Liste des délégués, représentants et observateurs .....	445

## ÍNDICE

	<u>Página</u>
ACTAS LITERALES DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS .....	1
Primera sesión plenaria (25 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.10) .....	3
Punto 1.1: Apertura de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General .....	4
Punto 1.2: Constitución del Comité de Verificación de Poderes .....	7
Constitución del Comité de Candidaturas .....	8
Punto 1.4: Aprobación del orden del día .....	8
Punto 1.7: Admisión en los trabajos de la Conferencia General de observadores de organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no sean las que mantienen relaciones formales y operativas con la UNESCO, y recomendaciones del Consejo Ejecutivo al respecto .....	9
Punto 9.3: Solicitud de admisión de Curaçao como Miembro Asociado de la UNESCO .....	9
Punto 9.5: Solicitud de admisión de Sint Maarten como Miembro Asociado de la UNESCO .....	10
Segunda sesión plenaria (25 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.10) .....	13
Punto 1.5: Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia General, y de los Presidentes, Vicepresidentes y Relatores de las comisiones y comités .....	14
Elección del Presidente de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General.....	14
Discurso pronunciado por la Presidenta de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General .....	17
Elección de los Vicepresidentes de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General .....	20
Constitución de las comisiones y los comités.....	20
Constitución del Comité Jurídico .....	21
Punto 1.2: Primer informe del Comité de Verificación de Poderes .....	21
Punto 2.1: Informe de la Directora General sobre las actividades de la Organización en 2008-2009, presentado por la Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo.....	22
Punto 2.2: Informes del Consejo Ejecutivo sobre sus actividades y sobre la ejecución del programa ..	22
Introducción por la Directora General del debate de política general .....	28
Anuncios .....	36
Tercera sesión plenaria (26 de octubre de 2011 a las 9.40) .....	39
Foro de dirigentes .....	40
Cuarta sesión plenaria (26 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.15) .....	63
Foro de dirigentes ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	64
Quinta sesión plenaria (27 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.15) .....	85
Foro de dirigentes ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	86
Sexta sesión plenaria (27 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.10) .....	107
Anuncios.....	108
Informe de la Mesa de la Conferencia .....	108
Punto 1.6: Organización de los trabajos de la reunión .....	108
Debate de política general.....	108
Séptima sesión plenaria (28 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.15) .....	149
Informe de la Mesa de la Conferencia .....	150
Debate de política general ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	150
Informe oral de la Presidenta de la Comisión ADM (Finanzas y administración) sobre el punto 4.4 "Aprobación del tope presupuestario provisional" .....	178
Octava sesión plenaria (28 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.15) .....	181
Ceremonia de izamiento de la bandera de Sudán del Sur .....	182
Debate de política general ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	184
Novena sesión plenaria (29 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.15) .....	223
Debate de política general ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	224
Primer informe de Presidente del Comité de Verificación de Poderes .....	252
Informe de la Comisión Administrativa sobre el punto 1.3 "Informe de la Directora General sobre las comunicaciones recibidas de los Estados Miembros en las que se invoca lo dispuesto en el apartado c) del párrafo 8 del Artículo IV.C de la Constitución".....	253

	<u>Página</u>
Décima sesión plenaria (29 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.15) .....	255
Debate de política general ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	256
Decimoprimera sesión plenaria (31 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.10) .....	287
Debate de política general ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	288
Punto 9.1: Solicitud de admisión de Palestina .....	311
Declaraciones en explicación de voto .....	312
Decimosegunda sesión plenaria (31 de octubre de 2011 a las 16.40) .....	329
Informe del Foro de la Juventud .....	330
Declaración del Presidente de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental de la UNESCO – COI .....	331
Respuesta de la Directora General al debate de política general .....	332
Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 4.2 “Examen y aprobación del Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2012-2013 (36 C/5)” – Peticiones sobre la admisibilidad de los proyectos de resolución relacionados con el Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2012-2013 (36 C/5) .....	337
Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.3 “Resumen de los informes recibidos de los Estados Miembros sobre las medidas adoptadas para la aplicación de la Convención de 1970 sobre las Medidas que deben adoptarse para Prohibir e Impedir la Importación, la Exportación y la Transferencia de Propiedad Ilícitas de Bienes Culturales” .....	338
Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.6 “Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 1980 relativa a la Condición del Artista” .....	338
Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.4 “Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 2003 sobre la promoción y el uso del plurilingüismo y el acceso universal al ciberespacio .....	339
Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.5 “Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 1993 sobre la Convalidación de los Estudios, Títulos y Diplomas de Enseñanza Superior” .....	339
Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.7 “Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 1976 relativa al Desarrollo de la Educación de Adultos” .....	340
Segundo informe del Presidente del Comité de Verificación de Poderes .....	340
Anuncios .....	341
Decimotercera sesión plenaria (2 de noviembre de 2011 a las 10.15) .....	343
Sesión plenaria especial .....	344
Punto 5.10 “Celebración del 10º aniversario de la Declaración Universal de la UNESCO sobre la Diversidad Cultural .....	344
Proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento 36 C/51 Add. y Corr. ....	361
Anuncios .....	361
Decimocuarta sesión plenaria (2 de noviembre de 2011 a las 17.35) .....	363
Informe de la Mesa de la Conferencia .....	364
Elección de miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo .....	364
Decimoquinta sesión plenaria (9 de noviembre de 2011 a las 15.25) .....	367
Anuncios .....	368
Informe del Comité de Candidaturas .....	368
Informe de la Comisión PRX (Asuntos generales, apoyo del programa y relaciones exteriores) .....	370
Punto 14.1 – Lugar de celebración de la 37ª reunión de la Conferencia General .....	374
Punto 10.7 – Fondo de Operaciones: cuantía y administración del Fondo .....	374
Decimosexta sesión plenaria (10 de noviembre de 2011 a las 10.15) .....	385
Informe de la Comisión de Educación (ED) .....	386
Informe de la Comisión de Comunicación e Información (CI) .....	388
Informe de la Comisión de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales (SC) .....	393
Informe de la Comisión de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas (SHS) .....	396
Homenaje a la Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo .....	402

	<u>Página</u>
Decimoséptima sesión plenaria (10 de noviembre de 2011 a las 15.25) .....	407
Homenaje al Presidente de la 35ª reunión de la Conferencia General .....	408
Informe de la Comisión de Cultura (CLT) .....	408
Informe de la Comisión ADM (Cuestiones Financieras y Administrativas) .....	414
Informe de la reunión conjunta de las comisiones .....	418
Punto 10.7 – Fondo de Operaciones: cuantía y administración del Fondo ( <i>continuación</i> ) .....	422
Punto 4.3: Aprobación de la Resolución de consignación de créditos para 2012-2013 .....	441
Clausura de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General.....	441
 Lista de delegados, representantes y observadores.....	 445



## СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

	<u>Стр.</u>
СТЕНОГРАФИЧЕСКИЕ ОТЧЕТЫ ПЛЕНАРНЫХ ЗАСЕДАНИЙ .....	1
Первое пленарное заседание (25 октября 2011 г. в 10.10) .....	3
Пункт 1.1: Открытие 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции .....	4
Пункт 1.2: Учреждение Комитета по проверке полномочий .....	7
Учреждение Комитета по кандидатурам .....	8
Пункт 1.4: Утверждение повестки дня .....	8
Пункт 1.7: Допуск на сессию Генеральной конференции наблюдателей от других международных неправительственных организаций, помимо тех, которые поддерживают официальные и рабочие отношения с ЮНЕСКО, и рекомендации Исполнительного совета по этому вопросу .....	9
Пункт 9.3: Просьба о приеме Кюрасао в члены – сотрудники ЮНЕСКО .....	9
Пункт 9.5: Просьба о приеме Синт-Маартена в члены – сотрудники ЮНЕСКО .....	10
Второе пленарное заседание (25 октября 2011 г. в 15.10) .....	13
Пункт 1.5: Выборы Председателя и заместителей Председателя Генеральной конференции, а также председателей, заместителей председателей и докладчиков комиссий и комитетов .....	14
Выборы Председателя 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции .....	14
Выступление Председателя 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции .....	17
Выборы заместителей Председателя 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции .....	20
Учреждение комиссий и комитетов .....	20
Учреждение Юридического комитета .....	21
Пункт 1.2: Первый доклад Комитета по проверке полномочий .....	21
Пункт 2.1: Доклад Генерального директора о деятельности Организации в 2008-2009 гг., представляемый Председателем Исполнительного совета .....	22
Пункт 2.2: Доклады Исполнительного совета о своей деятельности и о выполнении программы .....	22
Вступительное слово Генерального директора к обсуждению вопросов общей политики .....	28
Сообщения .....	36
Третье пленарное заседание (26 октября 2011 г. в 9.40) .....	39
Форум руководителей.....	40
Четвертое пленарное заседание (26 октября 2011 г. в 15.15) .....	63
Форум руководителей ( <i>продолжение</i> ) .....	64
Пятое пленарное заседание (27 октября 2011 г. в 10.15) .....	85
Форум руководителей ( <i>продолжение</i> ) .....	86
Шестое пленарное заседание (27 октября 2011 г. в 15.10) .....	107
Сообщения .....	108
Доклад Президиума .....	108
Пункт 1.6: Организация работы сессии.....	108
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики .....	108
Седьмое пленарное заседание (28 октября 2011 г. в 10.15) .....	149
Доклад Президиума .....	150
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики ( <i>продолжение</i> ) .....	150
Устный доклад Председателя Комиссии ADM (финансовые и административные вопросы) по пункту 4.4 «Утверждение предварительного верхнего предельного уровня бюджета .....	178
Восьмое пленарное заседание (28 октября 2011 г. в 15.15) .....	181
Церемония поднятия флага для Южного Судана .....	182
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики ( <i>продолжение</i> ) .....	184
Девятое пленарное заседание (29 октября 2011 г. в 10.15) .....	223
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики ( <i>продолжение</i> ) .....	224
Первый доклад Председателя Комитета по проверке полномочий .....	252
Доклад Комиссии по административным вопросам по пункту 1.3 «Доклад Генерального директора о сообщениях, полученных от государств-членов в связи с положениями пункта 8 (с) статьи IV.C Устава» .....	253

	<u>Стр.</u>
Десятое пленарное заседание (29 октября 2011 г. в 15.15) .....	255
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики ( <i>продолжение</i> ) .....	256
Одиннадцатое пленарное заседание (31 октября 2011 г. в 10.10) .....	287
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики ( <i>продолжение</i> ) .....	288
Пункт 9.1: Просьба о приеме Палестины .....	311
Заявления по мотивам голосования .....	312
Двенадцатое пленарное заседание (31 октября 2011 г. в 16.40) .....	329
Доклад Форума молодежи.....	330
Заявление Председателя Межправительственной океанографической комиссии ЮНЕСКО – МОК .....	331
Ответ Генерального директора на обсуждение вопросов общей политики .....	332
Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 4.2 «Рассмотрение и утверждение Проекта программы и бюджета на 2012/2013 гг. (36 С/5)» – Апелляции по вопросу о приемлемости проектов резолюций, имеющих отношение к Проекту программы и бюджета на 2012-2013 гг. (36 С/5) .....	337
Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.3 «Резюме полученных от государств-членов докладов о мерах, принятых с целью осуществления Конвенции 1970 г. о мерах, направленных на запрещение и предупреждение незаконного ввоза, вывоза и передачи права собственности на культурные ценности» .....	338
Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.6 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 1980 г. о положении творческих работников» .....	338
Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.4 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 2003 г. о развитии и использовании многоязычия и всеобщем доступе к киберпространству» .....	339
Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.5 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 1993 г. о признании учебных курсов и свидетельств о высшем образовании» .....	339
Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.7 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 1976 г. о развитии образования взрослых» .....	340
Второй доклад Председателя Комитета по проверке полномочий.....	340
Сообщения .....	341
Тринадцатое пленарное заседание (2 ноября 2011 г. в 10.15) .....	343
Специальное пленарное заседание.....	344
Пункт 5.10: Празднование 10-й годовщины Всеобщей декларации ЮНЕСКО о культурном разнообразии.....	344
Проект резолюции, содержащейся в документе 36 С/51 Add. и Corr. ....	361
Сообщения .....	361
Четырнадцатое пленарное заседание (2 ноября 2011 г. в 17.35) .....	363
Доклад Президиума .....	364
Выборы членов Исполнительного совета.....	364
Пятнадцатое пленарное заседание (9 ноября 2011 г. в 15.25) .....	367
Сообщения .....	368
Доклад Комитета по кандидатурам .....	368
Доклад Комиссии PRX (Общие вопросы, поддержка выполнения программы и внешние связи)..	370
Пункт 14.1 – Место проведения 37-й сессии Генеральной конференции .....	374
Пункт 10.7 – Фонд оборотных средств: уровень и управление .....	374
Шестнадцатое пленарное заседание (10 ноября 2011 г. в 10.15) .....	385
Доклад Комиссии по образованию (ED) .....	386
Доклад Комиссии по коммуникации и информации (CI) .....	388
Доклад Комиссии по естественным наукам (SC).....	393
Доклад Комиссии по социальным и гуманитарным наукам (SHS) .....	396
Выражение признательности Председателю Исполнительного совета.....	402
Семнадцатое пленарное заседание (10 ноября 2011 г. в 15.25) .....	407
Выражение признательности Председателю 35-й сессии Генеральной конференции .....	408
Доклад Комиссии по культуре (CLT) .....	408
Доклад Комиссии ADM (финансовые и административные вопросы) .....	414

	<u>Стр.</u>
Доклад совместного заседания комиссий .....	418
Пункт 10.7: Фонд оборотных средств: уровень и управление ( <i>продолжение</i> ).....	422
Пункт 4.3: Резолюция об ассигнованиях на 2012-2013 гг. ....	441
Закрытие 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции .....	441
Список делегатов, представителей и наблюдателей .....	445

## المحتويات

### الصفحة

١	المحاضر الحرفية للجلسات العامة.....
٣	الجلسة العامة الأولى (٢٥ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠،١٠ صباحاً).....
٤	البند ١،١ : افتتاح الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام.....
٧	البند ١،٢ : تشكيل لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد.....
٨	تشكيل لجنة الترشيحات.....
٨	البند ١،٤ : اعتماد جدول الأعمال.....
	البند ١،٧ : قبول مراقبين من منظمات دولية غير حكومية، غير المنظمات التي تقيم علاقات رسمية مع اليونسكو، لحضور أعمال المؤتمر العام، وتوصيات المجلس التنفيذي في هذا الشأن.....
٩	البند ٩،٣ : طلب انضمام كوراساو كعضو منتسب إلى اليونسكو.....
٩	البند ٩،٥ : طلب انضمام سنت مارتين كعضو منتسب إلى اليونسكو.....
١٠	
١٣	الجلسة العامة الثانية (٢٥ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣،١٠ بعد الظهر).....
١٤	البند ١،٥ : انتخاب رئيس المؤتمر العام ونواب الرئيس ورؤساء اللجان ونواب رؤسائها ومقرريها.....
١٤	انتخاب رئيس الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام.....
١٧	خطاب رئيس الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام.....
٢٠	انتخاب نواب رئيس الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام.....
٢٠	تشكيل اللجان.....
٢١	تشكيل اللجنة القانونية.....
٢١	البند ١،٢ : التقرير الأول للجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد.....
	البند ٢،١ : تقرير المديرية العامة عن أنشطة المنظمة في عامي ٢٠٠٨-٢٠٠٩، قدمته رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي.....
٢٢	البند ٢،٢ : تقارير المجلس التنفيذي عن أنشطته وعن تنفيذ البرنامج.....
٢٨	تقديم المديرية العامة لمناقشات السياسة العامة.....
٣٦	إعلانات.....
٣٩	الجلسة العامة الثالثة (٢٦ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ٩،٤٠ صباحاً).....
٤٠	منتدى القادة.....
٦٣	الجلسة العامة الرابعة (٢٦ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ الساعة ٣،١٥ بعد الظهر).....
٦٤	منتدى القادة (تابع).....
٨٥	الجلسة العامة الخامسة (٢٧ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ١٠،١٥ صباحاً).....
٨٦	منتدى القادة (تابع).....
١٠٧	الجلسة العامة السادسة (٢٧ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ٣،١٠ بعد الظهر).....
١٠٨	إعلانات.....
١٠٨	تقرير مكتب المؤتمر العام.....
١٠٨	البند ١،٦ : تنظيم أعمال الدورة.....
١٠٨	مناقشة السياسة العامة.....

١٤٩	.....	الجلسة العامة السابعة (٢٨ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً)
١٥٠	.....	تقرير مكتب المؤتمر العام
١٥٠	.....	مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)
١٧٨	.....	التقرير الشفهي لرئيس اللجنة المالية والإدارية عن البند ٤,٤ "اعتماد الحد الأقصى المؤقت للميزانية"
١٨١	.....	الجلسة العامة الثامنة (٢٨ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ٣,١٥ بعد الظهر)
١٨٢	.....	حفل رفع علم جنوب السودان
١٨٤	.....	مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)
٢٢٣	.....	الجلسة العامة التاسعة (٢٩ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً)
٢٢٤	.....	مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)
٢٥٢	.....	التقرير الأول لرئيس لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد
٢٥٣	.....	تقرير اللجنة الإدارية بشأن البند ١,٣: "تقرير المدير العام عن الرسائل الواردة من الدول الأعضاء والتي تستند فيها إلى أحكام الفقرة ٨ (ج) من المادة الرابعة (جيم) من الميثاق التأسيسي"
٢٥٥	.....	الجلسة العامة العاشرة (٢٩ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ٣,١٥ بعد الظهر)
٢٥٦	.....	مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)
٢٨٧	.....	الجلسة العامة الحادية عشرة (٣١ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١ في الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً)
٢٨٨	.....	مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)
٣١١	.....	البند ٩,١: طلب انضمام فلسطين إلى عضوية اليونسكو
٣١٢	.....	بيانات مدلى بها في إطار تعليل التصويت
٣٢٩	.....	الجلسة العامة الثانية عشرة (٣١ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٤,٤٠ بعد الظهر)
٣٣٠	.....	تقرير منتدى الشباب
٣٣١	.....	بيان من رئيس لجنة اليونسكو الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
٣٣٢	.....	رد المديرية العامة بشأن مناقشة السياسة العامة
٣٣٧	.....	تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٤,٢ "دراسة واعتماد مشروع البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠١٢-٢٠١٣ (٥/م٣٦) - الطلبات الخاصة بقبول مشروعات القرارات المتعلقة بمشروع البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠١٢-٢٠١٣ (٥/م٣٦)
٣٣٧	.....	تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٣ "ملخص التقارير الواردة من الدول الأعضاء عن التدابير المتخذة لتطبيق اتفاقية عام ١٩٧٠ الخاصة بالتدابير الواجب اتخاذها لحظر ومنع استيراد وتصدير ونقل ملكية الممتلكات الثقافية بطرق غير مشروعة"
٣٣٨	.....	تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٦ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ١٩٨٠ الخاصة بأوضاع الفنان"
٣٣٨	.....	تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٤ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ٢٠٠٣ الخاصة بتعزيز التعدد اللغوي واستخدامه وتعميم الانتفاع بالمجال السيبرني"
٣٣٩	.....	تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٥ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ١٩٩٣ الخاصة بالاعتراف بدراسات التعليم العالي ومؤهلاته"
٣٣٩	.....	تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٧ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ١٩٧٦ الخاصة بتنمية تعليم الكبار"
٣٤٠	.....	التقرير الثاني لرئيس لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد
٣٤١	.....	إعلانات

٣٤٣	..... الجلسة العامة الثالثة عشرة (٢ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً)
٣٤٤	..... الجلسة العامة الاستثنائية
٣٤٤	..... البند ٥,١٠: الاحتفال بالذكرى العاشرة لإعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي
٣٦١	..... مشروع القرار الوارد في الوثيقة ٥١/م٣٦ وتصويب
٣٦١	..... إعلانات
٣٦٣	..... الجلسة العامة الرابعة عشرة (٢ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٥,٣٥ بعد الظهر)
٣٦٤	..... تقرير مكتب المؤتمر العام
٣٦٤	..... انتخاب أعضاء في المجلس التنفيذي
٣٦٧	..... الجلسة العامة الخامسة عشرة (٩ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣,٢٥ بعد الظهر)
٣٦٨	..... إعلانات
٣٦٨	..... تقرير لجنة الترشيحات
٣٧٠	..... تقرير لجنة المسائل العامة ومساندة البرنامج والعلاقات الخارجية (PRX)
٣٧٤	..... البند ١٤,١: مكان انعقاد الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام
٣٧٤	..... البند ١٠,٧: رأس المال العامل: مقداره وإدارته
٣٨٥	..... الجلسة العامة السادسة عشرة (١٠ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً)
٣٨٦	..... تقرير لجنة التربية (ED)
٣٨٨	..... تقرير لجنة الاتصال والمعلومات (CI)
٣٩٣	..... تقرير لجنة العلوم الطبيعية (SC)
٣٩٦	..... تقرير لجنة العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية (SHS)
٤٠٢	..... إشادة برئيس المجلس التنفيذي
٤٠٧	..... الجلسة العامة السابعة عشرة (١٠ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣,٢٥ بعد الظهر)
٤٠٨	..... إشادة برئيس الدورة الخامسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام
٤٠٨	..... تقرير لجنة الثقافة (CLT)
٤١٤	..... تقرير لجنة الشؤون المالية والإدارية
٤١٨	..... تقرير الاجتماع المشترك للجان
٤٢٢	..... البند ١٠,٧: رأس المال العامل: مقداره وإدارته (تابع)
٤٤١	..... البند ٤,٣: اعتماد قرار فتح الاعتمادات المالية لعامي ٢٠١٢-٢٠١٣
٤٤١	..... اختتام الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام
٤٤٥	..... قائمة بأسماء أعضاء الوفود والممثلين والمراقبين

# 目 录

	页次
全体会议逐字记录 .....	1
第一次全体会议（2011年10月25日10时10分） .....	3
项目 1.1：大会第三十六届会议开幕 .....	4
项目 1.2：成立全权证书委员会 .....	7
成立提名委员会 .....	8
项目 1.4：通过议程 .....	8
项目 1.7：接 纳与教科文组织保持密切正式关系和业务关系的国际非政府组织以外的 国际非政府组织观察员列席大会会议和执行局就此问题的建议 .....	9
项目 9.3：要求接纳库拉索岛为教科文组织准会员 .....	9
项目 9.5：要求接纳圣马丁为教科文组织准会员 .....	10
第二次全体会议（2011年10月25日15时10分） .....	13
项目 1.5：选举大会主席和副主席以及各委员会主席、副主席和报告人 .....	14
选举大会第三十六届会议主席 .....	14
大会第三十六届会议主席致辞 .....	17
选举大会第三十六届会议副主席 .....	20
成立各专门委员会和委员会 .....	20
成立法律委员会 .....	21
项目 1.2：全权证书委员会的第一次报告 .....	21
项目 2.1：由执行局主席提交的总干事关于本组织 2008-2009 年活动的报告 .....	22
项目 2.2：执行局关于其活动和计划执行情况的报告 .....	22
总干事对总政策辩论的介绍 .....	28
通知 .....	36
第三次全体会议（2011年10月26日9时40分） .....	39
领导人论坛 .....	40
第四次全体会议（2011年10月26日15时15分） .....	63
领导人论坛（续） .....	64
第五次全体会议（2011年10月27日10时15分） .....	85
领导人论坛（续） .....	86
第六次全体会议（2011年10月27日15时10分） .....	107
通知 .....	108
总务委员会的报告 .....	108
项目 1.6：届会的工作安排 .....	108
总政策辩论 .....	108
第六次全体会议（2011年10月28日10时15分） .....	149
总务委员会的报告 .....	150
总政策辩论（续） .....	150
行政委员会（财务与行政）主席关于项目 4.4 “通过临时预算最高额”的口头报告 .....	178
第八次全体会议（2011年10月28日15时15分） .....	181
南苏丹升旗仪式 .....	182
总政策辩论（续） .....	184
第九次全体会议（2011年10月29日10时15分） .....	223
总政策辩论（续） .....	224
全权证书委员会主席的第一次报告 .....	252
行政委员会关于项目 1.3 的报告：“总干事关于会员国援引《组织法》 第 IV.C 条第 8(c) 款的来函的报告” .....	253

第十次全体会议（2011年10月29日15时15分）	255
总政策辩论（续）	256
第十次全体会议（2011年10月31日10时10分）	287
总政策辩论（续）	288
项目 9.1：要求接纳巴勒斯坦加入教科文组织	311
对投票的解释性发言	312
第十二次全体会议（2011年10月31日16时40分）	329
青年论坛的报告	330
教科文组织政府间海洋学委员会（IOC）主席的发言	331
总干事就总政策辩论的答辩	332
法律委员会关于项目 4.2 的报告：“审议和通过《2012-2013 年计划与预算草案》（36 C/5）” - 有关《2012-2013 年计划与预算草案》（36 C/5）的决议草案可否受理问题的申诉	337
法律委员会关于项目 8.3 的报告：“会员国提交的关于为落实《关于采取措施禁止并防止文化财产非法进出口和所有权非法转让公约》（1970 年）所采取措施的报告的汇总摘要”	338
法律委员会关于项目 8.6 的报告“关于会员国实施《关于艺术家地位的建议书》（1980 年）的情况的综合报告”	338
法律委员会关于项目 8.4 的报告：“关于会员国实施《普及网络空间及促进并使用多种语言的建议书》（2003 年）情况的综合报告”	339
法律委员会关于项目 8.5 的报告：“关于会员国实施《关于承认高等教育学历与资格的建议书》（1993 年）情况的综合报告”	339
法律委员会关于项目 8.7 的报告：“关于会员国实施《关于发展成人教育的建议书》（1976 年）情况的综合报告”	340
全权证书委员会主席的第二次报告	340
通知	341
第十三次全体会议（2011年11月2日午10时15分）	343
特别全体会议	344
项目 5.10：教科文组织《世界文化多样性宣言》十周年纪念	344
第 36 C/51 Add. & Corr. 号文件所载决议草案	361
通知	361
第十三次全体会议（2011年11月2日17时35分）	363
总务委员会的报告	364
选举执行局委员	364
第十五次全体会议（2011年11月9日15时25分）	367
通知	368
提名委员会的报告	368
计划与对外关系委员会（一般性问题、计划支助及对外关系）的报告	370
项目 14.1：大会第三十七届会议地点	374
项目 10.7：周转基金：数额和管理	374
第十六次全体会议（2011年11月10日10时15分）	385
教育委员会（ED）的报告	386
传播和信息委员会（CI）的报告	388
自然科学委员会（SC）的报告	393
社会科学及人文科学委员会（SHS）的报告	396
向执行局主席致敬	402



第十七次全体会议（2011年11月10日15时25分） .....	407
向大会第三十五届会议主席致敬 .....	408
文化委员会（CLT）的报告 .....	408
行政委员会（财务和行政）的报告 .....	414
各委员会联席会议的报告 .....	418
项目 10.7：周转基金：数额和管理（续） .....	422
项目 4.3：通过 2012-2013 年拨款决议 .....	441
大会第三十六届会议闭幕 .....	441
代表团成员、代表及观察员名单 .....	445

Verbatim records  
of plenary meetings

Comptes rendus  
in extenso des séances plénières

Actas literales  
de las sesiones plenarias

Стенографические отчеты  
пленарных заседаний

المحاضر الحرفية للجلسات العامة

全体会议逐字记录

# First plenary meeting

Tuesday 25 October 2011 at 10.10 a.m.  
President: **Mr Hepburn** (Bahamas)

# Première séance plénière

Mardi 25 octobre 2011 à 10 h 10  
Président : **M. Hepburn** (Bahamas)

# Primera sesión plenaria

Martes 25 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.10  
Presidenta: **Sr. Hepburn** (Bahamas)

# Первое пленарное заседание

Вторник 25 октября 2011 г. в 10.10  
Председатель: **г-н Хепберн** (Багамские Острова)

# الجلسة العامة الأولى

الثلاثاء ٢٥ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٠ صباحاً  
الرئيس: السيد هيبورن (البحاما)

# 第一次全体会议

2011年10月25日星期二 10时10分  
主席: **Hepburn** 先生 (巴哈马)

**Item 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

**Point 1 : ORGANISATION DE LA SESSION**

**Punto 1: ORGANIZACIÓN DE LA REUNIÓN**

**Пункт 1: ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ СЕССИИ**

**البند ١ : تنظيم الدورة**

**项目 1 : 届会的组织**

**Item 1.1: Opening of the 36th session of the General Conference**

**Point 1.1 : Ouverture de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale**

**Punto 1.1: Apertura de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General**

**Пункт 1.1: Открытие 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции**

**البند ١,١ : افتتاح الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام**

**项目 1.1 : 大会第三十六届会议开幕**

**1.1 The Temporary President** (Mr Hepburn, President of the 35th session of the General Conference):

Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, Ministers, distinguished ambassadors, friends and colleagues, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great joy that I welcome you to the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference. As President of the previous session, and in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, I have the honour to preside over this inaugural meeting. I therefore declare open the 36th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

1.2 Ladies and gentlemen, before I begin, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all 193 Member States of UNESCO, to extend sincere condolences to the peoples and Government of Saudi Arabia on the death of Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al Saud.

1.3 Ladies and gentlemen, we will have now the privilege of listening to the UNESCO Choir and Orchestra, who will perform the *Kyrie* and *Gloria* of the *Coronation Mass* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, conducted by Mr Jorge Lozano-Corres.

*(Musical interlude)*

2. Thank you very much for that very special rendition.

**3.1 The Temporary President:**

Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished ministers, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, dear ambassadors, friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, the art of worldly wisdom dictates that "good things when shortened are twice as good." We are all guilty of verbosity from time to time, but I have found that the mark of a good speaker is to be brief, sincere and seated. I am certain, nonetheless, that you will allow me to express my feelings about some of the programmes to which I attach particular importance: education for all (EFA), gender parity and small island developing States (SIDS), to name a few.

3.2 Over the past two years, Member States have sometimes expressed their displeasure with the slow progress of making EFA a reality. There is proof that greater efforts are being made to achieve this aim by 2015. The Director-General's programme of reform is being supported as one of the strong pillars to secure UNESCO's recognition as lead agency in all of its areas of competence. The question of gender parity is evident throughout the Secretariat and major improvements have been accomplished at the highest-level positions. Ladies and gentlemen, you have all been aware of my obsession with promoting the status of small island developing States. Last September, a meeting of experts from 29 countries was held in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to discuss climate change education for sustainable development and adaptation in small island developing States. Some very concrete recommendations have emanated from the lively discussions, and it is hoped that the General Conference will adopt a resolution on this very timely initiative.

3.3 What is important is that, even though not all of my dreams have been realized, I feel confident that we have moved away from treating the work of UNESCO in a business-as-usual manner. Let me emphasize once again that we should not be afraid of taking risks. We should make our differences work for and not against us. I am encouraged by signs that small States are banding together in order to raise their visibility and bargaining power. These are all signs that in the near future there will be a greater degree of confidence among all those who have felt marginalized for whatever reason. Further, I was particularly pleased with the results of the recent UNESCO Youth Forum. The young delegates made some sound recommendations, which will be integrated into the agenda of the General Conference. We, as Member States, must make every effort to continue to encourage young persons to exercise the power they have in driving change.

3.4 Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to leave you here with some thoughts, which I hope will challenge you. The author is unknown: "Never let anyone make you second guess who you are or what you believe. Smile and smile a lot; it helps reflect the most important thing about yourself. Don't sweat the small stuff. This may sound trivial, but it is so easy to focus on things that aren't going right in our lives so that we forget about the good things. Be happy and thankful for all the good in your life. May you always follow your dreams. Love who you are. Believe in miracles. Live out loud. Breathe deep thrusting breaths. Laugh a lot along the way. Dare to make mistakes: life has big plans for you."

3.5 During the two years of my presidency, you have been a captive audience to my ranting and ravings, so I am not going to test your patience any further. Today, therefore, instead of regurgitating platitudes, let me sum up my sentiments with the lyrics from one of the late Frank Sinatra's songs:

*"And now, the end is near,  
And so I face the final curtain.  
My friends, I'll say it clear,  
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain.*

*I've lived a life that's full.  
I've travelled each and every highway  
And more, much more than this,  
I did it my way.*

*Regrets, I've had a few,  
But then again, too few to mention.  
I did what I had to do  
And saw it through without exemption.*

*I planned each charted course,  
Each careful step along the byway,  
And more, much more than this,  
I did it my way.*

*Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew,  
When I bit off more than I could chew.  
But through it all, when there was doubt,  
I ate it up and spit it out.  
I faced it all it all, and I stood tall;  
And did it my way.*

*I've loved; I've laughed and cried.  
I've had my fill, my share of losing.  
But now as tears subside,  
I find it all so amusing.*

*To think I did all that,  
And may I say, not in a shy way.  
"Oh no, oh no not me;  
I did it my way."*

*For what is a man? What has he got?  
If not himself, then he has naught.  
To say the things he truly feels,  
And not the words of one who kneels.  
The record shows I took the blows  
And did it my way.*

*Yes, it was my way. Oh, yeah."*

*(Applause)*

### 3.6 **The Temporary President:**

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour of inviting Her Excellency Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, Chair of the Executive Board, to take the floor. You have the floor, Madam.

#### 4.1 **Г-жа Митрофанова** (Российская Федерация), Председатель Исполнительного совета:

Дамы и господа, нынешняя 36-я сессия Генеральной конференции не зря сконцентрировала свое внимание на таких важных и актуальных темах, как проблема формирования культуры мира и достижения устойчивого развития, вынесенная на обсуждение на завтрашнем Форуме лидеров, а также вопрос укрепления идеи культурного разнообразия, которому посвящена дискуссия высокого уровня, запланированная на 2 ноября.

4.2 Позволю себе вопрос: кто же в конечном итоге должен взять на себя бремя постоянного и повсеместного распространения и подтверждения этих и других идей, претворяемых в жизнь ЮНЕСКО? О ком мы в первую очередь думаем, когда произносим слово ЮНЕСКО? Конечно же, продвижение этих благородных идей в умах людей – это наша совместная ответственность и даже, может быть, в большей степени ответственность самих государств-членов. Ведь по большому счету Секретариат – это четко слаженный механизм в их руках. Поэтому мне кажется, что жизнедеятельность и результативность работы нашей Организации напрямую зависит от роли Генеральной конференции и Исполнительного совета, разумеется, несколько при этом не умаляя роли Генерального директора. И это должна быть всевозрастающая роль.

4.3 В своей деятельности ЮНЕСКО всегда опирается на политическую и финансовую поддержку своих государств-членов. ЮНЕСКО эффективна ровно настолько, насколько эффективны ее участники. Поэтому я обращаюсь к присутствующим здесь представителям политических элит стран, входящих в состав ЮНЕСКО. От вашей воли зависит многое как внутри ваших стран, так и в рамках всего мирового сообщества. Вы обладаете всеми возможностями для реализации на национальном уровне обязательств, согласованных на уровне международном. В ваших силах добиться реализации программы действий Организации, в том числе по распространению культуры мира и устойчивого развития путем ориентации политики в области образования на гуманистические ценности. Ведь устойчивое развитие зиждется на трех столпах: экономике, окружающей среде и, главным образом, на обществе. А значительных положительных сдвигов в развитии общества можно добиться только через образование, науку и культуру.

4.4 Уважаемые коллеги, несмотря на периодически звучащую критику, с которой, кстати, сталкиваются все международные учреждения, думаю, ни у кого нет сомнений, что за всю историю своего существования ЮНЕСКО в рамках своей компетенции сделала многое для укрепления мира и безопасности на нашей планете. Это наш бесценный накопленный багаж прошлого.

4.5 Глядя в будущее с оптимизмом, я бы хотела призвать все без исключения страны – члены ЮНЕСКО, нынешних и будущих членов ее Исполнительного совета с еще большим энтузиазмом способствовать эффективному и в максимальной степени наглядному выполнению Организацией стоящих перед ней сложных задач. В момент, когда мировое сообщество находится в поиске подходов к обновлению самой системы международных отношений, от всех нас требуется умелое сочетание времени, энергии, гибкости, решительности и сплоченности для достижения ощутимых взаимоприемлемых результатов. И это, разумеется, должно самым непосредственным образом отразиться на работе нынешней сессии Генеральной конференции. Желаю вам всем успехов, спасибо за внимание.

(4.1) **Ms Mitrofanova** (Russian Federation), Chair of the Executive Board (*translation from the Russian*):

Ladies and gentlemen, this 36th session of the General Conference is quite rightly giving its full attention to such important and relevant issues as the problem of shaping a culture of peace and achieving sustainable development, which will be discussed at tomorrow's Leaders' Forum, as well as the question of strengthening the concept of cultural diversity, which will be examined in the high-level discussion scheduled for 2 November.

(4.2) I shall allow myself one question: who should ultimately take on the burden of the constant and universal dissemination and confirmation of these and other concepts that have been brought to life by UNESCO? Who do we think of first when we say the word "UNESCO"? Of course, the promotion of these noble ideals in the minds of men and women is our shared responsibility and even, possibly, to a greater degree the responsibility of the Member States themselves. After all, to a large extent the Secretariat is a clearly smooth-running mechanism in their hands. It seems to me then that the vitality and results of the Organization's work depend directly on the role of the General Conference and the Executive Board, without of course underestimating the role of the Director-General. And this must be an ever-growing role.

(4.3) UNESCO has always relied in its action on the political and financial support of its Member States. The Organization's effectiveness correlates directly to the effectiveness of its members. I therefore turn to the representatives here of the political elite of the countries that form part of UNESCO. Much depends on your intentions, both within your countries and in the context of the international community. You have all the means necessary for the achievement at the national level of the obligations agreed at the international level. It is within your power to implement the Organization's programme of work, including the dissemination of a culture of peace and sustainable development through directing policies in the field of education in humanist values. After all, sustainable development rests on three pillars: the economy, the environment and, importantly, society; and significant, positive changes in the development of society may be achieved only through education, science and culture.

(4.4) Dear colleagues, despite periodical, outspoken criticism which, incidentally, is faced by all international agencies, I consider that nobody doubts that, throughout its existence, UNESCO has done much in its fields of competence to strengthen peace and security in the world. This is our invaluable legacy from the past.

(4.5) Looking to the future with optimism, I should like to call on all the States Members of UNESCO here, without exception, present and future Members of its Executive Board, to assist the Organization with still greater enthusiasm in the effective and to the greatest extent visible achievement of the difficult tasks standing before it. At a time when the international community is seeking approaches to renew the very system of international relations, we are all required to skilfully combine time, energy, flexibility, determination and cohesion in order to achieve tangible results acceptable to all. And this, of course, must in the most direct way be reflected at the present session of the General Conference. I wish you all success and thank you for your attention.

## 5. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much for your presentation. Now I have the pleasure of hearing the Director-General. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

### 6.1 **La Directrice générale :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, tout d'abord, permettez-moi d'exprimer mes condoléances les plus sincères à la délégation de l'Arabie saoudite pour la disparition du Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, qui avait fortement soutenu l'action de l'UNESCO à travers le programme favorisant l'utilisation de la langue arabe, si importante pour le dialogue entre les cultures. Je voudrais exprimer aussi ma sympathie au peuple de la Turquie, qui a été affecté par un séisme meurtrier. Je m'adresse à vous avec autant d'émotion et d'humilité qu'il y a deux ans, lorsque vous m'avez élue à la tête de cette grande et belle Maison.

6.2 Assis à votre place, il y a quelques jours, 201 jeunes de 127 États membres s'étaient donné rendez-vous pour le Forum des jeunes. Ils étaient venus faire entendre leur voix pour promouvoir le changement. Certains venaient de pays

développés et puissants, d'autres de pays moins avancés et de petits États insulaires en développement. Ils ont débattu des mêmes sujets que nous : les moyens de construire la paix et le développement aujourd'hui, le réchauffement climatique, la diversité culturelle. Ils ont échangé leurs idées et leurs propositions dans un rapport final qui est inscrit, pour la première fois, à l'ordre du jour d'une session de la Conférence générale, et qui va enrichir notre débat. Dans leur diversité, ces jeunes adressent un message universel qui est une leçon pour nous tous. Peu importe qui nous sommes et d'où nous venons, ce qui nous rassemble est plus fort que ce qui nous sépare. Nous appartenons tous à la famille des Nations Unies.

6.3 Quelles que soient nos différences d'origine, de race, de religion ou d'opinion, nous partageons les mêmes rêves, la même ambition pour la paix et pour le développement. Les rêves des blogueurs de Tunis, ceux des jeunes d'Haïti touchés par le séisme, la maladie ou le chômage ne sont pas si différents des nôtres, ni de ceux de nos enfants. Tous veulent une éducation de qualité et des professeurs qualifiés qui les aident à trouver un emploi, à s'investir dans la société. Ces jeunes nous appellent à plus de coopération, à plus de solidarité. Les tsunamis, les effets du réchauffement climatique se moquent des frontières nationales. Ils nous concernent tous, et nous ne les surmonterons que si nous restons soudés. Nous devons avancer ensemble, ou nous n'avancerons pas du tout.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

6.4 Ladies and gentlemen, this session of the General Conference has the fullest agenda of the last 20 years. It will also be the shortest in our history. The agenda carries high stakes. The challenges we face are bigger than national differences. The global economic crisis is hitting societies hard across the world, especially the most vulnerable and least resilient. We live in a time of profound change. This is accompanied by turbulence and uncertainty, as well as by opportunity. We need to find new ways to build stability and sustainability. The world's seven billionth citizen will soon be born. Pressures are rising on land and resources, jobs and opportunities. UNESCO's message is that humanity is also its own greatest renewable energy; together, we are an endless wellspring of ingenuity. Half of the world's population is under 25. We must release the potential they carry that is being held back. We must invest in the dignity and the capacity of every girl and boy, every woman and man, to strengthen the grounds for peace and sustainable development. This starts with education, with culture, with the sciences and with communication. This is what UNESCO stands for and why UNESCO was created. We have faced challenges in the past that have tested our convictions and our unity. Facing new challenges today of unmatched complexity, we must remain true to our shared values and we must remain united.

6.5 You know, ladies and gentlemen, that UNESCO is engaged in a root-and-branch reform. This is a reform to perform. We are cutting administrative costs and we are sharpening our focus to deepen our impact and meet your needs. UNESCO is changing. We have started this together. We must fulfil this promise and complete this change together. This is the vision of the Draft Programme and Budget documents before you. This will clear the ground for a new Medium-Term Strategy. The world is calling on us to act. We have no choice but to adapt and innovate.

6.6 At this defining moment, I call on your support and your vision, and I make an appeal for unity. Every day tells us the story that it is not enough to connect; we must share. It is not enough to cooperate; we must build a better and more sustainable future together for the benefit of all. This is my appeal for a new humanism as the compass guiding UNESCO's action. This General Conference is a unique opportunity to share our visions and experience. This is the goal of the new Leaders' Forum. It is also the moment to decide where we must act and move forward together. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, once again, to this 36th General Conference of UNESCO.

## 7. The Temporary President:

Thank you very much, Ms Bokova. Allow me to say how pleased we all are to have you as Director-General for this first General Conference under your mandate.

### Item 1.2: Establishment of the Credentials Committee

**Point 1.2 : Constitution du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs**

**Punto 1.2: Constitución del Comité de Verificación de Poderes**

**Пункт 1.2: Учреждение Комитета по проверке полномочий**

البند ١, ٢ : تشكيل لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد

**项目 1.2: 成立全权证书委员会**

## 8.1 The Temporary President:

And now, let us turn our attention to agenda item 1.2, "Establishment of the Credentials Committee". Ladies and gentlemen, after having listened to a wonderful piece of music, and inspiring words from Ms Mitrofanova and Madam Director-General, we are now moving to a more procedural part of the meeting. First, we need to establish the Credentials Committee, in accordance with Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure. The Credentials Committee consists of nine Member States which are elected by the General Conference upon the proposal of the Temporary President. After careful examination of the composition of previous committees, with due regard to fair geographical distribution, and following consultations of a great number of delegations, I would like to suggest that the Credentials Committee be composed of the following countries: Azerbaijan, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Namibia, Nepal, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Yemen. Are there any objections to this suggestion? I see none. *It is so **decided**.*

8.2 I wish to congratulate the elected members, and remind them that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Committee is responsible for electing its own Chairperson. I would also like to remind you that, following 186 EX/Decision 22 (IV), the Executive Board decided to recommend the election of His Excellency Mr Uffe Andreassen

of Denmark as Chairperson of the Committee. I now invite the newly elected members of the Credentials Committee to meet at 12 p.m. in Room VIII of this building. Thank you very much.

#### **Establishment of the Nominations Committee**

**Constitution du Comité des candidatures**

**Constitución del Comité de Candidaturas**

**Учреждение Комитета по кандидатурам**

تشكيل لجنة الترشيحات

**成立提名委员会**

#### **9.1 The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now time for us to set up the Nominations Committee. According to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure, this Committee consists of the heads of all delegations entitled to vote in the Conference. The head of any delegation may designate another member of his or her delegation to attend meetings and vote in his or her place. Representatives to the Committee may be assisted by a member of their delegation. As in the case of the Credentials Committee, the Nominations Committee elects its own Chairperson, in accordance with Rule 34. I would also like to remind you that, pursuant to 186 EX/Decision 22 (IV), the Executive Board decided to recommend His Excellency Mr David Hamadziripi, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Zimbabwe to UNESCO, as Chairperson of the Committee. I would like now to invite the Nominations Committee to meet at 12 p.m. in Room IV.

**Item 1.4: Adoption of the agenda** (36 C/1 Prov. Rev.)

**Point 1.4 : Adoption de l'ordre du jour** (36 C/1 Prov. Rev.)

**Punto 1.4: Aprobación del orden del día** (36 C/1 Prov. Rev.)

**Пункт 1.4: Утверждение повестки дня** (36 C/1 Prov. Rev.)

البند ٤, ١: اعتماد جدول الأعمال (١/٣٦ م/م) المؤقتة المعدلة

**项目 1.4: 通过议程** (36 C/1 Prov. Rev.)

#### **10. The Temporary President:**

We shall now turn our attention to item 1.4, "Adoption of the agenda". This is contained in document 36 C/1 Prov. Rev. which was prepared by the Executive Board at its 186th and 187th sessions. Allow me to remind you that at this stage, according to Rule 15, only new items of an important and urgent character may be added to the agenda. Any such proposals would be considered by the General Committee before being put to the General Conference for approval by a two-thirds majority vote. And now for the presentation of the draft agenda, I am pleased to give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, Chair of the Executive Board. Madam, you have the floor.

#### **11. Ms Mitrofanova** (Russian Federation), Chair of the Executive Board:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Distinguished President of the General Conference, distinguished Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the provisions of Article V.B.6(a) of the Constitution, the provisional agenda of the present session of the General Conference was prepared by the Executive Board at its 186th session on the basis of a document submitted to it by the Director-General. Subsequent to the discussion that took place on this subject, the Executive Board adopted 186 EX/22 (I). By the same decision, the Board also decided that "any other items submitted by Member States or Associate Members or by the United Nations, in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, no later than 100 days before the opening of the session (i.e. before 17 July 2011) shall be inscribed by the Director-General on the provisional agenda, which shall then be communicated to Member States and Associate Members no later than 90 days before the opening of the session (i.e. 27 July 2011)". At its 187th session, the Executive Board examined the revised provisional agenda of the 36th session of the General Conference and, by 187 EX/Decision 26 (I), retained the 12 supplementary items that were submitted within the time limit set by Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. These items have been included in the supplementary list circulated to the Member States and Associate Members in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure. Mr President, on behalf of the Executive Board, I have the honour of submitting for adoption by the General Conference the revised provisional agenda contained in document 36 C/1 Prov. Rev. Thank you very much.

#### **12. The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Madam, for your presentation. Ladies and gentlemen, is there any comment on this item before adoption? I see none. *It is so decided.*



**Item 1.7: Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those maintaining formal or operational relations with UNESCO, and recommendations of the Executive Board thereon (36 C/13)**

**Point 1.7 : Admission aux travaux de la Conférence générale d'observateurs d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales autres que celles entretenant des relations formelles et opérationnelles avec l'UNESCO, et recommandations du Conseil exécutif à ce sujet (36 C/13)**

**Punto 1.7: Admisión en los trabajos de la Conferencia General de observadores de organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no sean las que mantienen relaciones formales y operativas con la UNESCO, y recomendaciones del Consejo Ejecutivo al respecto (36 C/13)**

**Пункт 1.7: Допуск на сессию Генеральной конференции наблюдателей от других международных неправительственных организаций, помимо тех, которые поддерживают официальные и рабочие отношения с ЮНЕСКО, и рекомендации Исполнительного совета по этому вопросу (36 C/13)**

البند ١,٧: قبول مراقبين من منظمات دولية غير حكومية، غير المنظمات التي تقيم علاقات رسمية مع اليونسكو، لحضور أعمال المؤتمر العام، وتوصيات المجلس التنفيذي في هذا الشأن (١٣/م٣٦)

**项目 1.7: 接纳与教科文组织保持密切正式关系和业务关系的国际非政府组织以外的国际非政府组织观察员列席大会会议和执行局就此问题的建议 (36 C/13)**

**13. The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, our next task is to examine item 1.7 of our agenda concerning the admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) other than those maintaining formal or operational relations with UNESCO, and recommendations of the Executive Board thereon. The relevant working document relating to this item is document 36 C/13. I am pleased now to invite once more the Chair of the Executive Board to present the Board's recommendations on this matter. Madam Chair, you have the floor.

**14. Ms Mitrofanova (Russian Federation), Chair of the Executive Board:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, in presenting this item to the General Conference, may I take the liberty of commending the ever-increasing importance of the work of international non-governmental organizations and the essential role they have played and continue to play on the international scene. As unquestionable actors of civil society, the expertise and visibility of international NGOs on the ground no longer need to be proven. Rather, they are an affirmation of the strong partnership that exists between them and the international community, having as a common quest the strengthening of international cooperation for peace and development. It is in this spirit that the Executive Board examined document 187 EX/26 (IV), relating to the admission to the 36th session of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those maintaining formal and operational relations with UNESCO, and on which the Board took a unanimous decision. Mr President, I therefore recommend, on behalf of the Executive Board, that those organizations, now listed in document 36 C/13, be invited to participate in the 36th session of the General Conference as observers in the debates on specific agenda items relating to their fields of competence. Thank you very much.

**15. The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Madam, for your presentation. I now wish to submit this recommendation to the approval of the General Conference. Since I see no objections, I will take it that this recommendation is **adopted** unanimously. Thank you very much.

**Item 9: RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Point 9 : RELATIONS AVEC LES ÉTATS MEMBRES ET LES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

**Punto 9: RELACIONES CON LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS Y LAS ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES**

**Пункт 9: ОТНОШЕНИЯ С ГОСУДАРСТВАМИ-ЧЛЕНАМИ И МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫМИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯМИ**

البند ٩: العلاقات مع الدول الأعضاء والمنظمات الدولية

**项目 9 : 与会员国和国际组织的关系**

**Item 9.3: Request for the admission of Curaçao as an Associate Member of UNESCO**

**Point 9.3 : Demande d'admission de Curaçao en qualité de Membre associé de l'UNESCO**

**Punto 9.3: Solicitud de admisión de Curaçao en calidad de Miembro Asociado de la UNESCO**

**Пункт 9.3: Просьба о приеме Кюрасао в качестве члена – сотрудника ЮНЕСКО**

البند ٩,٣: طلب انضمام كوراساو كعضو منتسب إلى اليونسكو

**项目 9.3: 要求接纳库拉索岛为教科文组织准会员**

**16.1 The Temporary President:**

We will now move to two items concerning requests for admission as Associate Members of UNESCO. Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, the Netherlands Antilles, a former Associate Member of the Organization, ceased to exist as of 10 October 2010. We now have the pleasure to examine the request for admission of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, which were part of the Netherlands Antilles. The request in item 9.3 for the admission of Curaçao as an Associate Member of UNESCO is presented in document 36 C/60 under item 9.3. This document includes a letter dated June 2011 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, applying for associate membership on behalf of Curaçao, whose international relations fall under the responsibility of his country. This letter is in compliance with Article

II, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, which states that territories or groups of territories which are not responsible for the conduct of their international relations may be admitted as Associate Members by the General Conference by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting, upon application made on behalf of such territories or groups of territories by the Member or other authority having responsibility for their international relations. I now present to the General Conference the request for admission of Curaçao as an Associate Member of UNESCO. I see no objection. I therefore declare that Curaçao has been admitted as a new Associate Member of the Organization. *It is so **decided**.* Congratulations.

(Applause)

16.2 It is now my pleasure to give the floor to Mr Lionel Jansen, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Curaçao, who will briefly address the General Conference. You have the floor, Sir.

17.1 **Mr Jansen** (Curaçao):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on October 10, 2010 a new Caribbean country was born: Curaçao. This was the result of the dissolving of the Netherlands Antilles which consisted of five islands in the Caribbean: Curaçao, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius. Mr President, it is without a doubt a great privilege and honour for me to stand here before you. I wish, first of all, on behalf of the Government of Curaçao, to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the head of the Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the support given and to you, the Members of UNESCO, for making this moment a reality for us. Twenty-eight years ago, in October of 1983, in a plenary session like this one, the Netherlands Antilles was accepted as the first Associate Member of UNESCO. History now has it that I stand before you today, Mr President, on this very date, 25 October, addressing you as Minister of Curaçao. Mr President, my government considers this solemn moment as Associate Member of great significance at the present stage of our development as a small island in a developing state. We are proud to be part of the UNESCO family, and you can rest assured that we will continue to be involved in the activities of UNESCO and work on UNESCO's visibility in our country. Finally, congratulations to Sint Maarten in anticipation of also obtaining Associate Member status in UNESCO. Thank you.

(Applause)

18.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Minister, for that very important statement, and I would like to extend congratulations to you.

**Item 9.5: Request for the admission of Sint Maarten as an Associate Member of UNESCO**

**Point 9.5 : Demande d'admission de Sint Maarten en qualité de Membre associé de l'UNESCO**

**Punto 9.5: Solicitud de admisión de Sint Maarten en calidad de Miembro Asociado de la UNESCO**

**Пункт 9.5: Просьба о приеме Синт-Маартена в качестве члена – сотрудника ЮНЕСКО**

**البند ٩,٥ : طلب انضمام سنت مارتن كعضو منتسب إلى اليونسكو**

**项目 9.5: 要求接纳圣马丁为教科文组织准会员**

19.1 **The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, we now turn to the request for the admission of Sint Maarten as an Associate Member of the Organization, presented under item 9.5 in document 36 C/61. It includes the letter, dated 15 September 2011, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, applying on behalf of Sint Maarten, a territory whose international relations fall under the responsibility of his country, for its admission as an Associate Member of UNESCO. As in the previous case, this letter is in compliance with Article II, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, which states that territories or groups of territories which are not responsible for the conduct of their international relations may be admitted as Associate Members by the General Conference by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting, upon application made on behalf of such territories or groups of territories by the Member or other authority having responsibility for their international relations. Ladies and gentlemen, delegates, I now present the request for admission of Sint Maarten as an Associate Member of UNESCO. I see no objection. I therefore declare that Sint Maarten has been admitted as a new Associate Member of the Organization. *It is so **decided**.* Congratulations.

(Applause)

19.2 It is now my pleasure to give the floor to Ms Rhoda Arrindell, Minister of Education of Sint Maarten, who will briefly address the General Conference. Please, Madam, you have the floor.

20. **Ms Arrindell** (Sint Maarten):

Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this is a historic and joyous moment for the people and Government of Sint Maarten. I thank you on their behalf for the honour you have bestowed upon us by admitting Sint Maarten as an Associate Member of this august body. We pledge to uphold the goals and ideals of this Organization as we look forward to full participation in the affairs of UNESCO at the highest levels possible. I also offer congratulations to our sister island, Curaçao, on obtaining its Associate Member status. Once again, thank you so much, *bedankt, merci beaucoup pour tout*.

21.1 **The Temporary President:**

*Merci beaucoup, Madame.* Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, there are several reasons for my pleasure in welcoming two fellow Caribbean territories to the UNESCO family. They are not newcomers, having been

listed under a former mandate. The Caribbean region prides itself on the fact that it is a multicultural, multilingual society. I have been involved with these territories for a long time and we have shared a number of mutual concerns. Their participation in regional meetings has always been based on a spirit of interdependence. Their presence here this morning is one of the perfect examples of making our differences work for and not against us. I have visited both islands and have always felt very much at home. There is no doubt that the representatives will be instrumental in promoting greater unity within the region. These unanimous decisions will further strengthen our Organization and enhance its universal character. With your admission of these fellow Caribbean territories, we have now reached the astonishing number of 201 Member States and Associate Members. We can rightfully boast that our membership is now the largest of all United Nations agencies. This is an achievement of which we can be justifiably proud. Congratulations, once again.

*(Applause)*

21.2 I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to Madam Director-General, Ms Bokova.

**22.1 The Director-General:**

Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to welcome Sint Maarten as an Associate Member of UNESCO. This marks the opening of a new era of cooperation between UNESCO and Sint Maarten. Our cooperation, I believe, will build on the foundations we have already established to take forward the shared values of human dignity, equality and mutual respect, and to craft new approaches to sustainable development. At a time of profound change, more than ever, the peoples of the world must advance together. We need a stronger multilateral order that is inclusive, underpinned by shared values and driven by rules of collective action. The associate membership of Sint Maarten in UNESCO is another important step in these directions. UNESCO stands ready to support the aspirations of the society of Sint Maarten for human rights and freedoms, for quality education, for safeguarding cultural heritage and expression, for managing the impacts of climate change, and for developing new approaches to sustainable growth. In tackling these challenges, all Member States will benefit from the voice of Sint Maarten, its experience and its vision of a better future. As Director-General, I look forward to this new opportunity and I thank the authorities and people of Sint Maarten for their engagement and commitment. And I thank Madam Minister.

*(The Director-General continues in French)*

22.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, je souhaite aussi la bienvenue à Curaçao, nouveau Membre associé de l'UNESCO. Je me réjouis de cette adhésion et prends d'ailleurs comme un signe d'empressement à travailler avec l'Organisation le fait que Curaçao ait déjà mis en place une commission nationale, qui sera officiellement inaugurée très bientôt. D'autre part, je voudrais souligner l'importance que revêt à mes yeux l'adhésion d'une île des Caraïbes extrêmement investie dans les enjeux des petits États insulaires en développement, en particulier à travers les activités de la Chaire UNESCO de l'Université de Curaçao. Ces enjeux sont vitaux pour la réflexion sur les conséquences du réchauffement climatique, et l'UNESCO sera plus forte de la contribution et de la voix de ce pays. La région des Caraïbes occupe également une position centrale pour comprendre le gigantesque décroisement du monde et la mise en relation des continents, à l'œuvre aujourd'hui. Par son histoire et sa culture, elle offre une aide précieuse pour aborder les enjeux de la mondialisation. Le monde a besoin de cette intelligence de la relation, de la diversité culturelle, et la population et les autorités de Curaçao et de Sint Maarten sont des observateurs et des acteurs privilégiés de ces brassages d'identités. Je sais que leur contribution sera importante. Je souhaite les remercier pour la confiance qu'ils manifestent à l'égard de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

*(Applaudissements)*

**23.1 The Temporary President:**

*Madame la Directrice-Générale, merci beaucoup de votre déclaration.* Ladies and gentlemen, I have an apology to make. I am so sorry to let you go at this early stage in our meeting. *This meeting is adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.*

*La séance est levée à 11 h 10*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 11.10*

*Заседание закрывается в 11.10*

*رُفِعَت الجلسة في الساعة ١١,١٠ صباحاً*

*会议于 11 时 10 分结束*

# Second plenary meeting

Tuesday 25 October 2011 at 3.10 p.m.  
President: **Mr Hepburn** (Bahamas)  
later: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Deuxième séance plénière

Mardi 25 octobre 2011 à 15 h 10  
Président : **M. Hepburn** (Bahamas)  
puis : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Segunda sesión plenaria

Martes 25 de octubre 2011 a las 15.10  
Presidenta: **Sr. Hepburn** (Bahamas)  
después: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Второе пленарное заседание

Вторник 25 октября 2011 г. в 15.10  
Председатель: **г-н Хепберн** (Багамские Острова)  
затем: **г-жа Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الثانية

الثلاثاء ٢٥ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣،١٠ بعد الظهر  
الرئيس: السيد هيبورن (البحاما)  
ثم: السيدة بوغياي (المجر)

# 第二次全体会议

2011年10月25日星期二 15时10分  
主席: **Hepburn** 先生 (巴哈马)  
随后: **Bogyay** 女士 (匈牙利)

**Item 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION** (*continued*)

**Point 1 : ORGANISATION DE LA SESSION** (*suite*)

**Punto 1: ORGANIZACIÓN DE LA REUNIÓN** (*continuación*)

**Пункт 1: ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ СЕССИИ** (*продолжение*)

البند ١ : تنظيم الدورة (تابع)

**项目 1 : 届会的组织 (续)**

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

**Point 1.5 : Élection du président et des vice-présidents de la Conférence générale, ainsi que des présidents, vice-présidents et rapporteurs des commissions et comités**

**Punto 1.5: Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia General, y de los Presidentes, Vicepresidentes y Relatores de las comisiones y comités**

**Пункт 1.5: Выборы Председателя и заместителей Председателя Генеральной конференции, а также председателей, заместителей председателей и докладчиков комиссий и комитетов**

البند ١,٥ : انتخاب رئيس المؤتمر العام ونواب الرئيس ورؤساء اللجان ونواب رؤسائها ومقرريها

**项目 1.5 : 选举大会主席和副主席以及各委员会主席、副主席和报告人**

**Election of the President of the 36th session of the General Conference**

**Élection du président de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale**

**Elección del Presidente de la 36<sup>a</sup> reunión de la Conferencia General**

**Выборы Председателя 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции**

انتخاب رئيس الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

**选举大会第三十六届会议主席**

**1.1 The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, delegates, I declare the second plenary meeting open. Distinguished delegates, before we begin, I would like to give a special and warm welcome to His Excellency Mr Pál Schmitt, President of the Republic of Hungary, who is with us today in the room.

(Applause)

1.2 We shall now examine, under item 1.5, the election of the President of the 36th session of the General Conference. The related documents are 36 C/NOM/1 and 36 C/NOM/1 Add. I will now call upon His Excellency Mr David Hamadziripi, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, to present the recommendations of the Committee concerning the President of the 36th session of the General Conference. Mr Chairperson, you have the floor, Sir.

2. **Mr Hamadziripi** (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. The Nominations Committee held its first meeting this morning during which it examined the recommendation of the Executive Board on the subject of the President of the 36th session of the General Conference. The recommendations of the Nominations Committee are contained in document 36 C/NOM/1 and 36 C/NOM/1 Add. The Nominations Committee decided to recommend that the General Conference approve the candidature of Ms Katalin Bogyay of Hungary as the President of the 36th session of the General Conference.

(Applause)

**3.1 The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, I see that this proposal is largely supported and I am therefore happy to proclaim the election of Her Excellency Ms Katalin Bogyay from Hungary as President of the 36th session of the General Conference. *It is so decided.*

**3.2 The Temporary President:**

Distinguished colleagues, I will always remember the first time I met this vivacious and gregarious young lady shortly after her arrival at UNESCO. Her contagious laugh and broad smile created immediate chemistry between us. She served as one of the Vice-Presidents during the 35th General Conference and when called upon to take the chair in my absence, she performed with panache. Katalin's energy knows no bounds and my only fear is that she might endeavour to out-Katalin Katalin. I can attest to the fact that she welcomes challenges and will leave no stone unturned in order to accomplish her objectives. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I am certain that there is great rejoicing among the fairer sex, at least, that these three competent women are now at the helm of UNESCO. Let me make it clear that I am not a misogynist, but I had a sense of foreboding, so I called upon that inimitable connoisseur of women, Mr William Shakespeare, who described his women characters as "strong and outspoken, still ultimately yielding to male power, but firm and cunning enough to outwit the opposite sex in the most critical situations". Men, a word to the wise is sufficient. Dear Katalin, I could think of no one who is more capable than you to assume this role at such a time as this. You have destroyed the myth regarding beautiful women and brains. You remind me of the incomparable biblical Persian Queen Esther who defied the King's edict in order to save her people from annihilation. I will be standing in the wings to cheer you on as you make history. I wish to thank you sincerely for your kind hospitality and support during my tenure.

Congratulations for a well-deserved honour, and above all make sure that you enjoy the ride. I now give the floor to the Chair of the Executive Board.

4.1 **Ms Mitrofanova** (Russian Federation, Chair of the Executive Board):

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Hungary, Mr Pál Schmitt, distinguished delegates, it is my great pleasure to express on behalf of the Members of the Executive Board and on my own behalf our heartfelt congratulations to Her Excellency Ms Katalin Bogyay, Permanent Delegate of Hungary, on her election as the President of the 36th session of the General Conference. Dear Katalin, I know you as an admirable ambassador of your country and as a friend. Since you came to UNESCO, you have proved yourself as a person who knows all its problems and challenges. This was fully recognized first by the Member States of your regional group when you were elected to its chair. And now your professional path, competence and well-earned credibility grant you international recognition in the office of President of the 36th session of the General Conference. Your election is naturally to be considered an act of acknowledgement by UNESCO Member States of the indisputable contribution that your country – Hungary – has made to the various activities of UNESCO since it joined the Organization in 1948. Madam President, I am sure that your organizational skills and international experience will reinforce the cooperation of the three UNESCO organs. The work of the Executive Board will benefit considerably from the specific initiatives you will propose to move forward within UNESCO's fields of competence. I am certain, as is the case of all of us, that under your leadership, the 36th session of the General Conference will be successfully carried out, and that all of the necessary and important decisions will be duly taken. It also concerns further preparations for the 37th session, the significance of which we already can see, since it will define UNESCO's programming transition to a new C/4 and C/5 cycle. Dear Katalin, I wish you every success and great cooperation for the coming years. I trust that your wisdom and adherence to the ideals of UNESCO will support and reinforce your action in taking up the challenges ahead.

4.2 Now, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of all Board Members, let me address sincere gratitude to Mr Davidson Hepburn, Permanent Delegate of the Bahamas, for his outstanding leadership in performing the work of the General Conference as the President of its 35th session. Dear Ambassador, I must say that you are among the most worthy representatives of your country, because you were with those who served your country, your people and the people of colonies to win their own identity, their political sovereignty and their place among the nations. Always committed to the peaceful development and harmonious coexistence of world societies, you were close to UNESCO's ideals even before your country became a Member in 1981, exactly thirty years ago. Much later, you were deservedly elected as the first President of the General Conference of UNESCO from a Caribbean State. Owing to your vigorous action in securing the commitment of the international community to the destiny of the small island developing States, this topic has gained particularly great visibility in Board sessions throughout the past biennium. I am sincerely grateful for the wise comments, appropriate quotations and inspiring advice with which you "spiced up" the work of the Board. We know that you are not leaving UNESCO, as there is much that maintains the link. Thus, the Organization and its governing bodies can always rely on your knowledge and constantly invaluable contribution to their activity. Your Excellency, yes, "you did it your way". And you did it very well. I wish you continued success and new exciting achievements as you further resolutely promote UNESCO ideals. Thank you very much.

5. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for those wonderful words, but I am always reminded of that marvellous statement, "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts." So, I will keep that in mind. I am now pleased to give the floor to the Director-General for her remarks.

6.1 **The Director-General:**

Thank you very much, Mr President.

*(The Director-General continues in French)*

6.2 Excellence, Monsieur le Président de la République de Hongrie, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un plaisir et un honneur de me joindre au concert de félicitations adressées à Son Excellence Mme Katalin Bogyay, Ambassadrice et Représentante permanente de la Hongrie auprès de l'UNESCO, pour son élection aux fonctions de Présidente de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Cette Organisation a la chance d'avoir bénéficié des qualités de meneur et de la haute stature morale de l'Ambassadeur, M. Davidson L. Hepburn. Nous sommes doublement gratifiés par votre élection à la tête de la Conférence générale, Madame l'Ambassadrice Bogyay, ma chère amie.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

6.3 Madam President, your career, I would say, is stellar – a critic, a film-maker, a television presenter, a writer, an ambassador and a State Minister and now President of the General Conference of UNESCO. All of this shows your deep engagement with international cooperation in culture and education. It highlights your unique ability to mobilize people and to create common spaces. It points especially to your clear vision of the power of culture to unify peoples and communities. You bring all of this to the Presidency of the General Conference. You bring also – and this is just as important -- your deep passion for people, for discussion and debate, for art and culture, for advancing UNESCO's values and mandate. Speaking in the name of the Organization, I wish to say how much we look forward to working with you throughout the next two years. You may rest assured of our continual support and assistance to you over this important period.

*(The Director-General continues in French)*

6.4 Je me tourne maintenant vers le Président de la 35<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Davidson L. Hepburn. Cher ami, parmi tout ce que vous avez accompli pour cette Organisation, il y a une

chose qui me tient beaucoup à cœur parce qu'elle témoigne de l'essence même de notre Organisation et de l'esprit qui nous anime : comme Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif l'a mentionné il y a quelques minutes, vous avez donné une voix aux petits États insulaires en développement et, à travers eux, à tous ceux qui n'osent pas toujours parler. Et quelle voix ! Vous nous l'avez encore montré tout à l'heure avec votre interprétation de *My Way*. Une voix, je dirais non seulement de talent, mais aussi d'intelligence. Une voix puissante, une voix qui invite chacun à faire entendre la sienne.

(*La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais*)

6.5 And then your voice, Mr President, has helped to change this Organization. Your leadership has been vital at a time of global change and major movement inside UNESCO. You have guided us with vision and balance. You have demonstrated that no single country can answer global challenges alone and that we all must contribute, rich and poor, big and small. This has always been your message. With this, dear President of the General Conference, you have helped to revitalize our mandate and to raise our flag higher than it was. More than anything, you have inspired us all with the values that lie at the heart of UNESCO and the United Nations. Every individual, every country, has a right to equality and dignity. Each must be judged on their own merits, not by their economic or political power but by the power of their ideas, by the strength of their rights, by the light of their culture. For this, I am especially grateful to you. Thank you very much, Mr President. And now, it is my great honour to award you with the golden medal of the Organization, a symbol also of your leadership.

(*Applause*)

#### 7.1 **The Temporary President:**

I would like to thank the Director-General for those very kind words that you said about me. I think that everybody in this Organization knows that I never become speechless but when I hear these things, it is difficult for me to talk. I am going to make some brief remarks here and in connection with some things that have been said or what I have experienced during my stay here. My dear colleagues, "*When you come to the end of a perfect day, and you sit alone with your thoughts; When the chimes ring out with a carol gay; For the joy that this day has brought [...]*" are lines from a popular song by C. Jacobs which prompt me to reflect on the past two years of my term as President of the General Conference. Frankly, this bittersweet moment reminds me of the phrase from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliette*, "*Parting is such sweet sorrow*". Of course, I do not plan to be maudlin here. However, this paradoxical statement supports the fact that although "parting" connotes separation, the "sorrow" becomes pleasing and it heightens the joy of past shared memories. It remains for me, then, to simply express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for helping to make my odyssey a very special and memorable one indeed. I will not make the mistake of calling names since each one of you, in turn, played a significant role in the process. For example, I will cherish the memory of the chats I have had with the cleaning and maintenance staff in the corridors and in the lifts. I will miss the cheerful greetings from the security personnel who made sure that I was protected at all times. Protocol was always vigilant in making sure that I was given proper recognition. Let me also commend the management and staff of the restaurant for their professional, efficient and courteous services over the years. Given the multilateral nature of our Organization, none of our deliberations could have succeeded without the dedication and commitment of the interpreters, translators, précis-writers, copiers, room clerks and the staff of the television studio who labour tirelessly in a windowless environment. The chauffeurs were extremely respectful and pleasant. My personal driver, for example, is one of the finest persons I have ever met. I am proud to call him a friend. My secretary can be described as my guardian angel who watched over me and kept me from uninvited visitors. Whatever I say about my personal assistant would fall far short of my expressions of gratitude for his selfless attention. Suffice it to say that any success that I may have had was due to his savoir-faire.

7.2 I am grateful to the Secretary and staff of the Executive Board who were not afraid to make changes to the agenda. They kept the organs of the house fine-tuned. I enjoyed my relationship with the Assistant Directors-General and Directors who were always available to answer my queries. The Members of the Executive Board are to be commended for their invaluable work. The Chair of the Board demonstrated sound leadership skills, which should be emulated by her successors. Thank you very much, Madam, for your leadership. My dear Director-General, Irina, it has been a pleasure to work with you over the past two years. We came on the scene at the same time and have both made history against great odds. I am proud that I played a major role in facilitating your inaugural process. In many ways, we have formed a bond which will continue to grow stronger. I will always remember you in my thoughts and prayers that you would continue to strive to reform UNESCO and make it worthy of the title of lead agency in its areas of competence. I would be remiss if I did not give special thanks to the governments of the several countries who extended generous invitations to participate in their programmes. On those occasions I had the pleasure of interacting with young children and students who were anxious to learn about UNESCO and the Bahamas. *Et la pièce de résistance*, to you, my colleagues, your smiles and kind comments gave me the encouragement I needed to perform my duties. Your support has been invaluable and I trust that I have met your expectations.

7.3 Last but not least, I must express my gratitude to the Bahamas Government, and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as a whole, for their unanimous support of my candidature. Based on the foregoing, I am demitting my post knowing that the future of UNESCO is secure. *Spasiba bol'shoye. Gracias. Shukran. Xièxie. Merci beaucoup. Grazie. Danke schön. Muito obrigado.* Thank you very much.

(*Applause*)

7.4 It is now my honour to invite the President of the 36th session of the General Conference to take her seat.

**Address by the President of the 36th session of the General Conference**  
**Allocution de la Présidente de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale**  
**Discurso pronunciado por la Presidenta de la 36<sup>a</sup> reunión de la Conferencia General**  
**Выступление Председателя 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции**  
 خطاب رئيس الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام  
 大会第三十六届会议主席致辞

**8.1 The President of the 36th session of the General Conference (Ms Bogyay, Hungary):**

Throughout my whole life, I have really always hoped to find a key to the person standing in front of me, and for them to trust me, to believe in me, and I knew that for this to happen, I first had to tell His or Her Excellency, or whoever he or she was, "I am interested in you. I would like to understand you. I would like to share your experiences." And after he or she finished speaking, I would hope to introduce myself and to share my experiences with her or him. Now, here I am standing in front of 193 Member States and observers so dear to my heart and I feel the trust. I have to tell you, I will always cherish this moment in my life. It is probably what I have been working towards throughout my whole life. What I would like to promise you is that I will always be open. I will always be there to listen and to understand. I always think about Confucius, who said, "Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated". If we look at each other, if we really listen, if we start to talk and to listen, we will really start communicating with each other and life would be much simpler.

8.2 Before anything else, please allow me to dedicate this special moment of my life to my husband Tamás, who believed in me before I believed in myself. He has given me freedom and supported me during my incredible journey over the past 30 years with his shining intellect, vision and humour. And of course, I would like to dedicate this moment to my son, Tamás László, who gives me constant sunshine. He taught me what it means to be responsible throughout your whole life and also what unconditional love is. And, of course, I really feel that, somewhere, my dear parents are also smiling down at me, "Okay, lovely girl. You did it". So, thank you very much for being with me. Now, the official bit is coming.

8.3 Your Excellency, dear Mr President of Hungary, Mr Pál Schmitt, what a great honour it is for me to welcome the President of my country. Thank you so much for coming.

8.4 Mr President of the 35th session of the General Conference, my dear friend, Mr Davidson Hepburn, wherever you sit, you will be my star. Madam Chair of the Executive Board, dear Eleonora Mitrofanova, Madam Director-General, dearest Irina Bokova, Excellencies, fellow ambassadors, distinguished delegates, honourable representatives of intergovernmental organizations, distinguished representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society, members of the international press, dear friends, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, my election as President of the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference has granted me a position of great privilege. May I at the very outset express my sincere gratitude for your confidence in my capacity to lead this body and my ability to facilitate its important work. I should like to thank Electoral Group II for its unanimous decision to propose me for this position, as well as all the other electoral groups and the European Union for its full support. I should like to thank the Executive Board and all of you today for electing me unanimously. The fact that I have your full support only enhances my deep sense of responsibility. I am also very grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, which, under the guidance of Foreign Minister Mr János Martonyi and Under-Secretary Mr János Hóvári and their very hard-working team, spearheaded a strong external campaign to convince Member States to support my candidature. Finally, I am deeply grateful for my lovely colleagues on the team of the Permanent Delegation of Hungary to UNESCO.

8.5 I know that your trust is placed not only in me but also in my country, Hungary, which has been an active and creative Member of UNESCO since 1948, channelling all its expertise and knowledge into the work of many UNESCO commissions and committees. We also have already had the honour of previously serving as President of the General Conference in 1974, as well as Chair of the Executive Board, in 1997. For Hungarians, UNESCO's mandates are very close to our hearts. I come from a land where our internationally acclaimed thinkers, educators, artists and explorers, not to mention our freedom fighters and Nobel Prize winners, have paved the way for the betterment of the people, not only in my country, not only in Europe, but in the whole world. Our great composer Béla Bartók said: "My guiding philosophy has always been the idea of different nations uniting in brotherhood, in spite of all the wars and hostility. I have tried to serve the aims of this idea, as best as I can, in my music! So for that reason, I do not shrink away from any influences". We Hungarians have always tried to preserve our own culture, yet were forced to absorb many other cultural influences, too. Because of our history and geographical position in Europe, in the end, I feel this cross-fertilization with others has proved to be our strength. It has enabled us to be bold and creative like another of our great musicians, Liszt Ferenc (Franz Liszt) who, whilst considering himself a Magyar from cradle to grave, recognized that he had developed his creativity through his contact with the world at large and that his music was at the service of all humankind. Throughout his career, he travelled more widely than any musician of his time and in his final years wrote: "My only remaining ambition as a musician is to hurl my lance into the boundless realm of the future". This is what we at UNESCO are aiming to do: placing our collective skills at the service of humanity and working together towards a more meaningful and sustainable future.

8.6 I am very happy to welcome to our family two new Associate Members, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

8.7 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to address my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency Mr Davidson Hepburn, President of the 35th session of the General Conference and Ambassador from the Bahamas, who has shown me the path of fairness, equilibrium, friendship and wisdom. He has also reminded me to be 'terribly well' at all times! I highly value his sense of commitment, his excellent accomplishments, the beauty of his personality and his constant



support since my arrival at UNESCO, which coincided with his taking on the presidency two years ago. And my dear friend, I promise you, I will do it “my way”! To Madam Chair of the Executive Board, dear Ambassador Eleonora Mitrofanova, I want to express my profound gratitude and appreciation, both as a friend and as a colleague in Electoral Group II, for the sensitivity, skills and professionalism you have demonstrated as leader of the Executive Board and for being instrumental in proposing me for this very job. I have always been inspired by your combined skills of diplomacy, frankness and strength, which are so often required in our line of work. To Madam Director-General, dear friend Irina Bokova, let me tell you how much I like and enjoy the swing you have created in this House! I love how you can be full of imagination, determination, energy and strong leadership and, at the same time, how you can also be humble, ready to embrace, and unashamed of the female touch. I was so proud to welcome the first woman Director-General to this House, who also happens to come from the same part of the world as me. I would like to remind everybody about the message of the Director-General at our last Executive Board meeting, namely, that the aim of the ongoing reform is to allow the Organization “to keep up the pace of history and to shape its course, to ensure that UNESCO plays its rightful role, that we are visible and that we respond to the needs of Member States”. I can assure you, Madam, that I fully support your vision. I feel inspired and motivated by the infectious excitement that is shared by all the Members of the Board. I will do my utmost to be a real bridge between the governing bodies, the Member States, yourselves and the Secretariat. With the help of clear communication, we must work to maintain the trust between the Secretariat and the Member States. I would like to further develop the General Conference’s role in strategy and policy formulation as well as to streamline its activities. I will also push towards greater participation of all Member States in our work because I truly believe that only by working together can we achieve our goals. We are one team. Through lively and innovative communication, we will ensure that UNESCO becomes more visible throughout the world.

8.8 Honourable guests, fellow ambassadors, each of my predecessors must have felt thrilled to assume this honourable position, and rightly so. Each session of the General Conference, since UNESCO’s birth nearly 70 years ago, has been marked by tremendous changes occurring in the world. The Organization has coped successively with the profound effects of war, the dawn of the nuclear age, the advent of the Iron Curtain, post-war reconstruction and integration, national self-determination movements and decolonization. So change is nothing new for UNESCO. Nevertheless, in terms of the enormity of the global challenges that confront us, as well as the current opportunity to address those challenges, we live in truly historic times. There are reasons for both hope and despair. I personally feel that since the end of the Cold War, the times we are living in now are the most challenging. We are seeing a major shift in the world economy, the causes and results of the Arab Spring, a global aspiration towards a free, open, correct life, the sensitivity and boldness of the young people of our times, new chances for democracy in the world. But we also can sense rising tension, radicalism, ruthless power to enforce special interests. A young man set himself on fire, but the fire has not gone out yet. Clear communication, helping everyone to develop sustainable human development, “human capabilities”, as Nobel Prize Laureate Amartya Sen from India would say, are key tasks for all of us. The availability of education is a basic ground for human functioning, through which we have a choice for understanding and international cooperation. As American statesman J. William Fulbright said, “In the long course of history, having people understand your thought is much greater security than another submarine”. We have other pressing challenges to meet, namely to achieve internationally agreed-upon development goals, especially those that fall squarely within the mandate of this Organization. This will be difficult given the economies of many Member States. The clock is ticking. Only four years remain until the deadline of 2015 for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as UNESCO’s own Dakar goals of universal education and reduced levels of extreme poverty, hunger and disease.

8.9 Davidson Hepburn, in his 2009 acceptance speech, reminded us of UNESCO’s role as lead organization for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. He expressed interest in the outcome of the forthcoming United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen and in the importance of strong international cooperation and solidarity in this field. Two years later, with the forthcoming United Nations Conferences at Durban and Rio (Rio+20), it seems to me that we are now starting to have to come to terms with the effects of the unbridled pursuit of maximum economic growth bringing ever-increasing and irreversible strains on the planet in all areas, and the need to add new goals such as sustainability, well-being, solidarity and respect for cultural diversity to traditional goals such as liberty, equality and fraternity as part of a global mission statement. The 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report alerts us to another global challenge which is rarely mentioned that demands an international response, namely the state of education in conflict-affected States. The statistics are startling. Countries where there is armed conflict are among the farthest from reaching the education for all (EFA) goals set in Dakar. Armed conflict is robbing 28 million children of an education by exposing them to widespread sexual violence, targeted attacks on schools and other abuses. We at UNESCO need to give serious consideration to this problem.

8.10 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, especially close to my heart is the unrelenting fight for gender equality on all fronts. Women continue to be systematically disadvantaged according to the human development indicators. Despite their tremendous potential to foster peace, nurture reconciliation and contribute to sustainable development, women everywhere in the world continue to be denied equal access to basic goods and services, to education, employment and healthcare. Women are particularly vulnerable in their role as primary nurturers in the face of natural disasters and as victims of rape in the event of armed conflict. The empowerment of women and girls is both a great moral imperative of our times as well as an absolute precondition for meeting internationally agreed-upon development goals. Fortunately, women around the world have increasingly been seen in high-level political and decision-making positions. Certainly with my election, we now have three women at the helm of the key sectors of this Organization. You have sent a very powerful message to the world that UNESCO is serious about its commitment to promoting gender equality and recognizing the abilities of women. More importantly, you have sent a message to hundreds of millions of girls and women whose voices and hopes are currently unheard, that they too can aim high and realize their dreams. Our message from the top, however strong it may be, will not suffice. As Member States of UNESCO, we must work together towards transforming gender equality from an aspiration into a reality at all levels everywhere.

8.11 Distinguished delegates, I have enumerated some of the challenges that set the background to our current work. Together these challenges call for multilateral solutions and remind us that the tasks for which UNESCO was created are yet to be accomplished. We must ensure that UNESCO is versatile enough to cope with the rapidly transforming environment while maintaining its steadfast commitment to its mandate of peace. More specifically, we need to focus on our comparative strengths while coordinating with external partners on finding common strategies. The critical role of science and technology within an ethical framework for developing countries, in particular in Africa, must be emphasized. We need to realize our Organization's constitutional mandates. These include using dialogue to promote peace and the rapprochement of cultures, as well as supporting reconciliation and other measures that impart tolerance and mutual understanding. Given the enormity of the task, inertia and inaction are simply not an option.

8.12 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I was brought up behind the Iron Curtain in a little Hungarian village called Mór. It lies in a valley between the Bakony and Vértes, two lovely mountains, and is famous for its huge vineyards and wine-making tradition. My father was the local doctor and he taught me: "If someone needs you, you have to go whatever hour of the night or day. There are no working hours". In this village, people from different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds used to live together. My father never looked at their colour, language, clothing or traditions and went whenever and wherever he was needed. His example has shaped my sense of responsibility. What I have also learned through the years is that effective communication is not enough unless it is combined with genuine leadership, we simply will not be able to push through the obstacles standing in our way and real change will not take place. As a European, my education was influenced by the egocentric thinking of Descartes: "I think therefore I am". Lately, however, I have felt that much can be achieved by following the African concept of *ubuntu* which states: "I am human because I belong. I participate." A person with *ubuntu* is open and available to others and does not feel threatened by the apparent strengths and abilities in others. People with *ubuntu* have the self-assurance that comes from knowing that they belong to a greater whole. They feel diminished when others are tortured, humiliated or oppressed. As a Hungarian, I know only too well that survival depends not on the individual but on the abilities of the collective. Here at UNESCO, we have a global responsibility to lead by example. In these times of social and financial insecurity, in particular, we need to listen to all the voices. It requires great creativity, persistence and strength in order to survive without losing one's humanity, and the smaller and poorer States have much to teach us. In order to work well together at UNESCO, let us develop *ubuntu*. All nations have valuable contributions to make and together we can achieve more than individually.

8.13 So our question is: how can we make these ideas relevant in our everyday work? How can we honour one other's homeland, language and culture, participating together to make the world a better place for future generations? We can start by emphasizing our cultural diversity rather than our cultural differences. Cultural diversity includes the particular qualities that each nation brings to the expression of its identity. It enriches the greater whole and is something to be celebrated. Cultural differences imply division and are often used as an excuse to explain why nothing can change. I believe that cultural differences should never become an excuse for our inability to reach global understanding. We must remind ourselves that there are no cultural differences in the fundamental values of human life. We all want to belong and feel safe, to contribute and be appreciated, and to be able to provide for our children. We must teach our children that the people of the world all have much more in common than not and that is what we should build on. I see our world as a global cultural space, a multi-layered treasure, a magic box full of undiscovered jewels. The process of inspiration followed by the creativity of people working together is, to me, the most beautiful aspect of this varied cultural space. For a culture to open its doors wide, it must believe in its own strength, knowing that it is rich enough to nourish other cultures, yet sensitive enough to benefit from foreign influences.

8.14 Excellencies, dear friends, I personally have always had a somewhat problematic perception of politics. I used to say that I was more interested in the human motives underlying political decisions. I now realize that what I have always been uncomfortable with is the inevitable existence of promoting only political interests. That is why I have become a firm believer in what I call the art of cultural diplomacy. I would just like us to remind ourselves that UNESCO was established "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations". If traditional diplomacy is seen as "hard", cultural diplomacy is seen as "soft." But the so-called soft power is not so soft after all because it channels wider, connective and human values. If traditional "hard" diplomacy is seen as prose, then "soft" cultural diplomacy is poetry. The American poet William Carlos Williams wrote: "It is difficult to get the news from poems, yet men die miserably every day from lack of what is found there". He reminds us that poetry may not be practical and straightforward but its less tangible attributes can lead to unexpected revelations that enhance our lives. The poetry of diplomacy allows us to embrace the subconscious and our deepest most hidden thoughts and feelings. It makes full use of intuition, lateral thinking and creativity which, in our troubled times, can lead to surprising breakthroughs where traditional methods have failed. Maybe I feel so because I come from a land where poetry has always played an important role in our lives. But maybe I feel this way because I am a woman. And we women like to deliver ideas, visions, tasks ... and babies! And we would rather die than see our sons killed or our daughters widowed. So, for this reason, we see the goal and we do not mind the change in direction. I hope that the kind of poetry of diplomacy that we can reach in our everyday life can be a guiding star and a light for our life here at UNESCO.

8.15 Ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, the General Conference is a celebration because we are celebrating each other. So, do not forget the *joie de vivre*. Always have a smile for each other. But please, mean it. *Merci beaucoup pour votre attention*. Thank you very much for listening.

(Applause)

9. **The President:**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I shall not sing but I do have a surprise for you before we start the serious work, because I thought: how could I summarize? And because I have always had this strong relationship with music, I have asked my very, very dear friend, a real legend of our times, who flew from Beijing yesterday and is flying back to Shanghai tonight, Tamás Vásáry, to come. The maestro can summarize everything that we feel is important in our life. First, he will play Liszt's "Concert Paraphrase on Rigoletto" which talks about the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inspiration. Then, of course, he will play the famous "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 15" by Liszt, which he has played far and wide. And to end, just to remind ourselves how important it is for all of us to maintain our cultural identity and roots, he will play a Béla Bartók piece, "An Evening in the Village". Thank you very much, Tamás, for coming.

(Musical interlude)

**Election of the Vice-Presidents of the 36th session of the General Conference**

**Élection des vice-présidents de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale**

**Elección de los Vicepresidentes de la 36<sup>a</sup> reunión de la Conferencia General**

**Выборы заместителей Председателя 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции**

انتخاب نواب رئيس الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

选举大会第三十六届会议副主席

10. **The President:**

And now, ladies and gentlemen, we will proceed with item 1.5 of the agenda, and elect the Vice-Presidents of the 36th session of the General Conference. The relevant documents are 36 C/NOM/1 and 36 C/NOM/1 Add. I call upon His Excellency Mr David Hamadziripi, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, to present the list of the 36 Member States who are candidates for the posts of Vice-Presidents for this session.

11. **Mr Hamadziripi (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):**

Thank you very much, Madam President. Before we continue with item 1.5, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference. You can certainly count on us, on my support and that of the Nominations Committee, as you carry out your duties and responsibilities throughout the term of your presidency. Madam President, the Nominations Committee recommended at its meeting this morning the election to the posts of Vice-Presidents of the 36th session of the General Conference, of the following Member States: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Madagascar, Montenegro, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Thailand, United States of America, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia. I therefore submit, Madam President, this recommendation of the Nominations Committee concerning the thirty-six Vice-Presidents of this General Conference for the plenary's consideration. Thank you.

12. **The President:**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I now submit the list proposed by the Nominations Committee for approval by the General Conference. I see no objections. I hereby declare that the Heads of the Delegations of the Member States on the list that was just read out are **elected** Vice-Presidents of the 36th session of the General Conference. Congratulations.

(Applause)

**Establishment of the commissions and committees**

**Constitution des commissions et comités**

**Constitución de las comisiones y los comités**

**Учреждение комиссий и комитетов**

تشكيل اللجان

成立各专门委员会和委员会

13. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, we shall now elect the chairpersons of the commissions and committees for this session of the General Conference. If you allow me, we shall examine as a whole the proposal of the Nominations Committee for the chairpersons of the commissions and committees. I now give the floor to the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Mr Hamadziripi, to present the recommendations of the Committee for the posts of chairpersons of the seven commissions. The floor is yours, Sir.

14. **Mr Hamadziripi (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):**

Thank you, Madam President. I have the honour to inform the General Conference that the Nominations Committee's recommendations regarding the chairpersons of the commissions and committees of the 36th session of the General Conference are as follows: the General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations Commission (PRX), Mr Amadou Maïlélé from Niger; the Education Commission (ED), Mr Rudolphe Imhoof of Switzerland; the Natural Sciences Commission (SC), Mr Montri Chulavatnatol of Thailand; the Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS), Mr Iván José Avila Belloso of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the Culture Commission (CLT), Mr Nureldin Satti of Sudan; the Communication and Information Commission (CI), Mr Ľudovít Molnár of Slovakia; the Administrative Commission (ADM), Ms Alexandra Cummins of Barbados; the Legal Committee (LEG), Ms Victoria Hallum of New

Zealand. You will recall this morning that the General Conference already endorsed the recommendations on the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee (CRE), that is Mr Uffe Andreasen of Denmark, and, of course, my own nomination as Chairperson of the Nominations Committee (NOM). Thank you, Madam President.

**15. The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. If there are no objections to the proposal by the Nominations Committee, I declare **elected** Mr Maïlélé, Chairperson of the PRX Commission; Mr Imhoof, Chairperson of the Education Commission; Mr Chulavatnatol, Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission; Mr Avila Beloso, Chairperson of the SHS Commission; Mr Satti, Chairperson of the Culture Commission; Mr Molnár, Chairperson of the Communication and Information Commission; Ms Cummins, Chairperson of the Administrative Commission. Ladies and gentlemen, let me congratulate you all and let me also remind you that, in accordance with Rule 41, you are all now members of the General Committee of the General Conference which will convene, for its first meeting, tomorrow morning between 8.30 and 9.15 a.m. in Room X. You will receive, later today, the formal invitation together with the draft agenda for the meeting.

**Establishment of the Legal Committee**  
**Constitution du Comité juridique**  
**Constitución del Comité Jurídico**  
**Учреждение Юридического комитета**  
 تشكيل اللجنة القانونية  
**成立 法律委员会**

**16. The President:**

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, on the subject of the Legal Committee, let me recall that following Rule 36.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Legal Committee shall elect its own Chairperson. Let me also recall that the Executive Board, at its 186th session, recommended Ms Hallum of New Zealand as Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee will hold its first meeting tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Room IV. I wish to recall that the Chairperson of the Legal Committee is also a member of the General Committee. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee for the wonderful job and for all the hard decisions which have been taken and presented. Thank you very much.

**Item 1.2: First report of the Credentials Committee**  
**Point 1.2 : Premier rapport du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs**  
**Punto 1.2: Primer informe del Comité de Verificación de Poderes**  
**Пункт 1.2: Первый доклад Комитета по проверке полномочий**  
 البند ٢، ١: التقرير الأول للجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد

**项目 1.2 : 全权证书委员会的第一次报告**

**17. The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, we now need to examine the first report of the Credentials Committee. But first, allow me to congratulate His Excellency Mr Andreasen of Denmark on his election as Chairperson of the Committee. It will be a pleasure working with you again, Sir. You have the floor.

**18.1 M. Andreasen (Denemark) (Président du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs) :**

Merci. Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, félicitations. Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, à sa première séance plénière, tenue le 25 octobre 2011, la Conférence générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture a, conformément aux articles 26 et 32 de son Règlement intérieur, constitué pour sa 36<sup>e</sup> session un Comité de vérification des pouvoirs composé des États membres suivants : Azerbaïdjan, Canada, Danemark, Égypte, Namibie, Népal, République démocratique du Congo, République bolivarienne du Venezuela et Yémen.

**18.2** Le Comité de vérification des pouvoirs a tenu sa première séance à 12 heures ce même jour. Le Comité a élu à sa présidence Son Excellence M. Uffe Andreasen, Ambassadeur, Représentant du Danemark au Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO. À la demande du Président, la Conseillère juridique a informé le Comité des critères à appliquer pour décider de la validité des pouvoirs présentés aux termes de l'article 23 du Règlement intérieur de la Conférence générale. Cet article dispose que les pouvoirs des délégués et des suppléants émanent soit du chef de l'État ou du gouvernement, soit du ministre des affaires étrangères ou d'un autre ministre autorisé par le ministre des affaires étrangères à délivrer des pleins pouvoirs. Le Conseiller juridique a également expliqué la signification de l'expression « pouvoirs provisoires » selon une pratique établie par la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, et ce qu'elle impliquait. Le Secrétariat a ensuite informé le Comité de l'état des pouvoirs qu'il avait reçus jusqu'alors. Le Comité a conclu que les pouvoirs des États membres suivants avaient été émis en conformité avec l'article 23 du Règlement intérieur de la Conférence générale, c'est-à-dire qu'ils émanaient soit du chef de l'État ou du gouvernement, soit du ministre des affaires étrangères ou d'un autre ministre autorisé par le ministre des affaires étrangères à délivrer des pleins pouvoirs. Il a en conséquence considéré que les délégations des États membres dont la liste s'affiche sur l'écran étaient dûment accréditées (tous les noms des États membres, Membres associés et délégations d'observateurs affichés à l'écran sont indiqués dans le document publié sous la cote 36 C/66). Le Comité recommande que les délégations des États membres susmentionnés soient autorisées à participer aux travaux de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale.

18.3 Les délégations des États membres dont les noms s'affichent sur l'écran ont présenté des pouvoirs sous forme de notes, lettres ou autres documents émanant d'un ministre autre que le ministre des affaires étrangères et non autorisé par ce dernier à délivrer des pleins pouvoirs, ou du chef d'une mission diplomatique, d'un délégué permanent auprès de l'UNESCO ou d'un haut fonctionnaire du gouvernement. Le Comité propose que ces notes, lettres et autres documents soient acceptés à titre de pouvoirs provisoires des délégations des États membres, sous réserve qu'elles présentent ultérieurement des pouvoirs en bonne et due forme, et que, dans l'intervalle, ces délégations soient autorisées à participer aux travaux de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale.

18.4 Des pouvoirs en bonne et due forme ont été présentés par les délégations des Membres associés dont les noms s'affichent sur l'écran. Des pouvoirs provisoires ont également été reçus de la délégation du Membre associé dont le nom s'affiche sur l'écran. Le Comité a en outre reçu les pouvoirs en bonne et due forme établis au nom de la délégation d'observateur dont le nom s'affiche sur l'écran. Les délégations des États membres dont les noms s'affichent sur l'écran n'ont pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. Les délégations des Membres associés dont les noms s'affichent sur l'écran n'ont pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. Les délégations d'observateurs dont les noms s'affichent sur l'écran n'ont pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. Merci Madame le Présidente de la Conférence générale.

19. **The President:**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Let me congratulate you for your efficient work and the efficient work of your whole Committee. Now, I would like to ask if there are any comments on this report from Member States. No? Thank you very much. As I see no objections, I shall consider that the General Conference **takes note** of the first report of the Credentials Committee.

**Item 2: REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

**Point 2 : RAPPORTS SUR L'ACTIVITÉ DE L'ORGANISATION ET ÉVALUATION DU PROGRAMME**

**Punto 2: INFORMES SOBRE LAS ACTIVIDADES DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN Y EVALUACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA**

**Пункт 2: Доклады о деятельности Организации и оценка программы**

البند ٢: تقارير عن أنشطة المنظمة وتقييم البرنامج

项目 2: 关于本组织活动的报告和计划评估

**Item 2.1: Report by the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2008-2009, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board**

**Point 2.1 : Rapport de la Directrice générale sur l'activité de l'Organisation en 2008-2009, présenté par la Présidente du Conseil exécutif**

**Punto 2.1: Informe de la Directora General sobre las actividades de la Organización en 2008-2009, presentado por la Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo**

**Пункт 2.1: Доклад Генерального директора о деятельности Организации в 2008-2009 гг., представляемый Председателем Исполнительного совета**

البند ٢, ١: تقرير المديرة العامة عن أنشطة المنظمة في عامي ٢٠٠٨-٢٠٠٩، قدمته رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي

项目 2.1 : 由执行局主席提交的总干事关于本组织 2008-2009 年活动的报告

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

**Point 2.2 : Rapports du Conseil exécutif sur ses activités et sur l'exécution du programme**

**Punto 2.2: Informes del Consejo Ejecutivo sobre sus actividades y sobre la ejecución del programa**

**Пункт 2.2: Доклады Исполнительного совета о своей деятельности и о выполнении программы**

البند ٢, ٢: تقارير المجلس التنفيذي عن أنشطته وعن تنفيذ البرنامج

项目 2.2 : 执行局关于其活动和计划执行情况的报告

20. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, we now come to the introduction to the general policy debate, and will start with item 2.1, "Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2008-2009, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board". The document pertaining to this item is 36 C/3. The Chair of the Executive Board, Ambassador Mitrofanova, will also present item 2.2, "Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation". The relevant document proposed for our attention is 36 C/9 Parts I and II. And now, I am pleased to call on the Chair of the Executive Board to give her presentation. Ms Mitrofanova, the floor is yours.

21.1 **Г-жа Митрофанова** (Российская Федерация), Председатель Исполнительного совета:

Госпожа Председатель Генеральной конференции, госпожа Генеральный директор, уважаемые представители стран – членов ЮНЕСКО, Ваши Превосходительства, дамы и господа, сегодня мне как Председателю Исполнительного совета ЮНЕСКО выпала большая честь произнести вступительную речь на дискуссии Генеральной конференции по вопросам общей политики. Как вы знаете, прямой уставной обязанностью Совета является подготовка проекта документа по двухлетней программе и бюджету Организации (36 C/5), подготовка работы очередной сессии Генеральной конференции и отчетности о своей собственной деятельности за два года. Таким образом, мое выступление предполагает отчет о деятельности Совета за 2010-2011 гг. После представления моего устного доклада с ним можно будет ознакомиться в опубликованном информационном документе за номером 36 C/INF.9. Этот документ включает развернутое дополнение к документу 36 C/9 Part I, в котором дано краткое резюме основных мероприятий Исполнительного совета со 183-й по 187-ю сессию. Документ 36 C/INF.9

детально отражает вопросы, которые, в частности, обсудили комиссии и комитеты Исполнительного совета и которые я не стану сейчас перечислять и остановлюсь на главном. Хочу также напомнить, что в нашем распоряжении имеются документы Совета, отражающие все решения, принятые за истекший двухлетний период, письменные доклады комиссий и комитетов и краткие отчеты о каждой сессии Совета и его информационных совещаниях.

21.2 Уважаемые дамы и господа, работа Совета в течение двух последних лет осуществлялась, без преувеличения, в весьма сложных условиях. Во-первых, она велась в условиях глобального финансово-экономического кризиса. Начался и продолжается процесс социальных, политических и культурных изменений в арабском мире. Движущей силой этого процесса является молодежь, которая составляет большинство населения планеты, живущего за чертой бедности. Угрожающе многочисленными и регулярными стали природные катаклизмы. Часты и масштабны техногенные катастрофы, имеющие критические последствия для экосистемы на планете, не считая сопряженных с ними людских и финансовых потерь. Около 50 стран во всех регионах мира пострадали от природных катаклизмов, террористических актов, локальных конфликтов, эпидемий, экологических катастроф. По самым скромным оценкам, ущерб от них составляет сотни миллиардов долларов США. Такова картина сегодняшнего мира. От того, насколько широко и прагматично мировым сообществом, то есть всеми нами, будет проявлена солидарность, от мобилизации глобальных усилий по преодолению кризисных явлений будет зависеть день завтрашний.

21.3 Второй особенностью рассматриваемого периода была перестройка работы Секретариата – приход новых людей в руководство Организации, проведение внутренних структурных преобразований в условиях ограниченных финансовых ресурсов. Могу вас заверить, что этот сложный, но необходимый период реформирования нашей Организации проходит успешно. Еще есть вопросы, над которыми надо работать, особенно в том, что касается внутренней дисциплины, внутренней бюрократии, но в целом Исполнительный совет отмечает положительные сдвиги на этом направлении.

21.4 Особенно хотелось подчеркнуть, что в этот непростой период Генеральному директору удалось сформировать новую команду и очень оперативно реагировать на многочисленные кризисные явления в мире, такие, как землетрясение на Гаити, наводнение в Пакистане и в других странах. Благодаря энергичным действиям Генерального директора, сегодня наметилась очевидная тенденция усиления значимости и видимости нашей Организации в системе ООН и на международной арене. Исполнительный совет приветствует усилия Генерального директора, направленные на укрепление связей со странами – членами ЮНЕСКО и с их национальными комиссиями, в частности, посредством регулярных совещаний, встреч и обмена информацией. Полная готовность Генерального директора отвечать ожиданиям стран-членов была характерной чертой деятельности ЮНЕСКО в период 2010-2011 гг.

21.5 Дамы и господа, как вы помните, с точки зрения финансов мы начали это двухлетие не с нуля, но с нулевого номинального роста на основе бюджетного пакета в сумме 653 млн долл. Такой же верхний предельный уровень бюджета Исполнительный совет рекомендует Генеральной конференции утвердить и на следующий двухлетний период 2012-2013 гг. При принятии рекомендаций в отношении нулевого номинального роста Совет исходил из контекста текущего мирового экономического спада и усилий самой Организации Объединенных Наций по сокращению своего собственного бюджета.

21.6 Как вы знаете, Генеральная конференция ЮНЕСКО на своей 35-й сессии в резолюции 82 просила Исполнительный совет «представить ей предложения по реализации просьбы Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН к специализированным учреждениям согласовать их цикл планирования с новым четырехгодичным циклом обзора политики в области оперативной деятельности в интересах развития системы Организации Объединенных Наций, начиная с 2012 года». Иными словами, было предложено перейти на четырехлетний цикл планирования. Такая работа проведена, и ее результаты представлены на ваше рассмотрение.

21.7 Кроме того, на своей 35-й сессии в резолюции 102 Генеральная конференция постановила провести независимую внешнюю оценку деятельности ЮНЕСКО всеобъемлющего, стратегического и перспективного характера. На своей 185-й сессии Совет рассмотрел заключительный доклад о независимой внешней оценке ЮНЕСКО и постановил учредить специальную рабочую группу открытого состава с целью выработки проектов решений по рекомендациям независимой внешней оценки. Результаты деятельности этой рабочей группы были представлены Совету на его 186-й сессии. Совет одобрил рекомендации специальной рабочей группы, и результаты ее работы представлены на рассмотрение Генеральной конференции. Считаем результаты работы этой группы весьма полезными и рекомендуем для рассмотрения сложных вопросов продолжать использовать подобную форму деятельности самого Исполнительного совета и в будущем.

21.8 Совет вновь подтвердил Среднесрочную стратегию на 2008-2013 гг., содержащуюся в документе 34 C/4, два ее глобальных приоритета – Африка и гендерное равенство, ее всеобъемлющие и стратегические программные цели, а также ее межсекторальную направленность.

(21.1) **Mme Mitrofanova** (Fédération de Russie), Présidente du Conseil exécutif (*traduit du russe*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des États membres de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, aujourd'hui, en ma qualité de Présidente du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO, j'ai le grand honneur de présenter l'introduction au débat de politique générale de la Conférence générale. Comme vous le savez, le Conseil exécutif a l'obligation statutaire directe d'élaborer le Projet de programme et de budget biennal de l'Organisation (36 C/5), de préparer les travaux de la session ordinaire de la Conférence générale et de rendre compte de ses propres activités durant l'exercice biennal. C'est pourquoi j'ai inclus dans mon discours un compte rendu de l'activité du Conseil pour la période 2010-2011. Après la lecture de mon rapport oral, vous pourrez en prendre connaissance dans le document d'information publié sous la cote 36 C/INF.9. Ce document est un addendum détaillé

au document 36 C/9 Partie I, qui offre un bref résumé des principales activités menées par le Conseil exécutif entre sa 183<sup>e</sup> et sa 187<sup>e</sup> session. Le document 36 C/INF.9 rend compte de manière plus détaillée des questions dont ont débattu les commissions et les comités du Conseil exécutif, et que je n'énumérerai pas ici afin de m'en tenir à l'essentiel. Je voudrais également rappeler que vous avez à votre disposition les documents du Conseil reprenant toutes les décisions adoptées au cours des deux années écoulées, les rapports écrits des commissions et des comités, ainsi que les comptes rendus analytiques de chaque session du Conseil et de ses réunions d'information.

(21.2) Mesdames, Messieurs, il n'est pas exagéré de dire qu'au cours des deux dernières années le Conseil a dû travailler dans des conditions particulièrement difficiles. Il faut mentionner tout d'abord la crise financière et économique mondiale, puis les bouleversements sociaux, politiques et culturels qui ont ébranlé le monde arabe sous l'impulsion de la jeunesse, une jeunesse qui constitue la majeure partie de la population mondiale vivant sous le seuil de pauvreté. Les catastrophes naturelles ont été nombreuses et répétées. Les catastrophes technologiques, fréquentes et de grande ampleur, ont eu d'importantes répercussions sur les écosystèmes de la planète, sans parler des pertes humaines et financières colossales qu'elles ont engendrées. Une cinquantaine de pays, dans toutes les régions du monde, ont connu des catastrophes naturelles, des attentats terroristes, des conflits locaux, des épidémies et des catastrophes écologiques. Les dommages se chiffrent en centaines de milliards de dollars au bas mot. Voilà à quoi ressemble le monde d'aujourd'hui. L'avenir dépendra du pragmatisme dont saura faire preuve la communauté internationale – autrement dit nous tous – pour témoigner sa solidarité et mobiliser ses forces en vue de surmonter ces crises.

(21.3) La période que nous venons de traverser a également été marquée par la réforme du fonctionnement du Secrétariat, avec l'arrivée de nouveaux responsables à la direction de l'Organisation et les restructurations opérées dans un contexte de ressources financières limitées. Je peux vous assurer que cette étape difficile mais indispensable dans la réforme de notre Organisation se déroule bien. Il reste encore des problèmes à résoudre, notamment en ce qui concerne la discipline et la bureaucratie internes, mais dans l'ensemble le Conseil exécutif a constaté des améliorations à cet égard.

(21.4) Je voudrais surtout souligner que dans cette période complexe, la Directrice générale a réussi à former une nouvelle équipe et a réagi rapidement aux nombreuses crises qui ont secoué le monde, comme le tremblement de terre en Haïti, les inondations au Pakistan et dans d'autres pays. Grâce aux mesures énergiques entreprises par la Directrice générale, nous constatons aujourd'hui que notre Organisation a plus de poids et de visibilité au sein du système des Nations Unies et sur la scène internationale. Le Conseil exécutif salue les efforts déployés par la Directrice générale pour resserrer les liens avec les États membres de l'UNESCO et leurs commissions nationales, notamment dans le cadre des consultations, réunions et échanges d'informations qu'elle organise régulièrement. La volonté de la Directrice générale de répondre aux attentes des États membres a caractérisé l'action de l'UNESCO pendant la période 2010-2011.

(21.5) Mesdames, Messieurs, comme vous vous en souvenez, au plan financier, nous avons commencé cet exercice biennal en partant non pas de zéro, mais d'une croissance nominale zéro, sur la base d'une enveloppe budgétaire de 653 millions de dollars. Le Conseil exécutif recommande à la Conférence générale de s'en tenir à ce plafond budgétaire pour l'exercice biennal 2012-2013. En se prononçant en faveur d'une croissance nominale zéro, le Conseil a considéré que le monde était entré dans une période de récession économique et que l'ONU elle-même s'efforçait de réduire son propre budget.

(21.6) Comme vous le savez, la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, à sa 35<sup>e</sup> session, dans sa résolution 82, a prié le Conseil exécutif « de lui soumettre des propositions pour donner suite à la demande faite par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies aux institutions spécialisées de synchroniser leur cycle de planification stratégique avec le nouveau cycle quadriennal de l'examen complet des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies, qui commence en 2012 ». Autrement dit, elle proposait de passer à un cycle de planification quadriennal. Ce travail a été accompli, et ses résultats vous sont présentés pour examen.

(21.7) En outre, à sa 35<sup>e</sup> session, dans sa résolution 102, la Conférence générale a décidé qu'une évaluation externe et indépendante (EEI) de l'UNESCO devait être menée, qui soit globale, stratégique et tournée vers l'avenir. À sa 185<sup>e</sup> session, le Conseil exécutif a examiné le rapport final de l'EEI et décidé d'établir un groupe de travail ad hoc, ouvert à tous les États membres, dans le but d'élaborer des propositions afin de donner suite aux recommandations de l'EEI. Les conclusions de ce groupe de travail ont été présentées au Conseil à sa 186<sup>e</sup> session. Le Conseil a approuvé les recommandations du groupe de travail ad hoc, et les résultats de ses travaux sont présentés à la Conférence générale. Nous considérons ces résultats comme extrêmement utiles et recommandons que, pour l'examen des questions complexes, le Conseil exécutif procède à l'avenir selon les mêmes modalités.

(21.8) Le Conseil a réaffirmé la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013 présentée dans le document 34 C/4 et ses deux priorités globales – l'Afrique et l'Égalité des genres –, ses objectifs primordiaux et objectifs stratégiques de programme, ainsi que son orientation intersectorielle.

*(La Présidente du Conseil exécutif poursuit en espagnol)*

21.9 Señoras y señores: las repercusiones de la acción del Consejo en la labor de la Organización han puesto aún más de relieve la importante función que desempeña la UNESCO como laboratorio de ideas al servicio de la paz y la seguridad internacionales. A lo largo del bienio, el Consejo confirmó la necesidad de recenter aún más la dimensión intelectual de la Organización. Prueba de ello fue por ejemplo la elección y pertinencia del debate temático sobre "Diálogo intercultural en 2010: revisión de las políticas en el contexto de una cultura de paz", celebrado en la 185<sup>a</sup> reunión, en el que se subrayó la importancia de definir nuevas formas de promover la paz, el dialogo, la tolerancia, y la reconciliación universal. Ello se hizo en estrecha asociación con la celebración en 2010 del Año Internacional de Acercamiento de las Culturas, respecto del cual el Consejo formuló recomendaciones pertinentes a fin de dar un impulso que perdurará después de este año. Durante el presente bienio, tal y como viene haciendo, el Consejo siguió celebrando cuatro reuniones de información con la Directora General en el periodo entre reuniones, encuentros que fueron sumamente fructíferos para la labor de este órgano. Además, las visitas que el Consejo recibió de destacados invitados, como su Alteza Real la Princesa Mary de Dinamarca, el Príncipe Faisal Bin Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Saud, Ministro de Educación de la Arabia Saudita, y Sebastián Piñera, Presidente de la República de Chile, subrayaron una vez más el protagonismo de la UNESCO en sus esferas de competencia en lo que se refiere al fomento de los principios de democracia, igualdad, seguridad y estabilidad en el mundo.

21.10 Señoras y señores: durante el bienio el Consejo mostró su profundo compromiso con las ideas y objetivos universales de humanidad, paz y desarrollo sostenible interviniendo activamente en los esfuerzos de la UNESCO encaminados a promover las metas definidas en la Declaración del Milenio de las Naciones Unidas. Para defender esta causa se celebraron actos muy variados en los que tuve la oportunidad de participar en el ejercicio de mis funciones de Presidente del Consejo. Me refiero entre otras cosas a conferencias internacionales como el Foro sobre el Futuro dedicado a "La igualdad entre hombres y mujeres" que tuvo lugar en Grecia, o la primera Conferencia Mundial sobre Atención y Educación de la Primera Infancia celebrada en Moscú. También me vienen a la mente las inauguraciones oficiales del Año Internacional de Acercamiento de las Culturas, el Año Internacional de la Juventud y el Año Internacional de la Química proclamados por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

21.11 Por otra parte tanto a mí como a muchos miembros del Consejo nos tocó participar directamente en varios actos dedicados a la celebración de fechas importantes para toda la humanidad. Entre ellos cabe citar el sexagésimo quinto aniversario del fin de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, el sexagésimo quinto aniversario de la fundación de la UNESCO o el quincuagésimo aniversario del primer vuelo espacial tripulado, así como el décimo aniversario de la Declaración Universal de la UNESCO sobre la Diversidad Cultural que se celebrará el 2 de noviembre.

21.12 Distinguidos delegados: en su última reunión del bienio, el Consejo Ejecutivo recomendó a la Conferencia General que admitiera a Palestina como Estado Miembro de la UNESCO por mayoría de votos: 40 votos a favor, 4 en contra y 15 abstenciones. Los Estados Miembros que votaron en contra o se abstuvieron adujeron que primero debía aprobarse una decisión sobre el tema en la sede de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York. Ahora bien, la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo apoyaron la solicitud de admisión de Palestina como Estado Miembro de la UNESCO y ahora la Conferencia General tiene ante sí la recomendación resultante.

21.13 Señoras y señores: cada una de las tareas realizadas exigió que todos diéramos muestras de habilidad para conjugar tiempo, energía, flexibilidad y determinación para obtener así resultados tangibles y mutuamente aceptables. De esta manera, los miembros del Consejo siguieron firmemente resueltos a hacer de la UNESCO un actor dinámico de la gobernanza mundial aprovechando plenamente los beneficios y ventajas que confiere tal posición.

(21.9) Mesdames, Messieurs, les répercussions de l'action du Conseil sur le travail de l'Organisation ont mis encore plus en évidence le rôle important de laboratoire d'idées que l'UNESCO joue au service de la paix et de la sécurité internationales. Tout au long de l'exercice biennal, le Conseil a confirmé la nécessité de redonner une place véritablement centrale à la dimension intellectuelle de l'Organisation. Preuves en sont, par exemple, le choix et la pertinence du débat thématique sur « Le dialogue interculturel en 2010 : revisiter les politiques sous l'angle d'une culture de la paix », organisé à l'occasion de la 185<sup>e</sup> session, au cours duquel on a souligné combien il était important de définir de nouvelles manières de promouvoir la paix, le dialogue, la tolérance et la réconciliation universelle. Ce débat s'est déroulé en lien étroit avec la célébration, en 2010, de l'Année internationale du rapprochement des cultures, au sujet de laquelle le Conseil a formulé des recommandations pertinentes afin d'imprimer un élan qui s'étendra au-delà de cette année. Au cours du présent exercice biennal, comme à l'accoutumée, le Conseil a organisé quatre réunions d'information avec la Directrice générale entre les sessions, rencontres des plus utiles pour les travaux de cet organe. De plus, les visites que le Conseil a reçues d'éminents invités, comme Son Altesse royale la Princesse Marie de Danemark, le Prince Faisal Bin Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Saud, Ministre de l'éducation de l'Arabie saoudite, ou M. Sebastián Piñera, Président de la République du Chili, ont souligné une fois encore le rôle majeur de l'UNESCO dans ses domaines de compétence en ce qui concerne la promotion des principes de démocratie, d'égalité, de sécurité et de stabilité dans le monde.

(21.10) Mesdames, Messieurs, au cours de cet exercice biennal, le Conseil a montré son engagement profond à l'égard des idées et objectifs universels d'humanité, de paix et de développement durable, participant activement aux initiatives de l'UNESCO visant à promouvoir les objectifs définis dans la Déclaration du Millénaire des Nations Unies. Pour défendre cette cause, plusieurs manifestations très diverses ont eu lieu, auxquelles j'ai eu la chance de participer dans l'exercice de mes fonctions de Président du Conseil. Je pense notamment à des conférences internationales telles que le Forum du futur sur le thème « Égalité des sexes : le chaînon manquant ? – Repenser les objectifs de développement adoptés au niveau international au-delà de 2015 », qui s'est tenu en Grèce, ou la première Conférence mondiale sur l'éducation et la protection de la petite enfance, organisée à Moscou. Je pense également aux inaugurations officielles de l'Année internationale du rapprochement des cultures, de l'Année internationale de la jeunesse et de l'Année internationale de la chimie, proclamées par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

(21.11) Par ailleurs, comme beaucoup de membres du Conseil, j'ai participé ou participerai directement à plusieurs événements visant à célébrer des dates importantes pour l'ensemble de l'humanité. Il convient de citer notamment le 65<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, le 65<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la création de l'UNESCO ou le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du premier vol spatial habité, ainsi que le 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle, qui sera célébré le 2 novembre.

(21.12) Mesdames, Messieurs les représentants, lors de sa dernière session du biennium, le Conseil exécutif a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'admettre la Palestine en tant qu'État membre de l'UNESCO à la majorité des voix : 40 pour, 4 contre et 15 abstentions. Les États membres qui ont voté contre ou se sont abstenus ont fait valoir qu'une décision à ce sujet devait d'abord être adoptée au Siège des Nations Unies à New York. Cependant, la majorité des membres du Conseil ont appuyé la demande d'admission de la Palestine comme État membre de l'UNESCO et aujourd'hui la Conférence générale est saisie de la recommandation qui en a résulté.

(21.13) Mesdames, Messieurs, chacune des missions que nous avons accomplies a exigé que tous nous fassions preuve d'habileté pour conjuguer temps, énergie, souplesse et détermination afin d'obtenir des résultats tangibles et mutuellement acceptables. Ainsi, les membres du Conseil sont restés fermement résolus à faire de l'UNESCO un acteur dynamique de la gouvernance mondiale en tirant pleinement parti des bienfaits et avantages que confère cette position.

*(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)*

21.14 Distinguished delegates, I would now like to inform you about the work of the commissions and committees of the Executive Board during the 2010-2011 biennium. In doing so, I would like to acknowledge the contributions to this



report that I received from my colleagues, members of the Bureau, whose judicious approach, invaluable support and friendship helped me to make the Board focus on results and efficiency. As I said previously, I will not give details but will summarize by giving the essence, while inviting you to find supplementary information in document 36 C/INF 9.

21.15 Throughout the biennium, the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission examined a total of 71 agenda items. Over the reporting period, the Commission recommended 66 draft decisions. The vast majority of them were adopted by consensus, except on nine occasions when a vote was taken. With regard to programmatic deliberations, the Commission stressed the importance of UNESCO's actions in education, in particular concerning the education for all (EFA) programme. The Commission generally welcomed the new EFA coordination structure which will make education more visible on the global agenda. In this regard the Commission strongly urged UNESCO to be more ambitious and to start planning strategic actions beyond 2015. Two other areas in education that received a lot of attention from the Commission were the UNESCO strategy for the second half of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and the progress achieved in the implementation of the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) strategy. In the area of natural sciences, the Commission, among others, expressed its general support for the creation of a UNESCO engineering initiative and supported the creation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The Commission also welcomed UNESCO's contribution to the global action on climate change. With regard to social and human sciences, the Commission highlighted the importance of the Organization's actions on youth and took note of the UNESCO Strategy on African Youth. The Commission also supported the reorganization of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme. Furthermore, members of the Commission advocated for UNESCO to continue its action on human rights, bioethics, philosophy and democracy. Concerning UNESCO's action in the field of culture, the Commission underlined the importance of its standard-setting function in this area, and called for strengthening of the implementation of existing normative instruments. The Commission also highlighted that priority should be given to supporting Member States in mainstreaming culture into their development policies, and underscored the importance of reinforcing programmes and activities in favour of languages and multilingualism, dialogue among cultures and protection of cultural heritage in post-conflict and post-disaster (PCPD) situations. With regard to communication and information, the Commission generally supported the revised draft strategy on UNESCO's contribution to the promotion of open access to scientific information and research. Within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), UNESCO should continue to play a lead role in open access to scientific information and collaborate with other United Nations agencies on the subject. Finally, as knowledge management is to be considered one of UNESCO's main priorities, the PX Commission is increasingly supportive of the Memory of the World Programme.

21.16 In the course of the biennium, the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission examined a total of 68 items, including: the rate of budget implementation of regular and extrabudgetary funds; accountability and transparency in financial management; prompt implementation of all external and internal audit recommendations; requirements to improve compliance; and cost effectiveness and efficiency, to do better with fewer resources in order to enhance the credibility and reputation of the Organization and its competitiveness and complementarity with other United Nations agencies. The Commission resolved by consensus a number of important issues: the Organization's first financial statements prepared under International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) received the External Auditor's approval; the first phase of the reform of the field network was approved; and the human resources strategy for 2012-2017 was endorsed. In addition, members found that the examination of 14 audit reports of the External Auditor provided useful evidence-based information, which assisted the Executive Board in exercising oversight over the implementation of the Programme. The Commission supported, within the alternative 36 C/5 zero nominal growth scenario, the reinforcement of the Africa Department by \$1.1 million and of the Division for Gender Equality by \$0.7 million, as well as the allocation of \$9 million under a separate budget line for funding of the first phase of the field network reform. Dear colleagues, over the course of the 2010-2011 biennium, amongst the most debated items have been questions relating to the state and governance of the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF), the management of the UNESCO complex and its security, in particular the Capital Master Plan, construction of the forward security post, renovation of the Bonvin/Miollis site and installation of the new communication systems, as well as the use of the constant dollar and its impact on Member States' contributions. While recognizing the achievements with respect to the human resources strategy, geographical distribution of staff, gender balance and lack of transparency in the recruitment process still remained contentious issues for the Commission.

21.17 Distinguished colleagues, a clear tendency has been observed to increase the number of Board items to be examined by the joint meeting of the FA and PX commissions, which proved its positive role as an efficient and time-saving mechanism. It confirmed the increased understanding among Members of the Executive Board and the Secretariat of the inseparable link between programmatic and financial aspects and the increased attention paid by them to the efforts to further streamline and rationalize the Organization's resources. However, there is a tendency, in the examination of items in the joint meeting, despite recognition of the importance of financial and administrative issues, to give preference to the examination of substantive or programmatic issues, which is quite understandable, given that UNESCO's mission and aims in serving its Member States are to advance intellectual cooperation and strengthen solidarity.

21.18 As to the Special Committee (SP), it considered several important items on the Board's agenda with a view to providing reports and recommendations to the commissions and plenary on questions pertaining to the running costs of the governing bodies. It also considered the follow-up of the independent external evaluation of UNESCO and the United Nations General Assembly proposal to align planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system.

*(The Chair of the Executive Board continues in French)*

21.19 Mesdames et Messieurs, aux termes de son double mandat, le Comité sur les conventions et recommandations a poursuivi ses objectifs premiers consistant tout d'abord à assurer le suivi de l'application des 14 instruments normatifs adoptés par l'UNESCO. Le Comité a ainsi examiné cinq rapports sur l'application par les États membres des instruments normatifs, puis l'a transmis à la présente session de la Conférence générale avec ses commentaires. Certaines consultations sur les rapports périodiques des États membres concernant la suite donnée aux conventions et recommandations ont rencontré un taux assez faible de réponses. Le Comité a donc rappelé les obligations juridiques prévues par l'article VIII de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. En second lieu, le Comité a examiné en 2010-2011 les communications reçues par l'UNESCO concernant les cas de violation des droits de l'homme dans les domaines relevant de sa compétence. Trente-quatre communications concernant 14 pays ont été examinées en séance privée : huit d'entre elles ont été réglées. Le Comité a aussi poursuivi l'examen de ses propres méthodes de travail, en adoptant des mesures visant à améliorer sa pratique procédurale. Il a invité la Directrice générale à recourir à ses bons offices pour faciliter l'émergence de solutions relatives aux cas déjà examinés par le Comité et à renforcer la visibilité de la procédure 104.

*(La Présidente du Conseil exécutif poursuit en anglais)*

21.20 Ladies and gentlemen, with regard to the work of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, its revitalization process, decided by the General Conference at its 34th session, was pursued and strengthened. This was possible thanks to the thematic round tables held on topics of common interest to UNESCO and NGOs. Since it seems to be important that the partners involved in this exercise all feel on an equal footing, this experience could possibly benefit from a different organizational framework. Such events of international scope could meaningfully be convened once a year, outside the strict confines of the Board's proceedings, but naturally under its auspices and with its full participation. The work of the Committee was also highlighted by the drafting of the new directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with NGOs, recommended to the General Conference for adoption, and the revision of the terms of reference of the Committee.

21.21 Distinguished colleagues, since taking office, my first and foremost concern as Chair of the Executive Board was to avoid the repetition of the budgetary overspend experienced by the Board in previous periods. Therefore, I tried to exercise vigilant control of budget execution over the present biennium. I am sincerely thankful to the Members of the Board and its Bureau members – vice-chairpersons and chairpersons of the commissions and committees – for their sustained cooperation in considering the Board's efforts towards the optimization of its work. This was also possible only in close coordination with the Board Secretariat. It involved the rationalization of the agenda, careful forward planning of translation and document production schedules, control of hospitality expenses, limitation of overtime and recourse to temporary assistance. During my mandate I have launched a special pilot project to ensure that Members of the Board could participate on a voluntary basis in an experimental process to replace paper documents by accessing their respective online versions through a specially created, user-friendly website. This process, which entailed no additional cost whatsoever to the Board's overall budget, is of course subject to review and further improvement. I must say that as a preliminary, broad-brush result, the projected budget situation at the close of the current biennium shows expenditure in line with targets. Certain additional expenses and investments have been possible thanks to such tight budget management. For example, I am thinking of the optimization of sound and electrical equipment in meeting rooms and six-language interpretation during all information meetings of the Executive Board. Now, as we are close to the end of the biennium, it is a matter of fact that during this period the Executive Board has managed to adjust towards greater economy in its activities. I think you will agree that reducing a 30% over-run to almost nil in the biennium is already a considerable achievement. I shall also note, however, that this is just the beginning. The Board's sessions have kept to the agenda and within the time-limit for the first time in recent years, finishing its work on time. I consider that, on the whole, judging by the outcomes of the four sessions of the Board, we have made essential progress in our shared desire to reform UNESCO and the work of its governing bodies.

21.22 The Board's work was not, however, without challenges, of course. For instance, the challenge of adopting a more business-oriented approach involving regular informal consultations by Board Members on all or most key issues in the period between sessions has not been met. This attitude would allow Member States to make use of less time-consuming procedures at Board sessions by avoiding duplication between the debates and the preparation of draft documents. I fervently hope that the Board will also be able to pragmatically continue to be concerned by the ever-increasing number of items on its agenda and by the rising expectations to deliver more programme activities with limited resources. I would invite Member States to constantly pursue reflections on how to improve our methods of work in order to ensure that we begin and close our official meetings as good managers of our own time, energies, health and money.

21.23 Moving UNESCO into the twenty-first century is not something just for the Secretariat. The governing bodies simply cannot continue with working methods established in the 1950s. Much still has to be done, and I lay great hope on the follow-up to the independent external evaluation to move this matter forward. Its conclusions and recommendations on UNESCO's current work were most helpful for the Board's reflections and actions towards capitalizing on the power and value of the Organization's programme for its stakeholders.

21.24 Dear colleagues, you know well that the whole action of our Organization requires the three organs' full attention, but in particular that of the Executive Board. Here I must say that closer communication and cooperation between the Chair of the Executive Board and both the President of the General Conference and the Director-General ensured that the three bodies worked as one, while being mindful of each other's role. I must once more pay special tribute to Mr Davidson Hepburn, former President of the General Conference, for his wise and inspiring advice and observations on the Board's work over the past two years. His vigorous action gave particularly great visibility to the item relating to small island developing States (SIDS).

*(The Chair of the Executive Board continues in Russian)*

21.25 Vos Prévostances, dames et messieurs, en conclusion je voudrais dire ceci : depuis sa création et jusqu'à ce jour, l'UNESCO a pleinement justifié sa raison d'être. Le processus actuel de réforme de notre Organisation démontre que l'UNESCO peut s'adapter à un environnement changeant et réagir avec rapidité, précision et souplesse aux transformations du monde. Dans ses domaines de compétence, elle doit continuer à permettre à la communauté internationale d'accomplir sa tâche avec efficacité et une visibilité maximale. La session du Conseil exécutif joue à cet égard un rôle de liaison indispensable quand, s'appuyant sur l'expérience des années passées, les États membres de l'Organisation s'efforcent ensemble, dans un esprit de consensus et un dialogue constructif, de bâtir un avenir meilleur pour l'humanité tout entière. Je voudrais souhaiter aux délégués à la Conférence générale des travaux efficaces et fructueux au nom de la noble mission de l'Organisation. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

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*(Applaudissements)*

**22. The President:**

Thank you, Madam, for your presentation. Allow me to congratulate you for this excellent report, and for the efficient work that the Board accomplished under your leadership during the past biennium.

***Introduction by the Director-General to the general policy debate***

***Introduction de la Directrice générale au débat de politique générale***

***Introducción por la Directora General del debate de política general***

***Вступительное слово Генерального директора к обсуждению вопросов общей политики***

***تقديم المديرية العامة لمناقشات السياسة العامة***

***总干事对总政策辩论的介绍***

**23. The President:**

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite the Director-General to take the floor and present her introduction to the general policy debate. Madam Director-General, the floor is yours.

**24.1 La Directrice générale :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous avons tous le sentiment de vivre une étape majeure de notre histoire. Les cultures et les peuples se rapprochent à une vitesse incroyable. Les nouvelles technologies et les mouvements de populations ouvrent des perspectives de coopération, d'échange et de dialogue. Le monde est davantage connecté. Nous sommes plus nombreux. Sept milliards d'habitants, cela représente une pression considérable sur les ressources naturelles, l'eau potable, les terres agricoles, déjà touchées par les conséquences du réchauffement climatique. Sept milliards d'habitants, cela représente aussi des ressources humaines gigantesques, une formidable réserve d'intelligence et de solidarité, si nous parvenons à mettre en place une éducation de qualité pour tous et à partager les richesses et les savoirs.

24.2 En l'espace de seulement deux ans, nous avons vu se succéder des catastrophes dont les experts pensaient qu'elles ne se produisaient qu'une fois par siècle : en Haïti, au Pakistan, au Japon, en Nouvelle-Zélande, en Thaïlande, et ce à des échelles qui défient l'imagination. La crise économique et financière mine la confiance des États. Elle aggrave les inquiétudes de millions d'individus. Et au même moment, nous voyons en direct, sur nos portables, sur Internet, à Sidi Bouzid et Place Tahrir, des hommes et des femmes changer l'histoire, au nom de la liberté et de la dignité. Les mouvements populaires du Printemps arabe transforment des régions entières. Ils soulèvent un immense espoir, peut-être le plus grand espoir démocratique depuis une génération. Mais le succès, Mesdames et Messieurs, n'est pas garanti pour autant. Je le sais par expérience : toute transformation, toute dynamique de ce type est un travail de longue haleine. Elle demande énormément d'efforts, beaucoup de vigilance et beaucoup de soutien.

24.3 Cette dynamique appelle de nouvelles politiques publiques, de nouvelles formes de coopération. Elle impose de repenser notre vision de la paix. L'UNESCO a été créée il y a plus de 65 ans pour construire la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes. La culture de la paix, aujourd'hui, est très différente d'il y a 20 ou 50 ans. La paix est bien autre chose que l'absence de guerre. Elle tire sa force de l'éducation, du respect des droits de la personne, de la sécurité des journalistes. La paix, c'est lorsque les jeunes trouvent un travail à la hauteur de leurs compétences. Lorsque les femmes bénéficient des mêmes droits que les hommes. Lorsque la diversité des cultures est considérée comme une source de renouvellement des sociétés et des idées, une force pour la promotion des valeurs communes. Comment vraiment vivre ensemble et pas seulement côte-à-côte, même pacifiquement ? Les sociétés modernes sont marquées par le brassage et le contact d'identités multiples. Les enjeux culturels s'installent au sommet des préoccupations nationales. Nous voyons des conflits entre les États, mais aussi de plus en plus souvent à l'intérieur des États. Notre vision de la paix doit intégrer les conséquences des risques naturels, comprendre comment le réchauffement climatique bouleverse la vie des

sociétés. Elle suppose de mobiliser des acteurs multiples, des experts du dialogue interculturel, des professionnels de la gestion de l'eau, de la prévention des risques. Cette paix-là n'est pas une chose qui se maintient. C'est quelque chose qui se construit, qu'il faut réinventer chaque jour, en fonction du contexte, comme l'ont rappelé les travaux du Panel de haut niveau sur la paix et le dialogue entre les cultures, que j'ai créé comme je l'avais promis. L'Année internationale du rapprochement des cultures offre aussi l'occasion de célébrer plus de mille événements à travers le monde entier.

24.4 La 187<sup>e</sup> session du Conseil exécutif a placé notre Organisation sous le feu des projecteurs en recommandant à la Conférence générale d'admettre la Palestine comme État membre de l'UNESCO. La Conférence générale a maintenant une décision importante à prendre. À cet égard, je voudrais citer, en anglais, le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Ban Ki-moon, qui a déclaré lors de la 66<sup>e</sup> session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, au mois de septembre : « *Ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and achieving a two-State solution is long overdue* ». Le peuple palestinien, comme tous les autres peuples de la région, doit pouvoir protéger son identité, préserver sa culture et son patrimoine. Il doit pouvoir bénéficier d'un système éducatif performant. La coopération de l'UNESCO avec la Palestine est ancienne. Cette coopération porte sur le soutien apporté aux autorités palestiniennes pour mettre en place leurs institutions et renforcer les capacités des professionnels palestiniens dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, en particulier l'éducation et la culture. Au cours des dernières décennies, l'UNESCO a travaillé main dans la main avec les institutions et le peuple palestiniens pour développer le système éducatif, protéger et préserver un patrimoine culturel immensément riche, et promouvoir le respect des droits de l'homme pour tous les Palestiniens dans les domaines de compétence de l'Organisation. J'ai bien entendu la demande du peuple palestinien qui souhaite un accroissement de l'engagement de l'UNESCO et de son action dans les domaines de l'éducation et de la culture. Je tiens à réaffirmer que l'UNESCO a pris la pleine mesure de sa responsabilité, et que je veillerai personnellement à intensifier notre coopération pour renforcer le système éducatif et les capacités des professionnels palestiniens à préserver leur patrimoine culturel et naturel. Je suis convaincue que l'UNESCO doit rester une plate-forme universelle de dialogue pour la recherche de solutions en matière de protection du patrimoine, semblable à un pont jeté entre les cultures. Cet enjeu nous concerne tous, et je déploierai tous les efforts possibles au nom de cette universalité qui fait la force de notre action.

24.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, le monde change rapidement. Notre capacité d'action collective doit suivre le même rythme. J'ai souligné plusieurs fois déjà que le multilatéralisme était la meilleure réponse à nos défis. Cette conviction est plus forte que jamais. Aucun pays, aussi puissant soit-il, ne peut répondre seul aux défis qui sont les nôtres. Aucun pays ne peut prospérer durablement si les autres sont en proie aux inégalités. C'est pourquoi le développement de l'Afrique nous concerne tous. C'est pourquoi l'égalité entre hommes et femmes nous concerne tous. Nous avons, chacun d'entre nous, dans la diversité de nos cultures, des éléments de réponse à apporter. Et pas seulement les États ; je pense à tous les acteurs de la société civile, du secteur privé, qui sont aujourd'hui au cœur de l'action multilatérale. Nous devons bâtir un multilatéralisme plus efficace, plus ouvert, plus réactif. Les Nations Unies ont été créées pour offrir cet espace de coopération. Elles sont désormais soumises à d'immenses pressions, à des attaques, comme récemment à Abuja. Elles sont porteuses d'un espoir colossal, mais dotées de moyens limités. Réussirons-nous à faire face ? Je crois que nous le devons. Je suis sûre que nous le pouvons, si nous sommes « Unis dans l'action ».

24.6 Tel est l'enjeu de la réforme, et l'UNESCO a un rôle majeur à jouer. L'éducation, les sciences, la culture, le partage des savoirs : voilà ce qui permet d'inscrire la paix et le développement dans la durée. Voilà ce qui permet d'apporter un peu de stabilité dans un monde précaire et imprévisible. Cette idée est inscrite au cœur de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO depuis plus de 65 ans. Au cours des deux dernières années, nous avons redoublé d'efforts pour montrer que cette idée, nous savons la mettre en pratique. Nous avons fait valoir nos résultats. Nous avons renforcé notre autorité intellectuelle. Le Projet de programme et de budget que j'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre illustre cet esprit de réforme. Il témoigne d'un recentrage important sur nos avantages comparatifs : l'accompagnement des politiques publiques, le renforcement des capacités. Il reflète un renforcement radical, et sans précédent, de nos deux priorités globales : l'Afrique et l'Égalité des genres. Il illustre ma vision de l'UNESCO : une UNESCO plus forte, qui accompagne les États membres vers un nouveau modèle de développement adapté à notre temps. Un modèle qui met le facteur humain au cœur du développement, par l'éducation, les sciences, la culture, le partage des savoirs. Un modèle qui place l'humain au cœur du développement, pour inscrire le développement dans la durée. Cette vision, ce nouvel humanisme, me guide et m'oriente dans toutes nos activités.

24.7 Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai promis de renforcer l'autorité intellectuelle et la capacité d'entraînement de l'UNESCO. Cela commence par l'éducation. Tous nos efforts, nos études, nos débats, nos réunions, vont dans le même sens, et je sais que je m'adresse à de nombreux ministres de l'éducation présents dans cette salle, vous qui êtes les premiers acteurs de ce mouvement. Pendant deux ans, nous avons remobilisé toute la communauté internationale et les cinq chefs des agences initiatrices de l'Éducation pour tous à un niveau que je qualifierai d'inédit depuis 1990. ONU-Femmes rejoint ce mouvement. J'ai souligné que la bonne coordination de l'Éducation pour tous au plus haut niveau était un enjeu capital dont dépendait toute l'efficacité de notre plaidoyer. Ensemble, nous avons jeté les bases d'un mécanisme beaucoup plus intégré, plus visible, qui donne aux États membres davantage de moyens pour s'investir.

24.8 Cette action, Mesdames et Messieurs, porte ses fruits. Pour la première fois de son histoire, la rencontre ministérielle du Conseil économique et social, tenue au mois de juillet dernier à Genève, a été consacrée au thème de l'éducation. Le document final reprend à son compte notre vision inclusive de l'éducation, et conforte l'UNESCO dans son rôle de chef de file. C'est le signe d'un changement profond. Je pense aussi à nos rapports annuels de suivi sur l'Éducation pour tous, dont l'édition 2010 portait sur la question de l'équité et de l'inclusion, et l'édition 2011 sur les ravages des conflits armés sur l'éducation. Ces études font autorité à l'échelle mondiale. Elles sont saluées par toute la communauté éducative et nous leur assurons une visibilité maximale : plus de 50 présentations dans le monde cette année, à Londres, Beijing, Abuja, Santiago, Amman, New York et ailleurs. Le rapport de 2010 a directement inspiré l'adoption, en juillet dernier, de la résolution du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU sur la protection des écoles dans les

conflits armés, une résolution portée par l'Allemagne, que je salue pour cette initiative. J'y vois la parfaite démonstration de notre rôle et de notre valeur ajoutée : susciter le débat, partager les informations, orienter les politiques publiques.

24.9 L'UNESCO est un repère. Nous l'avons encore prouvé avec la mise en place du Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes, en coopération avec des acteurs du secteur privé, et grâce au soutien de responsables politiques au plus haut niveau. J'ai fait de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes l'un des piliers de mon mandat. Je refuse que des filles aient peur d'aller à l'école, peur des attaques et des violences dont elles sont victimes. Je refuse que les deux tiers des 800 millions d'adultes analphabètes dans le monde soient des femmes. Et je pourrais dire, paraphrasant le grand poète Aimé Césaire, que n'importe où dans le monde, chaque fois qu'une mère, inquiète, n'arrive pas à lire ce qui est inscrit sur le médicament qu'elle donne à ses enfants, « *il y a un acquis de la civilisation qui pèse de son poids mort, une régression universelle qui s'opère, un foyer d'infection qui s'étend* », dont nous sommes tous comptables. Interdire aux filles et aux femmes une éducation de qualité, c'est barrer la route menant aux postes de décision, et au pouvoir politique, à la moitié de l'humanité. Nous ne pouvons pas nous le permettre. Je refuse de l'accepter. Aujourd'hui, en Afghanistan, l'UNESCO mène le plus grand programme d'éducation de l'histoire du pays dans 18 provinces, auprès de 600 000 personnes, en priorité des filles et des femmes. La Secrétaire d'État américaine, Hillary Clinton, a souligné lorsqu'elle était à nos côtés le 26 mai dernier : « *Ouvrir les portes de l'école aux filles, ce n'est pas seulement juste, c'est intelligent* ». C'est le moyen, Mesdames et Messieurs, d'éduquer des familles entières, ainsi que de contribuer à la stabilité, à la cohésion et à la croissance économique d'un pays.

24.10 Notre rôle, à l'UNESCO, est d'exploiter au maximum le potentiel des agents facilitateurs du développement durable que sont l'éducation, la culture, les sciences, le libre partage des informations et du savoir. Je pense notamment à la culture : c'était une dimension absente du débat sur les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement en 2000. Depuis deux ans, l'UNESCO se mobilise afin de démontrer l'importance du facteur culturel pour atteindre chacun des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Dans le document final du dernier Sommet sur les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, en septembre 2010, il est pris acte du lien profond qui unit culture et développement. L'adoption d'une résolution de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, au mois de décembre de l'année passée, confirme ce tournant historique, et je remercie le Pérou, le G-77 et la Chine pour leur rôle actif. L'enjeu va bien au-delà de quelques lignes dans un texte officiel. Je pense à ce programme piloté par l'UNESCO au Cambodge, dans la région de Ratanakiri, qui permet de faire revivre la technique du tissage traditionnel, oubliée des communautés autochtones pendant la période khmer, et qui leur assure aujourd'hui un emploi et de meilleures conditions de vie. Je pense à notre action en Haïti, auprès des artisans du carnaval de Jacmel, qui vise à relancer la confection des masques, des costumes et des produits d'artisanat comme un levier de tourisme, une source de fierté. Ce programme a d'ailleurs été remarqué par l'Initiative mondiale du Président américain Bill Clinton.

24.11 Reconstruire la culture, c'est reconstruire toute la société. Je pense évidemment à ces pays d'Afrique du Nord, qui ont plus que jamais besoin de compter sur les ressources de leur patrimoine culturel pour se développer et fortifier la démocratie. L'UNESCO s'est mobilisée immédiatement après les changements pour assurer la protection des sites du patrimoine et pour endiguer le trafic illicite des objets culturels en Tunisie, en Égypte et en Lybie. Le pillage des objets culturels cause des dommages irréversibles pour l'identité des peuples. Le vol du trésor archéologique de Bengazi est l'un des plus importants de l'histoire, avec le pillage du musée de Bagdad. Je suis décidée à ce que l'UNESCO pèse de tout son poids pour arrêter cette saignée culturelle, partout dans le monde. J'ai convoqué une réunion des États parties à la Convention de 1970, l'année prochaine, en juin 2012, pour intensifier ce combat et mobiliser l'ensemble des États membres autour de cet effort. La mise en œuvre des Conventions de 1970, 1972, 2003 et 2005 renforce chaque jour un peu plus notre conviction qu'il existe un lien profond entre la culture et le développement, entre la protection du patrimoine immatériel, la promotion de la diversité culturelle, l'artisanat, les industries créatives, le développement durable et, bien évidemment, la protection du patrimoine culturel.

24.12 Cette affirmation de la culture est inséparable de la liberté d'expression, du respect du pluralisme. Chacun doit avoir le droit de s'exprimer librement. C'est la condition de sociétés plus équitables, plus inclusives. Albert Camus disait : « *la presse libre peut sans doute être bonne ou mauvaise, mais assurément, sans la liberté, elle ne saura jamais être autre chose que mauvaise* ». C'est pourquoi l'UNESCO a formé plus d'une centaine de journalistes tunisiens à couvrir les élections qui viennent d'avoir lieu, les premières élections libres du pays. C'est pourquoi l'UNESCO accompagne aussi l'Égypte, qui a célébré cette année, pour la première fois de son histoire, la Journée internationale de la liberté de la presse. Nous pouvons et nous devons investir beaucoup plus, et beaucoup mieux, dans ce qui fait la force de l'esprit humain. Nous pouvons le décider ici et maintenant, alors pourquoi attendre ?

24.13 Le potentiel de la science, par exemple, est encore sous-exploité. C'est le message délivré par les experts du Haut Panel sur la science et le développement, dont j'avais promis la création et qui s'est réuni pour la première fois au mois de septembre. La science a un rôle clé à jouer pour l'avenir, notamment en Afrique où elle permettra de faire face à l'augmentation de la population et à la chute de la production agricole sous l'effet du changement climatique. Nous avons redoublé d'efforts dans ce domaine. Nous accompagnons déjà 24 pays d'Afrique dans l'évaluation de leurs politiques scientifiques et technologiques. Parmi nos projets régionaux, le programme de renforcement des capacités de gestion de la biodiversité dans les zones arides est « *l'un des meilleurs projets régionaux évalués en Afrique de l'Ouest* » d'après le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial. Le chantier est immense, et il y a de nombreux signes d'espoir. L'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO a montré que dans les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne, les dépenses dans le domaine de l'éducation avaient augmenté de 6 % par an au cours des dix dernières années. Je crois que c'est en partie le résultat de notre action.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en espagnol)

24.14 Señoras y señores: en el curso de los dos últimos años, hemos sido testigos de catástrofes naturales sumamente violentas en Haití, el Pakistán, el Japón, Nueva Zelanda y, en días recientes, en Tailandia y Turquía. Esas catástrofes nos incitan a modificar nuestra percepción de la función que pueden desempeñar la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la comunicación en las situaciones de emergencia. Nos obligan a reforzar los sistemas de alerta y de prevención de riesgos. Nos impelen a preparar mejor a las poblaciones. La UNESCO tiene las condiciones ideales en algunos de estos ámbitos. Pienso, a este respecto, en el Sistema de Alerta contra los Tsunamis y otras Amenazas Costeras en el Caribe y Regiones Adyacentes cuya coordinación está a cargo de la UNESCO. El pasado 11 de marzo, la alerta se lanzó en menos de tres minutos después del terremoto frente a la costa de Fukushima. Esta alerta, desafortunadamente, no fue suficiente para salvar miles de vidas humanas. Este drama nos alienta aún más en nuestro compromiso de reforzar este sistema en el plano mundial, ya que los tsunamis hacen caso omiso de las fronteras nacionales. Pienso también en el primer ejercicio de simulación a escala real de alerta contra los tsunamis llevado a cabo por la UNESCO en el Caribe el pasado 23 de marzo, con 33 países participantes. El Pakistán fue asolado este año por nuevas inundaciones, después de las del año pasado, las peores registradas desde hace 80 años, con más de 20 millones de personas afectadas. En respuesta a esta situación, acabamos de poner en marcha el nuevo programa de alerta y prevención de riesgos en todo el valle del Indo, con el apoyo del Gobierno del Japón.

24.15 Los numerosos riesgos, señoras y señores, nos fuerzan a construir las sociedades sobre cimientos más sólidos que las carreteras, los diques o las fábricas: la reconstrucción social debe reposar en lo más profundo, lo más estable y lo más duradero que tienen los pueblos. Como bien dijo Michaëlle Jean, nuestra enviada especial para Haití, y cito: "Una vez que la educación entra en la mente de un niño, no hay terremoto que pueda sacarla de allí". Por esta razón, estoy convencida de que la cultura, la educación, las ciencias y el aprovechamiento compartido del saber deben ocupar un lugar central en la acción humanitaria de emergencia. Sin ellas no podrá construirse nada duradero.

24.16 Señoras y señores: la UNESCO existe para construir entre los pueblos y las culturas lazos más fuertes y más estrechos que los tratados de paz y los acuerdos comerciales. Prometí tender puentes y pasadizos entre los pueblos y las culturas, entre el Este, el Oeste, el Norte y el Sur. Hoy en día tendemos puentes en Europa Sudoriental con el programa "La cultura: un puente hacia el desarrollo" para instaurar la confianza y restañar las heridas gracias a la participación de redes de artistas que actúan como motores de la reconciliación. Tendemos puentes a través de los océanos con la publicación de la Historia General de África en portugués, lo cual permite que millones de brasileños conozcan su pasado y todo un pueblo se reconcilie con su historia.

24.17 Abrimos vías cuando seis países de América del Sur deciden presentar una candidatura conjunta a la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial para preservar el Qapaq Ñan, que cruza la mayor parte del continente. Sí, creamos pasadizos con iniciativa sobre Tagore, Neruda y Césaire, que destaca la contribución de todas las culturas a nuestros valores comunes y nos recuerda que profundizar en la cultura propia es una vía de acceso a lo universal, ya que, y cito al inmenso poeta Pablo Neruda, "el desarraigo es para el ser humano una frustración que, de una u otra manera, atrofia la claridad de su espíritu".

24.18 Acuden a mi mente también las escuelas abiertas del Brasil, donde miles de jóvenes aprenden a desactivar la violencia por medio del deporte, la música y la cultura, gracias también al apoyo de la UNESCO. Pienso también en Hari Devi Rokaya, vicepresidente de la radio "Nari Aawaj" (La voz de las mujeres) de Nepal, que agradece a la UNESCO el haber dado a las mujeres de la provincia remota de Jumla los medios de intercambiar por primera vez sus opiniones y preocupaciones, y cito: "*Pueden sentir la enorme solidaridad de todas las mujeres que no conocen y que viven lejos de ellas, pero que, como ellas, comparten los mismos desafíos cotidianos y quieren ayudarse mutuamente*". Pienso en todas esas iniciativas que, en los planos local, regional o mundial, nos ayudan a ver que lo que tenemos en común es más fuerte que nuestras diferencias.

(24.14) Mesdames, Messieurs, ces dernières années, nous avons été témoins de catastrophes naturelles extrêmement violentes en Haïti, au Pakistan, au Japon, en Nouvelle-Zélande et, tout récemment, en Thaïlande et en Turquie. Ces catastrophes nous incitent à modifier notre perception du rôle que peuvent jouer l'éducation, la science, la culture et la communication dans les situations d'urgence. Elles nous obligent à renforcer les systèmes d'alerte et de prévention des risques. Elles nous poussent à mieux préparer les populations. L'UNESCO tient une position idéale dans certains de ces domaines. Je pense, à cet égard, au Système d'alerte aux tsunamis et autres risques côtiers dans la mer des Caraïbes et les régions adjacentes dont la coordination incombe à l'UNESCO. Le 11 mars dernier, l'alerte a été lancée en moins de trois minutes après le séisme au large des côtes de Fukushima. Cette alerte, malheureusement, n'a pas suffi pour épargner des milliers de vies humaines. Ce drame nous incite encore plus à renforcer avec la même détermination ce système à l'échelle mondiale, puisque les tsunamis ignorent les frontières nationales. Je pense également au premier exercice de simulation à échelle réelle d'alerte contre les tsunamis mené à bien par l'UNESCO dans les Caraïbes le 23 mars dernier, avec 33 pays participants. Le Pakistan a été dévasté cette année par de nouvelles inondations, après celles de l'année dernière, les pires enregistrées depuis 80 ans, avec plus de 20 millions de personnes touchées. Pour faire face à cette situation, nous venons de mettre en marche le nouveau programme d'alerte et de prévention des risques dans toute la vallée de l'Indus, avec l'appui du Gouvernement du Japon.

(24.15) Mesdames, Messieurs, le nombre des risques nous obligent à bâtir les sociétés sur des ciments plus solides que les routes, les digues ou les usines : la reconstruction sociale doit reposer sur ce que les peuples ont de plus profond, de plus stable et de plus durable. Comme l'a si bien dit Michaëlle Jean, notre Envoyée spéciale pour Haïti, « une fois que l'éducation entre dans l'esprit d'un enfant, aucun séisme ne peut l'en déloger ». C'est pourquoi je suis convaincue que la culture, l'éducation, les sciences et la jouissance commune du savoir doivent occuper une place centrale dans l'action humanitaire d'urgence. Sans elles, rien de durable ne pourra être mis en place.

(24.16) Mesdames, Messieurs, l'UNESCO existe pour tisser entre les peuples et les cultures des liens plus forts et plus étroits que les traités de paix ou les accords commerciaux. J'ai promis de jeter des ponts et des passerelles entre les peuples et les cultures, entre l'Est, l'Ouest, le Nord et le Sud. Aujourd'hui, nous jetons des ponts en Europe du Sud-Est avec le programme « La culture : un pont vers le développement » pour instaurer la confiance et panser les plaies grâce à la

participation de réseaux d'artistes qui agissent comme des moteurs de réconciliation. Nous jetons des ponts par-delà les océans avec la publication de *L'Histoire générale de l'Afrique* en portugais, ce qui permet à des millions de Brésiliens de connaître leur passé et à tout un peuple de se réconcilier avec son histoire.

(24.17) Nous ouvrons des voies quand six pays d'Amérique du Sud décident de présenter une candidature conjointe à la Liste du patrimoine mondial pour préserver le Qapaq Ñan (réseau de routes andin), qui traverse la majeure partie du continent. Oui, nous créons des passages avec l'initiative relative à Tagore, Neruda et Césaire, qui souligne la contribution de toutes les cultures à nos valeurs communes et nous rappelle qu'approfondir sa propre culture est un moyen d'accéder à l'universel car, comme le disait l'immense poète Pablo Neruda, « *Le déracinement pour l'être humain est une frustration qui, d'une manière ou d'une autre, atrophie la clarté de son âme* ».

(24.18) Me viennent également à l'esprit les écoles ouvertes du Brésil, où des milliers de jeunes apprennent à désamorcer la violence au moyen du sport, de la musique et de la culture, grâce aussi à l'appui de l'UNESCO. Je pense en outre à Hari Devi Rokaya, Vice-Présidente de la radio « Nari Aawaj » (La voix des femmes), au Népal, qui remercie l'UNESCO d'avoir donné aux femmes de la province reculée de Jumla les moyens d'échanger pour la première fois leurs opinions et préoccupations : « *Elles sentent l'énorme solidarité de toutes les femmes qu'elles ne connaissent pas et qui vivent loin d'elles mais qui, comme elles, partagent les mêmes défis quotidiens et veulent s'entraider* ». Je pense à toutes ces initiatives qui, sur le plan local, régional ou mondial, nous aident à voir que ce que nous avons en commun est plus fort que ce qui nous divise.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en russe)*

24.19 Дамы и господа, ЮНЕСКО не стоит на месте. Происходящие в ней изменения опираются на то видение, которым эта организация руководствуется на протяжении шестидесяти шести лет. Они отражают те идеи, которые требуют от нас сегодня своего распространения – обеспечить защиту человеческого достоинства, повысить жизнестойкость общества, заложить основы для устойчивого развития. Все это отражает изменения, обещанные мною два года тому назад.

24.20 Совместными усилиями мы приступили к радикальной реформе ЮНЕСКО. Эта реформа согласуется с выводами доклада о независимой внешней оценке, решение о проведении которой приняла Генеральная конференция, с рекомендациями *Специальной рабочей группы Исполнительного совета по независимой внешней оценке ЮНЕСКО*, а также с запланированными мною мерами. Плечом к плечу мы продвигаемся вперед. Все это говорит о наличии консенсуса. Это говорит о воле к преобразованиям, которая есть у нас, у Секретариата и у государств-членов.

24.21 Я бы хотела воспользоваться этой возможностью, чтобы выразить свою глубокую признательность послу Элеоноре Митрофановой, Постоянному представителю Российской Федерации при ЮНЕСКО, за ту руководящую важную роль, которую она взяла на себя в качестве Председателя Исполнительного совета в деле продвижения реформы.

*(Applaudissements)*

24.22 Дамы и господа, наша решимость двигаться вперед непоколебима. Я изменила структуру Секретариата с тем, чтобы усилить сосредоточенность на программах, устранить дублирование в работе и повысить уровень ее действенности. Я сократила в два раза число межсекторальных платформ и впервые предложила, чтобы им выделялись четко установленные средства. Мы занимаемся разработкой стратегии в области приоритетов ЮНЕСКО совместно со странами Африки и в их интересах, работая на основе консультаций с соответствующими региональными и субрегиональными инициативами.

24.23 Я решительно выступила за оптимизацию процесса консультаций по документам С/5 и С/4 и обеспечение сокращения расходов. Мы уточняем распределение обязанностей в Штаб-квартире, а также между Штаб-квартирой и нашими подразделениями на местах. Мы готовы более активно работать с нашими бюро по связи. Вы знакомы с моим решением учредить два новых бюро – в Аддис-Абебе и Брюсселе, – с тем чтобы усилить сотрудничество с Африканским союзом и Европейским союзом.

24.24 Я глубоко привержена делу укрепления нашего сотрудничества с национальными комиссиями по делам ЮНЕСКО. Эта уникальная сеть должна использоваться нами гораздо более эффективно. Именно в этом заключалась цель проведенного нами обзора сотрудничества между Секретариатом и национальными комиссиями.

24.25 Я совершенствую наши подходы к стратегическим партнерским связям. Предлагаемый вашему вниманию проект рамок политики устанавливает критерии, которые должны обеспечить целостность наших главных ценностей и целей. Мы выводим основные партнерские связи с частным сектором на новый уровень. Сюда входит широкий круг вопросов: соглашения с такими важными нашими партнерами, как информационные агентства «РИА Новости» в России и «Синьхуа» в Китае, с ведущими корейскими газетами «Чосон ильбо» и «Донг-А ильбо», сотрудничество с Университетом «iTunes» в США, с американской компанией «Apple», с футбольными клубами городов Малага в Испании и Шэньчжэнь в Китае, с «GEMS Education» в Абу-Даби, с Фондом Паккарда, с компанией «Procter & Gamble», с Фондом Билла и Мелинды Гейтсов в США. Можно привести еще немало таких примеров.

24.26 Комиссия по широкополосной связи для цифрового развития, заместителем председателя которой я являюсь совместно с Международным союзом электросвязи, представляет собой уникальную инициативу, направленную на содействие развитию инклюзивных технологий широкополосной связи, имеющих глобальный охват.

24.27 Все это, дамы и господа, отражает рост авторитета ЮНЕСКО в качестве организации, чья деятельность приносит конкретные плоды. Это отражает нашу волю добиться концентрации усилий – сосредоточиться на том, в чем мы наиболее эффективны, и работать с нашими партнерами в тех областях, где они могут внести свой

ценный вклад, предложить инновации. Партнерские связи означают не только ресурсы, но и, что особенно важно, идеи и опыт. Они усиливают наше воздействие на местах и расширяют охват нашей работы. Мы используем их не от случая к случаю, а в рамках нашей стратегии по разработке новых путей создания глобальных общественных благ.

24.28 Мы чувствуем рост доверия к нам и со стороны государств-членов. Нигерия доверила ЮНЕСКО проведение крупной программы по распространению грамотности на своей территории. Комиссия Западноафриканского экономического и валютного союза опирается на поддержку ЮНЕСКО при создании потенциала университетов Западной Африки в областях информационных и коммуникационных технологий. Я привержена также делу укрепления сотрудничества с неправительственными организациями. Представленный вам проект руководящих принципов позволит укрепить их роль на всех этапах нашей работы.

24.29 В рамках всех этих процессов нашим самым ценным активом являются здесь наши кадры. Я хотела бы воспользоваться этой возможностью, чтобы выразить признательность всем сотрудникам в Штаб-квартире и на местах за их упорный труд и преданность своему делу. Их целеустремленность и качество их работы имеют важнейшее значение для воздействия, оказываемого Организацией.

24.30 На последней сессии Исполнительного совета была утверждена наша усиленная Стратегия управления людскими ресурсами на 2011-2016 годы. Мы формируем новую культуру работы. Значительные усилия были предприняты Бюро по вопросам этики. Я, со своей стороны, разработала комплекс мер по защите лиц, сообщающих о нарушениях, а также меры, направленные на защиту от преследований. Вскоре начнет осуществляться программа раскрытия финансовой информации. Самым активным образом работает Консультативный комитет по надзору. Проведенный недавно оценочный обзор качества подтвердил, что Служба внутреннего надзора [я цитирую] «в целом соответствует» высшим стандартам в этой профессиональной сфере. А это самая высокая оценка. ЮНЕСКО является одной из первых организаций в системе Организации Объединенных Наций, перешедших на использование Международных стандартов учета в государственном секторе (МСУГС).

24.31 ЮНЕСКО должна действовать открыто и прозрачно. Мы уделяем особое внимание информированию представителей государств-членов посредством специализированного веб-сайта и регулярных информационных совещаний. Я, как Генеральный директор, ввела в практику проведение «тематических дискуссий между Генеральным директором и делегациями государств-членов» для обсуждения приоритетных вопросов стратегического характера. Мои первые такие дискуссии были посвящены Африке, гендерному равенству и малым островным развивающимся государствам.

(24.19) Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO va de l'avant. Ce mouvement trouve sa source dans la vision qui guide l'Organisation depuis 66 ans. Il s'inspire des idées que nous voulons propager aujourd'hui, à savoir protéger la dignité humaine, renforcer la résilience de la société et poser les bases du développement durable. Tout cela reflète les changements que j'avais promis il y a deux ans.

(24.20) Ensemble, nous avons entrepris une réforme en profondeur de l'UNESCO. Cette réforme tient compte des conclusions du rapport relatif à l'Évaluation externe indépendante demandée par la Conférence générale, des recommandations du Groupe de travail ad hoc du Conseil exécutif sur l'Évaluation externe indépendante de l'UNESCO, ainsi que des mesures que j'ai planifiées. Main dans la main, nous avons avancé. Cela témoigne de l'existence d'un consensus. Cela témoigne d'une volonté de changement chez les États membres et au sein du Secrétariat.

(24.21) Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer ma gratitude à Mme Eleonora Mitrofanova, Ambassadrice et déléguée permanente de la Fédération de Russie auprès de l'UNESCO, pour sa détermination, en sa qualité de Présidente du Conseil exécutif, à faire avancer le programme de réforme.

*(Applaudissements)*

(24.22) Mesdames et Messieurs, nous sommes animés d'une volonté inébranlable. J'ai procédé à la restructuration du Secrétariat afin de recentrer les programmes, de supprimer les doublons et de réaliser des gains d'efficacité. J'ai réduit de moitié le nombre des plates-formes intersectorielles et proposé pour la première fois que leur soient allouées des ressources clairement définies. Nous travaillons à élaborer une stratégie sur les priorités de l'UNESCO avec et dans l'intérêt des pays d'Afrique, en concertation avec les initiatives régionales et sous-régionales concernées.

(24.23) J'ai proposé avec insistance d'optimiser les consultations sur les documents C/5 et C/4 et de réduire les coûts. Nous travaillons à clarifier les chaînes de responsabilités au Siège et entre le Siège et les unités hors Siège. Nous nous employons à renforcer le rôle de nos bureaux de liaison. J'ai décidé de créer deux nouveaux bureaux, à Addis-Abeba et à Bruxelles, pour développer notre coopération avec l'Union africaine et l'Union européenne.

(24.24) Je suis résolue à renforcer notre coopération avec les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO. Nous devons tirer un bien plus grand profit de ce réseau unique en son genre. C'est dans cet objectif que nous avons réexaminé la coopération entre le Secrétariat et les commissions nationales.

(24.25) Je m'emploie à améliorer notre approche des partenariats stratégiques. Le projet de cadre directeur soumis à votre examen définit des critères permettant de garantir une meilleure cohérence avec nos valeurs fondamentales et nos objectifs prioritaires. Nous travaillons à développer de grands projets de partenariat avec le secteur privé. C'est ainsi que nous avons conclu des accords avec Ria Novosti en Russie et Xinhua en Chine, de même qu'avec les grands quotidiens coréens Chosun Ilbo et Dong-A Ilbo, et engagé une coopération avec Itunes University aux États-Unis, avec les clubs de football de Malaga en Espagne et de Shenzhen en Chine, avec GEMS Education à Abou Dhabi, avec la Fondation Packard, avec Procter & Gamble, ainsi qu'avec la Fondation Bill & Melinda Gates aux États-Unis, pour ne nommer que ceux-là.

(24.26) La commission « Le large bande au service du développement numérique », dont j'assume la vice-présidence avec l'Union internationale des télécommunications, est une initiative originale visant à promouvoir la mise en place inclusive des technologies à large bande dans le monde entier.



(24.27) Tous ces exemples démontrent, Mesdames et Messieurs, que l'UNESCO, en tant qu'organisation productrice de résultats concrets, a gagné en crédibilité. Ils démontrent également notre volonté de nous concentrer sur ce que nous faisons le mieux et de nous associer avec nos partenaires dans les domaines où ils peuvent apporter une précieuse contribution, proposer des innovations. Plus que des ressources, les partenariats apportent surtout des idées et de l'expérience. Ils renforcent notre impact sur le terrain et améliorent notre rayonnement. Nous ne les utilisons pas sporadiquement, mais au contraire nous les inscrivons dans une stratégie visant à trouver de nouvelles façons de créer des biens publics mondiaux.

(24.28) Nous percevons également un regain de confiance chez les États membres. Ainsi, le Nigéria nous a confié le soin de mettre en place un vaste programme d'alphabétisation sur son territoire. La Commission de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine s'appuie sur l'UNESCO pour développer les technologies de l'information et de la communication dans les universités ouest-africaines. Je suis déterminée à resserrer la coopération avec les organisations non gouvernementales. Le projet de directives qui vous est présenté renforcera leur rôle à tous les stades de notre action.

(24.29) En tout cela, le personnel est notre plus grand atout. Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier tous les fonctionnaires au Siège et hors Siège pour leur travail acharné et leur ferme engagement. Leur dévouement et leur compétence sont vitaux pour l'efficacité de l'UNESCO.

(24.30) À sa dernière session, le Conseil exécutif a approuvé notre Stratégie relative à la gestion des ressources humaines pour 2011-2016, telle qu'améliorée. Nous façonnons une nouvelle culture du travail. Des efforts considérables ont été déployés par le Bureau de l'éthique. J'ai promulgué une politique de protection des personnes qui signalent des comportements répréhensibles et de protection contre les représailles. Un programme de déclaration de situation financière sera prochainement mis en place. Le Comité consultatif de surveillance est pleinement opérationnel. La récente évaluation de la qualité a confirmé que le Service d'évaluation et d'audit – je cite « respectait généralement les normes » les plus élevées de la profession, ce qui est la meilleure note. L'UNESCO est l'une des premières organisations des Nations Unies à appliquer les Normes comptables internationales pour le secteur public (IPSAS).

(24.31) L'UNESCO doit faire preuve d'ouverture et de transparence. Nous prêtons une attention particulière aux délégations des États membres – à l'intention desquelles nous avons lancé un site Web et organisons à régulièrement des réunions d'information. J'ai lancé le nouveau mécanisme des Débats thématiques entre la Directrice générale et les délégations des États membres afin que nous débattions ensemble des questions revêtant une priorité stratégique. Les premiers débats ont porté sur l'Afrique, l'égalité des genres et les petits États insulaires en développement.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

24.32 Ladies and gentlemen, field reform is vital for delivering our vision. This starts with Africa, our priority. The Executive Board approved my proposal for a new field presence, whose structure is inspired by the groupings of the African Union. The new architecture will sharpen our focus and reduce costs. But it is not just about where we put offices, it is about how we use our presence, through strong regional centres and dedicated national offices and desks that are designed to make the most of UNESCO's multidisciplinary mandate. One size does not fit all. Reform will take regional and national differences into account. I will ensure that there is appropriate staffing profile and numbers. Consultation has been the hallmark of this process – with Member States, regional groups and within the Secretariat. I must say how gratified I am by the engagement of African Member States. In the Draft Programme and Budget document, I have ring-fenced \$9 million to ensure that we move forward. This reform will strengthen our delivery. It will also bolster our contribution to "Delivering as One". UNESCO is a strong partner in the reform of the United Nations – at the country level and in major processes at the global level. I am deeply engaged in the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and in the Advisory Group of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). UNESCO co-manages the Interagency Task Force on Gender Equality and Climate Change with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). I currently chair the Global Migration Group (GMG), bringing together 16 intergovernmental and United Nations agencies involved in migration. We co-sponsor the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). We are leading the work of the United Nations to protect the safety of journalists across the world. We know they face increasing intimidation – not only in war settings but also when reporting on local corruption and criminality. We organized the United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in Paris, held on 13 and 14 September, to develop a United Nations-wide action plan to tackle these challenges – for the first time. So, ladies and gentlemen, this is a reform to perform, to deepen our results. This was my pledge two years ago. I make this pledge again before you now. We are making headway. A culture of change is taking root. This is just a start. I must say how much I appreciate the engagement of Member States. Your leadership is crucial – especially regarding the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-1013.

24.33 This General Conference will examine two proposals: a budget reflecting zero real growth of \$685.7 million, and an alternative envelope of \$653 million, reflecting zero nominal growth, which received the commendation of the Executive Board. In both cases, programme activities receive the lion's share of resources. This is where the overwhelming majority of our staff is engaged. I am sharply aware of the constraints facing all States and societies. I have done my utmost to reflect this context. I have used every point of leverage inside the Organization to reduce administrative costs, sharpen our focus on strategic priorities and strengthen programmatic activity. I am committed to moving forward. However, we must be clear: a reduction of \$32 million in real terms will hit hard. It will have an impact on the scope, depth and intensity of our activities. UNESCO needs predictable funding at reasonable levels to meet the ambitions of our mandate. Difficult times call for more UNESCO, not less. Difficult times call for a better UNESCO. I have struck this balance in the Draft Programme and Budget documents. Two years ago, I said the global crisis is compelling us to reposition UNESCO around its mandate. This is ever truer today. Our mandate in education, culture, the sciences and communication is vital to protect human dignity, to enhance human capacity, to strengthen the ties of solidarity. We bring sustainability to all development initiatives and we lay the ground for a culture of peace. The Draft Programme and Budget documents reflect this vision. We will take forward our priorities in Africa and gender equality. We will promote work across sectors – to tackle the impacts of climate change, to fight HIV/AIDS, to support countries in post-conflict and

disaster situations. We will focus on youth, the least-developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). We will deepen equity, inclusion and quality in education and lifelong learning. We will strengthen science, technology and innovation in national policies, especially in African countries. We will promote the sustainable management of the ocean and freshwater. We will support societies in transformation, to take forward aspirations for human rights. We will place culture squarely on the development agenda, and promote cultural heritage and expressions of cultural diversity as sources of strength. We will stand up for freedom of expression everywhere and work to bridge the digital divide. This is my vision for the next two years. All of this will allow us to lead globally where our mandate calls for this. All of this will strengthen UNESCO as an essential pillar of an international order that must remain based on both rules and values. This will position all of us to define clear lines for the next Medium-Term Strategy. This work starts now.

24.34 At the same time, ladies and gentlemen, I see also immediate areas for action. The first concerns credibility. Credibility is our greatest asset. We cannot afford its erosion. We must build on it to strengthen our impact and visibility in the world. A case in point is our work in world heritage. This General Conference will launch celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The 35th session of the World Heritage Committee brought the total of sites to 936. I heard many concerns then about credibility. During the Conference, new members to the World Heritage Committee will be elected. They will have the task of protecting the credibility of the Convention as we approach the one thousand mark. But this is also true for the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Another vital area for our credibility and visibility concerns the work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). This is one of our flagships, working to improve knowledge of the marine environment at the service of intergovernmental cooperation. On 12 October, we launched an Indian Ocean tsunami exercise and we inaugurated the Regional Tsunami Advisory Services Provider (RTSP) for the Indian Ocean, thanks to the leadership of the National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) of Australia, India and Indonesia. This marked the culmination of six years of work following the devastating tsunami of 26 December, 2004. A new era of cooperation has opened around the Indian Ocean. This is UNESCO performing precisely as it should – providing impetus and expertise to produce unique collective public goods. We must build on this foundation.

24.35 Leadership is a second immediate line of action. We celebrate this year the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. This decade has shown the importance of the Declaration, which provides a framework of values and principles on cultural diversity and a guide to greater cooperation. Times call on us to do far more to respect, promote and implement the Declaration. We must make the most of our cultural diversity as a source of common strength.

24.36 We must strengthen further our leadership in education. Our vision of integrated lifelong learning fits exactly the needs of knowledge-based societies in a world of change. We must take this beyond education circles. We will continue to focus strategically – on priority countries and on the building blocks of literacy, teachers, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and sector-wide policy. We will push forward on early childhood care and education and on higher education. But the literacy challenge still remains paramount. The United Nations Literacy Decade, closing this year, has created momentum matched by real commitment. We see positive change in a number of the 35 countries benefiting from the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment. The E9 Initiative, bringing together ministers from the high-population countries home to 70% of the world's adult illiterates, has gained in strength, with a concrete framework for action adopted in Abuja in 2010 that sharpens efforts towards universal literacy. The year 2012 is an important year for technical and vocational education. The Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, in Shanghai, China, on 14-16 May 2012, is a key opportunity. We will spare no efforts to support States in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and education for all (EFA) by the year 2015. At the same time, we recognize that the post-2015 agenda starts now. We must ensure that our vision of education as bringing sustainability to development has a central place on the post-2015 global agenda. UNESCO's leadership is also intellectual. As I said earlier, our 2011 Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR) mobilized global policy to protect schools in conflicts. Our 2012 report will do the same on youth, skills and work. Our world reports on science, engineering, the social sciences, and cultural diversity untangle complex issues and set the agenda for better policy. This week, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) will release a report on secondary education across the world. On 12 March 2012, we will launch the fourth edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) at the Sixth World Water Forum in Marseille, France. Hosted and led by UNESCO, the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme brings 28 UN-Water organizations and partners together to produce this triennial review of the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources. Through this work, we set benchmarks, we generate new ideas and we point to better collective action. We will build thus on this unique intellectual and moral leadership.

24.37 And then, ladies and gentlemen, maximal impact – this must be our third immediate focus. 2012 will be the year of Rio+20 – the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Rio+20 must succeed. UNESCO will bring to Rio a roadmap for sustainable development that makes the most of the transformative power of education, the sciences, culture and media. Our message is clear – we must build inclusive and equitable “green societies” along with “green economies.” Education for sustainable development (ESD) must foster the values, attitudes and behaviours for a new culture of sustainability. Science must be mobilized to find innovative answers to complex challenges. Culture must be integrated into all development initiatives. The media must help build awareness and inform policies. We must promote social inclusion through integrated policies. Sustainability comes from working on all of these levels – this is UNESCO's unique contribution. This means making more of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), the World Heritage Convention (WHC), and the UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative. We are working all of these angles, which are presented in our new publication entitled, “From Green Economies to Green Societies”. Our Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is coordinating the United Nations inter-agency paper towards the preparation of Rio+20 “A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability”. In September, I signed an agreement with all relevant actors on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity

Targets, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly session. All of this fits into UNESCO's climate change initiative I promised two years ago. In Rio, UNESCO must help to set the global agenda for sustainable development. We must also continue to work where needs are acute.

24.38 We should not need to have "water in our living rooms", as the President of the Maldives said recently, to understand the reality of climate change. This is why we are deeply engaged in supporting small island developing States (SIDS) – to adapt to the impacts of climate change on coastal systems, economies and societies through education, social inclusion, support to local knowledge systems, coastal monitoring and engagement with young people. In this respect, I wish to pay, once again, a special tribute to His Excellency Mr Davidson Hepburn, former President of the General Assembly and Ambassador of the Bahamas to UNESCO. His strong leadership and clear vision have sharpened UNESCO's action with small island developing States. Thank you enormously, Ambassador Hepburn.

24.39 So, ladies and gentlemen, we are living in times of vast opportunity for human development and also of great turbulence and uncertainty. The United Nations system and indeed multilateralism as whole, are being severely tested. This calls for action. This compels us to rethink our approach to human development. Culture, the sciences, education and communication must lie at the heart of this rethink. These are the foundations for peace and sustainable development – today, and for the century ahead. We must live up to the ambitions of our 1945 Constitution. But it is not enough simply to assert the relevance of our message. We must deliver on it, in a world that is changing profoundly. History is in movement. UNESCO must be at the heart of this movement because no society stands alone. No country stands by itself. We all stand together. The great poet, Rabindranath Tagore, wrote that the truth of the world lies, and I quote, "not in the masses of substance, not in the number of things, but in their relatedness, which neither can be counted, nor measured, nor abstracted". This "relatedness", this unity of the world, is the essence of my appeal for a "new humanism". This begins with human dignity, with the empowerment of every woman and man to imagine a better world and have the tools to shape it. This is the basis to rethink the paradigm of development, to ensure equal rights and opportunities for every girl and woman, every boy and man, to build just, equitable and inclusive societies, to protect and share the heritage and expressions of every culture, to ensure freedom of expression for all, and to safeguard the world's biodiversity. The stakes of peace and development today lie precisely in education, the sciences, culture and communication and information. We are living in extraordinary times. This is why UNESCO has never been so vital. This is why, today, I am even more passionate about our mission than ever before. It has never been so important. I thank you for your attention.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Allow me to congratulate you for this most comprehensive report and introduction and a real kick-off to the general policy debate, which represents a constructive input for our forthcoming work and attests to your commitment and to the work accomplished.

**Announcements**

**Annonces**

**Anuncios**

**Сообщения**

**إعلانات**

**通知**

26.1. **The President:**

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we have now come to the end of our second plenary meeting of this General Conference. I shall adjourn the meeting, which will resume tomorrow morning for the Leaders' Forum at 9.30 a.m. I would like to kindly ask all delegates to be in their seats by 9.15 a.m. in order to enable us to start our work on time, and welcome the Heads of State and Government. I also wish to remind the members of the General Committee that the Committee will hold its first meeting tomorrow morning between 8.30 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. in Room X. There is much to be done in the allotted 45 minutes, so, if I may ask you, please be there on time.

26.2 Before adjourning the meeting, I wish to give the floor to the Secretary for a brief announcement. Mr Millward, you have the floor.

27. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Je voulais simplement vous rappeler que l'inauguration de l'exposition L'UNESCO ouverte (*Open UNESCO*) aura lieu dans environ cinq minutes dans le hall Ségur, c'est-à-dire, quand vous sortez de cette salle, vers la gauche. Vous êtes bien sûr tous cordialement invités et la réception d'ouverture aura lieu en présence de Son Excellence, le Président de la République de Hongrie, à 7 heures et demie, devant la Salle I. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

28. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention. I wish you a very good evening. *The meeting is **adjourned**.*

*The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 18 h 25*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25*  
*Заседание закрывается в 18.25*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦, ٢٥ بعد الظهر*  
*会议于 18 时 25 分结束*

# Third plenary meeting

Wednesday 26 October 2011 at 9.40 a.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Troisième séance plénière

Mercredi 26 octobre 2011 à 9 h 40

Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Tercera sesión plenaria

Miércoles 26 de octubre de 2011 a las 9.40

Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Третье пленарное заседание

среда 26 октября 2011 г. в 9.40

Председатель: **г-жа Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الثالثة

الأربعاء ٢٦ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٩,٤٠ صباحاً  
الرئيسة: السيدة بوجيائي (المجر)

# 第三次全体会议

2011年10月26日星期三9时40分

主席：Bogyay女士(匈牙利)

**Leaders' Forum**  
**Forum des dirigeants**  
**Foro de dirigentes**  
**Форум руководителей**  
**منتدى القادة**  
**领导人论坛**

**1.1 The President:**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. Good morning. I would like to declare the third plenary meeting open. Today and tomorrow morning, we will devote ourselves to the Leaders' Forum.

1.2 Ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellency Mr Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Your Excellency Mr Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon, Your Excellency Mr Pál Schmitt, President of the Republic of Hungary, Your Excellency Mr Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of Grenada, Your Excellency Mr Pascal Irénée Koupaki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Benin, Your Excellency Mrs Aliyeva, First Lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Madam Chair of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, dear friends, I would like to reiterate the expression of my heartfelt gratitude to the Member States for having elected me as President of the General Conference. As people have heard me say before, it is an immense honour for me, someone in whose life music is so instrumental, to be trusted with the mission of helping the Members States to speak in tune. The great virtuoso musician Franz Liszt said that the principal task of a conductor is not to put himself in evidence but to disappear behind his functions and, I would add, look for harmony. Those words resonate harmoniously with the spirit of this room, which was built to host the concert of nations that decided to work together in the awareness that since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed. Albert Einstein expressed the same idea when he stated: "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." It is a delight to start my mandate with such a major meeting. It is a high-level meeting because we are graced with the presence of high-level personalities. It is a high-level meeting also because it offers an opportunity to discuss fundamental issues, issues that send us back to the very reason why we have UNESCO and even the United Nations in the first place.

1.3 Let us remember that the central objective of the United Nations – and UNESCO – was to institute a parliament of humanity dedicated "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". Sixty-six years on, a brief look at the state of the world reveals that for a large part of human population, these objectives remain distant aspirations. Under our watch, armed conflicts continue to kill, maim and displace millions of people, especially in poor countries. Conflicts are diverting scarce human and financial resources from key areas such as healthcare and education to military spending, thereby reinforcing poverty, undermining economic growth and stunting progress of nations according to all human development indicators. In these trying economic times, the talk of budget and fiscal deficits dominates the airwaves. What we rarely, if at all, hear about, and what the recent EFA Global Monitoring Report of UNESCO highlighted, is what I would call an acute 'peace deficit', felt in countries big and small, affluent and poor, to the north and south. In 21 developing countries that spend more on tanks than on primary education, there is a peace deficit. There is a peace deficit in the affluent world where military spending dwarfs the resources available for development aid. It has been calculated that if rich countries were to stop military spending for just six days, the savings would be enough to close the \$16 billion education for all external financing gap. Think of how many people such an act would pull from the grip of poverty, how many children would be able to receive life-sustaining education! As you very well understand, a genuine peace is not to be found where poverty keeps people in dire need of basic commodities, leaves them unable to fend for themselves and their families, and creates fertile ground for the seeds of conflict to grow. This is the reason why for almost one billion people who will go to sleep hungry tonight – most of them women and 98% living in developing countries – peace is illusory. For more than 600 million children in the developing world who live on less than a dollar a day, and for 200 million malnourished children and their families, there is no meaningful peace to speak of. For almost 800 million people without basic literacy skills – two thirds of them women, who are barred from a meaningful participation in social life and the realization of their full human potential, peace is a fleeting concept. In other words, under the conditions of structural underdevelopment, where basic elements of human security are missing, a culture of peace can hardly take hold.

1.4 To advance our peace agenda, therefore, we have to cultivate the myriad conditions that contribute to sustainable development – human rights and freedoms, inclusive and tolerant societies, reconciliation and intercultural dialogue. The promotion of this positive notion of 'culture of peace,' besides an aim in itself, is a powerful antidote against violence, and as such, an expression of UNESCO's fundamental mandate. In pursuing this mandate, UNESCO brings to bear its uniquely multidisciplinary approach, which enables it to deal with complex issues in a holistic manner. This is the real strength of the Organization, because the issues we have to tackle, such as conflicts and poverty, are multidimensional social phenomena that are not amenable to simple solutions. It is this unique holistic, human-centred approach to sustainable development and peace-building that UNESCO brings to the multilateral efforts in these areas. Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, distinguished speakers today, your presence gives us a unique opportunity to directly engage world leaders and decision-makers in our brainstorming efforts concerning one of the most fundamental questions for UNESCO: what can the Organization do towards building a culture of peace and sustainable development? We would be naïve to expect you to articulate clear-cut solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Instead, your willingness to share the insights from your own personal experiences of dealing with these issues as leaders will certainly deepen our understanding of the obstacles to peace and sustainable development in different parts of the world, and the ways to surmount them. Culture of peace rests on the idea that durable peace requires commitment

to building just, open and inclusive societies. Justice, freedom and equality are the shared values at the bedrock of the peaceful global fellowship we must strive for.

1.5 And nowhere is the lack of justice and equality as pronounced as in the area of gender equality. The latest data indicate that women continue to suffer from unequal access to education at all levels, with 39 million girls missing from primary and secondary schools. Women are also inadequately represented in leadership positions, occupying only 19% of seats in the houses of parliament worldwide. This is detrimental not just to women, but to entire societies that do not profit from women's proven potential to contribute significantly to reconciliation, peace-building and social and economic development. UNESCO's response is to empower women around the world – notably through education, the most effective lever to spread values and skills. Empowering women is one telling example among others of how UNESCO contributes to a culture of peace and to sustainable development.

1.6 Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Ministers, delegates, this is a special day today because in India this is the day that we call the Festival of Lights. It is Diwali. This evening billions of lamps will be lit to welcome the New Year, to pray for peace and prosperity and to celebrate the victory of good over evil. Let us light a lamp at UNESCO, to banish the darkness of illiteracy and poverty, and to confront the forces of hatred and intolerance. I am confident that under the roof of UNESCO, the encounter and open exchange of ideas among world leaders can significantly advance this aim. Let us all take advantage of the unique space of dialogue offered by the Leaders' Forum. Thank you for coming.

1.7 I shall now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, Chair of the Executive Board. Please, Madam, the floor is yours.

#### 2.1 **Chair of the Executive Board (Ms Mitrofanova):**

Your Excellencies, distinguished high-level guests, Madam President of the General Conference of UNESCO, Madame Director-General of UNESCO, dear friends and colleagues, let me start by insisting on the timeliness of this conference, the Leaders' Forum. Like all the other branches of the United Nations family, UNESCO was created with peace in mind, and with a view to building peace in the minds of people. In this endeavour, UNESCO's identity, its special feature, lies in the ardent promotion of international cooperation through actions in the fields of education, the sciences, culture and communication and information. Underlying these different avenues is a common thread, the conviction that dialogue should be encouraged everywhere and at all levels. In seeking peace and cooperation, we foster dialogue between cultures, between societies and between governments – starting with the Member States, of which you are the leaders, and which are the shareholders of the Organization. The Leaders' Forum is an opportunity for you, who represent the Member States at the highest levels, to engage in dialogue directly and to take advantage of UNESCO's functions as a catalyst of intellectual cooperation and an instrument of your will to rethink the present and prepare the future in a spirit of 'intellectual and moral solidarity'.

2.2 As I mentioned earlier, this meeting is timely. It is held at a turning point in the life of our Organization because for the past two years the Organization has been very active in reforming itself. This effort has mobilized the energy of the Organization as a whole throughout the biennium, so that we can better perform and better respond to our changing environment, so that we can better meet the needs and expectations of the Member States. I had the honour to chair the Executive Board in one of those exciting periods when an institution questions itself, reviews its proceedings and paves the way forward. I am confident that in attending the Leaders' Forum, you will find that you are contributing to the work of a UNESCO that is rejuvenated and more capable of fulfilling the ideals of its Constitution, which remains relevant more than six decades after its creation. I wish to remind all of you leaders present today, Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers or Secretaries of State, that, in renewing itself, UNESCO is for you to use as a platform to exchange views and explore the new ideas and perspectives that will infuse the actions of decision-makers tomorrow. UNESCO was created to help Member States address problems that they cannot apprehend, let alone solve, individually. This is especially true today, in an era when we have come to realize that we live in a world of multiple challenges and stress where peaceful relations among peoples and nations are threatened by complex and multiple crises. This impinges on hopes for global peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

2.3 Of course, we are not starting from scratch – many of the current challenges are being targeted by strong and powerful international agendas – the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21 or the education for all goals. But what is needed today is a comprehensive understanding of the world situation and new approaches to address peace and development holistically. How can UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development? This is the holistic question you are going to debate – it is a strategic one on many grounds. We just need to look around us to realize how dearly we need a culture of peace and non-violence. Only too recently, dramatic and violent acts by fanatics have made dozens of innocent civilian victims in the Arab region, in Africa and in Europe. In too many places, violence remains a daily plague, especially in relation to gang and drug violence, as is experienced by various communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Violence is also tangible in the social exclusion of marginalized groups which too often results in violence against women, who remain the largest disenfranchised group of humanity as a whole.

2.4 All over the world, societies are in turmoil. Young people, who are the future of nations, have decided to confront the inertia of their societies. We think of the Arab uprisings, which are still having a tremendous impact in the region. But let us not forget that the phenomenon of youth taking to the streets is worldwide. On every continent, young women and men are demonstrating their commitment to social change. What we must heed is that all of them are heralding such universal principles as democratic participation, fairness, social as well as economic empowerment, access to quality education and shared prosperity. These "youth-quakes" could probably not have been anticipated as such. What could have been anticipated, though, is that vehement social eruptions would be the response to the impacts of the global financial and economic crisis in the countries which have been struck hard, notably in so many exposed industrialized countries. And, as for the developing and least advanced countries, the crisis does not date from yesterday.

The endemic crisis of poverty is still affecting the bottom billion. These people, children and adults, women and men, live in hunger; they do not have access to the social, health and educational services that could empower them. They are barred from attaining true human development. All those are signs that we are all in the same boat. All those are signs that we need to rethink development along more rational lines, aiming at social and economic sustainability but also at environmental sustainability. The planet is going through a crisis that must be met with a resolute commitment to sustainable development. Climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity losses and pollution – these global environmental crises are mainly human-made. In other words, humanity can and must do something. Humanity must act in the right direction. We need a green economy and green societies underpinned by a vision for peaceful sustainable development that makes the most of the transformative power of education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

2.5 Challenges must be addressed by us, country by country, but above all collectively. The Leaders' Forum is an opportunity to contribute to that responsibility. As Heads of State or Government, Ministers and senior decision-makers, you are going to debate how best to achieve a culture of peace and sustainable development through the instruments of soft power represented in the fields of competence of UNESCO. As your exchanges can and may shape new models and impact pressing international issues, the results and recommendations of your discussions will be transmitted to the General Conference to inspire the strategies of the Organization in the coming years. This will have been your first – but not, I believe, the last – contribution to a culture of peace and sustainable development on multilateral levels. Thank you very much.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I now give the floor to the Director-General. The floor is yours, Madam.

4.1 **La Directrice générale :**

Messieurs les Chefs d'État, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, ce Forum des dirigeants est l'une des innovations importantes de cette session de la Conférence générale. J'y vois l'opportunité d'ouvrir un débat direct, franc et sans concession sur les moyens, pour l'UNESCO, de contribuer à la culture de la paix et au développement durable.

4.2 Nous l'avons dit hier : nous vivons une période de grands changements. C'est une époque de contrastes, où l'extrême violence côtoie les plus grands espoirs. Vous avez certainement vu les images de cette petite fille, ce bébé de 16 jours, né prématuré, qui vient d'être miraculeusement sauvé des décombres de la ville d'Ergis, dévastée par le séisme en Turquie. Cette petite fille, Azra Karaduman, a été délivrée dans une vive émotion, sous une pluie d'applaudissements. La ville s'est suspendue un instant, dans l'épreuve, pour saluer les sauveteurs. Et nous, qui peut-être n'avons jamais entendu parler de la ville d'Ergis, nous ressentons un sentiment puissant d'empathie, qui est le cœur de l'humanisme. Nous sommes tous liés, nous faisons tous partie de la même communauté humaine. Pour répondre efficacement à nos défis mondiaux, nous devons renforcer nos liens et rester soudés. Nous avons la Conférence Rio + 20, l'année prochaine. Nous approchons de l'échéance de 2015 pour les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous. Nous sommes à un tournant, où des décisions peuvent être prises qui vont déterminer l'avenir de cette petite fille. Ce Forum doit y contribuer.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

4.3 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the vision of our 1945 Constitution is more relevant than ever. But it is not enough to simply assert the relevance of UNESCO's message. We must deliver on it in a world that is changing quickly. We face today new challenges of unparalleled complexity. These call on us to bridge the gaps in global governance, to support the public goods that are falling through the cracks of globalization. We will not stop repeating UNESCO's Constitution that declares that if wars start in the minds of men and women, then it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be built. We must reinvent how we work towards these goals. We must renew our commitment to action in education, culture, the sciences and communication, to lay the foundations for sustainable development and a culture of peace. This starts with history. History shows the dangers of intolerance, racism and hatred. History is one of the bridges we must build between people and cultures. The launch of the International Competition for a Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, on 23 August 2011, is a clear symbol of a culture of peace and a strong contribution to the International Year for People of African Descent.

4.4 In times of uncertainty, we must build on such initiatives; we must stay true to a moral compass. In times of complexity, we must stand and act together. States cannot tackle global challenges alone. UNESCO acts for education, for freedom of expression, for gender equality, for cultural heritage and diversity, for the sciences. We do all of this to strengthen the ties of solidarity between people and to clear the ground for sustainable development. This is our message. This is our mandate. The world has perhaps never needed strong ideas as much as it does today -- ideas that mobilize societies, that bring us together. Over the next day, it may be worth recalling the words of a great humanist, French author Victor Hugo, who said, "An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come." Thank you for your attention.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, I now have the special pleasure of introducing our first keynote speaker who is my own President – so, the President's President, His Excellency Mr Pál Schmitt, President of the Republic of Hungary, who is in many respects a unique leader. He was a champion fencer, who won gold medals at the Olympic Games. He also won team and individual world championships before ending his active sporting career and starting to fence in the world of politics. He was equally successful in this arena. He became General Secretary and later President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, and held a high position



in the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Following the end of communism in Hungary, he became a diplomat, serving as Hungary's Ambassador to Spain and Switzerland. Upon his return, he entered national and European politics. He was elected Member of the European Parliament, and became Vice-President of the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Education. He was also the Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, before being elected President of the Republic of Hungary in August last year. We are honoured and humbled by your presence, your Excellency. The floor is yours.

6.1 **Mr Schmitt** (President of Hungary):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, fellow Presidents, Prime Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to say some sentences, at the beginning of my speech, in the Hungarian language. I want you to enjoy the beautiful music of that language.

6.2 *Kérem, engedjék meg, hogy néhány gondolatot magyar nyelven mondjak. Nagy megtiszteltetés számomra, hogy képviselhetem ma Magyarországot a "Leaders Forumon", mivel ez az első alkalom, hogy magyar államfő megtiszteli az UNESCO Közgyűlését tagságunk 60 éve alatt. A mai találkozó azért is különleges, mert a Közgyűlés tegnap két éves időszakra elnökévé választotta Bogoyay Katalin nagykövet asszonyt. Elnök asszony, kedves Katalin, sok sikert kívánok munkájához!*

(6.2) Please, let me begin with some personal remarks: it is a great honour for me to represent Hungary at this Leaders' Forum as it is the first time that the President of Hungary pays tribute to UNESCO in more than sixty years of its membership. Furthermore, this event is very remarkable because the Hungarian Ambassador to UNESCO Ms Katalin Bogoyay was elected yesterday as President of the General Conference for the next two years. Madam President, dear Katalin, I wish you every success in your work.

*(The speaker continues in English)*

6.3 While preparing for this day, I came across a thought from Albert Einstein, which goes like this: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." You might ask, what is it that captivated me, beside the humour and the well-chosen analogy? It was the link between balance and movement. It is because the calm, the peacefulness of the state of balance is never the result of passivity. Someone who is passive is not in a state of balance, but instead – if you like – has fallen off the bicycle, has fallen out of life. It is possible that this person was never on the bike. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that in the end, the mission of UNESCO and this forum are also about balance. A balance between the different forces is a precondition for life, be it individual or the life of a community. This balance will be capable of establishing the harmony that is the requirement for a healthy, happy and peaceful life. Because opportunities, capabilities and sometimes human attitudes and skills prove to be too little to secure a balance, we have to work with a common will to achieve it. UNESCO is also about this common will to create balance.

6.4 Physical and spiritual strength, and inner peace, are required for achieving a complete life. Therefore, everything that we can and should talk about is concentrated around this balance. I would like to expand the notion of sustainable development to society, to human relations. Because when it comes to these, we can be just as wasteful and ill-prepared as we unfortunately tend to be with production, energy and the environment. Sustainable development itself is one of the cardinal states of life-balance that we should be achieving together. However, man is a creature who tends to act to the detriment of his own destiny. Even if he is aware of the conditions: the requirements of peace, spiritual and physical health, perseverance and vision. Despite knowing the role of education, culture, arts, science and sport in achieving a complete life, only with conscious collaboration is man capable of ensuring that they fulfil their role.

6.5 I would like to concentrate primarily, with your kind understanding and permission, on sport, since even Einstein found essence in movement. As a former Olympic athlete and sports executive, I may say that this topic is also especially close to my heart. It is common knowledge that people actively engaged in sport are more resistant to physical ailments and lead a much more relaxed life. However the role of sport and a good physical condition in creating balance is not only evident in terms of an individual's life. Let us not forget that sport is also about play. Therefore it is a natural medium in the dialogue between nations, in conflict management and in overcoming discrimination. It is a 'language' similar to science and art, but is even more direct and simple than they are. Sport is profoundly democratic. Its message: Nobody is an enemy. Anyone actively engaged in sports will grow up in an environment which would categorically cast out anyone who does not respect his or her opponent. As the Olympic Charter stipulates, "Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement" (6th Fundamental Principle of Olympism, Olympic Charter). Indeed, dear friends, the regulated character of sport, its basic values, are capable of educating people, getting them back on track, even lifting them out of their difficulties, by giving them a sense of purpose. The focus has slightly changed. My commitment to sport has not, however. One of my undertakings as President is to encourage people to practise sport on a more regular basis and to promote 'sports for all' hand in hand with elite sport. I am convinced that the more people are engaged in sporting activities the more peaceful our society becomes, because through sport people learn a number of social values such as respecting the rules and the referee, regarding the adversary as a rival and not an enemy, accepting cultural differences and learning tolerance and solidarity.

6.6 This is why I am happy that in my country, the Hungarian Government has designated sport as a strategic sector. One of its most prominent endeavours is that, even in these troubled financial times that Europe and the world are experiencing, the government has significantly increased the funds allocated to sport and is committed to increasing them further. Apart from this, it is taking steps such as the introduction of daily physical education classes in public education; making grants available for 'sport for all' movements; tax benefits for sports purposes; a sport-friendly legislative environment; opening of sports facilities for community purposes; improved financial remuneration of physical

education teachers and trainers; more airtime for sports in public service media; and a personal example set by politicians, even the President himself, Members of Parliament and other government officials. If you will permit me, I would like at this point to call to mind an outstanding Hungarian, indeed the “greatest Hungarian”, Count István Széchenyi, a prominent thinker, politician and statesman of the nineteenth century. He once, very objectively, said the following, “Two things are required for us to remain healthy: a touch of philosophy and an erect, relaxed posture.” This substantive statement well expresses what I wanted to talk about, namely the fact that “an erect, relaxed posture”, meaning good physical condition, is also a fundamental trait of a thinking person. Our future depends on the state that tomorrow’s challenges find us in.

6.7 Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, before you can accuse me of excessive bias, let me shortly mention the other philosophy mentioned by Széchenyi, which is science, actually. It was he who funded and created the Hungarian Academy of Science. Budapest is currently preparing for the Fifth World Science Forum, to be held in November this year. We Hungarians consider it a huge success that we have been able to create this series of events dubbed the “Davos of Science” in collaboration with your magnificent Organization, UNESCO. This is an opportunity for dialogue, where it is not only the specific details of scientific disciplines that are discussed, but where the dependence on research of our lives can also be made evident. We can address science from the perspective of everyday life, from the standpoint of the most pressing global problems. I am very hopeful that the title of the meeting, “The Changing Landscape of Science: Challenges and Opportunities”, will allow us to gather a great deal of good experience. We look forward to a meeting where frequently mentioned and repeated expressions will gain in content, and we can come to agreements that will then yield tangible results.

6.8 Another important achievement of UNESCO is that it not only has important themes but also best practices. This year, the cultural diversity of the Franz Liszt Year was the best proof to me of how the same thought can be presented in so many wonderful ways, all of them best suited to individual national characters. I sincerely hope that our cooperation and efforts will bring success and results in all other areas.

6.9 Let me thank you, Madam Director-General, for your invitation and I am very much looking forward to sharing other experiences and other models of peace-building presented by my honourable fellow Presidents from different parts of the world. Thank you for honouring me with your attention.

## 7. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. We will now have the pleasure of hearing His Excellency Mr Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon. He is another keen sportsman, I understand. He is a passionate football fan, who also competed for Gabon in the discus during his youth. President Bongo Ondimba studied law at the Sorbonne, not too far from here. After obtaining a doctorate in public law, he entered the Presidential Cabinet and became High Personal Representative of the President of the Republic. He was later appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Mr Bongo Ondimba was then elected to the National Assembly, where he served as Deputy of Bongoville before being appointed Minister of Defence. He served in this post for ten years, following which he was elected President of the Republic of Gabon in August 2009. President Bongo Ondimba, it is a pleasure to welcome you. The floor is yours.

### 8.1 **M. Bongo Ondimba (Président du Gabon) :**

Messieurs les Chefs d’État, Monsieur le Premier Ministre, Madame la Directrice générale, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l’UNESCO et son Forum des dirigeants nous offrent l’opportunité de nous exprimer, pour la première fois, devant notre prestigieuse Organisation internationale dédiée à la culture et au savoir. Je suis particulièrement honoré de votre invitation, et je vous en remercie. Madame la Directrice générale, je tiens aussi à vous féliciter, d’une part, pour votre élection à la tête de l’Organisation et, d’autre part, pour le fait d’être la première femme à accéder à cette fonction. Au Gabon, en effet, nous avons toujours été sensibles à la place qu’occupe la femme dans la société. En guise d’hommage, je dois rappeler que ce sont deux femmes qui ont conduit, sans heurt, la délicate transition de mon pays suite au décès de mon prédécesseur, le Président Omar Bongo Ondimba. L’une de ces femmes, Présidente du Sénat, a assuré l’intérim de la Présidence de la République ; l’autre, Présidente de la Cour constitutionnelle, a conduit le processus électoral à son terme. Je voudrais aussi rendre un vibrant hommage à la mémoire du professeur Wangari Maathai, militante inlassable en faveur du développement durable et première femme africaine prix Nobel de la paix, en 2004, qui nous a quittés récemment.

8.2 Madame la Directrice générale, le thème retenu pour ce Forum, à savoir, « *Comment l’UNESCO contribue-t-elle à l’édification d’une culture de la paix et au développement durable ?* », nous interpelle à juste titre, car les problématiques identifiées constituent des axes majeurs de notre programme de société. Je réaffirme, devant cette Assemblée, l’attachement du Gabon aux valeurs cardinales qui ont porté, dès 1945, notre Organisation sur les fonts baptismaux, autour de l’idéal de solidarité, d’éducation et de culture au service de la paix. Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, en novembre 2003, à Libreville, le Gabon organisait, de concert avec l’UNESCO, une importante conférence internationale sur le thème « Le dialogue interculturel et la culture de la paix en Afrique centrale et dans la région des Grands Lacs ». Cette rencontre avait souligné la nécessité d’intégrer la diversité culturelle, le dialogue interculturel et l’éducation dans les stratégies de renforcement de la culture de la paix. C’est ici le lieu idéal pour rappeler que cette culture de la paix, que nous avons héritée de mon prédécesseur, le Président Omar Bongo Ondimba, a toujours guidé notre action. Il a toujours affirmé, à juste titre, que l’Afrique devait d’abord privilégier la paix pour faire face aux trop nombreux défis auxquels elle est confrontée. Ce contexte de paix dans lequel nous vivons aujourd’hui, les Gabonais ont l’obligation de le préserver.

8.3 Ce sont ces fondements de notre culture politique qui sous-tendent mon action, en particulier celle que je mène pour matérialiser mon ambition de faire du Gabon un pays émergent. Notre programme de société, qui s’articule autour

de trois piliers que sont un Gabon des services, un Gabon vert et un Gabon industriel, intègre indéniablement les nobles objectifs de l'UNESCO. C'est ainsi que nous plaçons un accent singulier sur, d'une part, le renforcement des capacités humaines à travers un système éducatif performant adapté aux besoins du pays et une offre de formation diverse et décentralisée, et, d'autre part, une gestion plus rationnelle de nos ressources naturelles capable de concilier la protection de l'environnement et le développement économique afin de rendre celui-ci durable. Toutefois, comme je l'ai déjà souligné, le programme de développement sur la base duquel j'ai été élu doit reposer sur les trois piliers que sont la paix, la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance.

8.4 Madame la Directrice générale, nous observons que le monde évolue au rythme de tendances et de dynamiques contradictoires. En effet, la mondialisation, malgré les opportunités qu'elle offre, transforme notre planète jour après jour. Cette mutation, vous en conviendrez, expose nos pays aux effets négatifs et pervers du développement qui se traduisent aujourd'hui par les trop nombreuses crises sociales, économiques et environnementales auxquelles nous assistons. Aussi, l'Afrique, qui vient de célébrer les cinquantièmes de ses indépendances, doit-elle encore faire face à de nombreux défis qui mettent la paix et son développement en péril. Il convient de rappeler qu'en 1992, la Déclaration de Rio établissait que l'élimination de la pauvreté était la condition d'un développement durable pour tous. En cette fin d'année 2011, force est de constater que nous sommes encore très loin de respecter cet engagement, et que les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement ne seront certainement pas atteints dans les délais prescrits. Dans ce contexte, nous pouvons légitimement nous interroger sur les stratégies à mettre en œuvre face à l'expression d'un réel désespoir des peuples, qui se traduit par les revendications sociales et politiques que l'on observe à travers le monde. Face à cette réalité, notre grand défi consiste à rénover la gouvernance globale. Cette gouvernance, refondée, doit nous permettre d'infléchir le cours de la mondialisation afin qu'elle prenne un visage plus humain, capable de réduire les fractures économiques, sociales, technologiques, culturelles et morales. Celles-ci, en effet, tendent à ancrer et à amplifier les divisions entre les nations, mais surtout, également, entre les peuples. À titre d'exemple, je citerai le fossé qui sépare la communauté internationale dans le cadre des négociations sur le changement climatique, bien que tout le monde s'accorde à reconnaître la très haute priorité qu'il faut accorder à cette question pour la sauvegarde de notre planète.

8.5 Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Gabon se sent, à plusieurs égards, particulièrement concerné par ces différents défis. Mais que peut, que doit faire notre Organisation dans le contexte que je viens de décrire ? Je voudrais, ici, souligner combien l'adhésion de nos États à l'UNESCO a été un moment symbolique et fort de nos indépendances. En effet, en nous admettant en son sein, cette organisation posait un acte déterminant dans sa quête de liberté et de paix dans le monde. C'est pourquoi, Madame la Directrice générale, je tiens à vous assurer de notre adhésion à la vision que vous avez définie pour votre mandat. Nous nous réjouissons de l'accent que vous placez sur la gouvernance globale, la culture de la paix, la justice et un développement économique et social durable, fondé sur le savoir, la science et l'innovation, dans un environnement préservé.

8.6 Le développement des pays les plus vulnérables, c'est-à-dire les plus touchés par les diverses crises, nous oblige à surmonter les difficultés actuelles du système multilatéral. Pour ce faire, l'Afrique doit pleinement retrouver sa place dans le concert des nations, afin qu'elle puisse se consacrer prioritairement à la formation et à l'éducation, qui restent et demeurent les plus grands défis à relever. C'est pourquoi nous pensons que l'UNESCO peut davantage contribuer au développement durable de l'Afrique. Dès lors, il s'agira, pour notre Organisation, de hiérarchiser et de mieux structurer l'action qu'elle mène en matière de formation, d'éducation, de science et de culture.

8.7 Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Gabon s'efforce, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de notre programme de société, en cours depuis deux ans, de contribuer à atteindre les objectifs de notre institution. C'est ainsi que dans le domaine de la culture, nous relançons le projet de Centre international des civilisations bantou (CICIBA), au sujet duquel j'appelle à une large mobilisation scientifique et culturelle pour que tous apportent leur appui et participent à cette initiative d'intérêt continental et international. Nous souhaitons ardemment, à travers ce projet, valoriser et mieux protéger nos traditions et nos cultures. Il ne peut y avoir, en effet, de culture de la paix sans compréhension mutuelle fondée sur la connaissance et la reconnaissance de nos cultures et de celles des autres. Dans le même ordre d'idées, nous réfléchissons aux voies et moyens de protéger le patrimoine culturel et linguistique des Pygmées.

8.8 Dans le domaine de la formation et de l'éducation, vecteurs de paix et principaux piliers de la lutte contre les vulnérabilités des populations, plusieurs initiatives ont été menées. À titre d'illustration, j'ai décidé, à l'occasion de la commémoration du centenaire de l'arrivée du docteur Albert Schweitzer au Gabon, de mobiliser les énergies et les compétences internationales pour redonner un souffle nouveau et vigoureux à la Fondation qu'il nous a laissée en héritage. C'est ainsi qu'une structure hospitalo-universitaire verra le jour à Lambaréné, où il a exercé et s'est éteint, pour former nos médecins et soigner nos populations. Les travaux du Forum de la jeunesse, qui s'est récemment tenu au Gabon, ont permis de mieux appréhender les attentes de nos jeunes et de mieux connaître les voies et moyens de les rendre autonomes. En effet, seule une jeunesse responsable et bien formée assurera l'avenir de nos pays dans un climat de paix indispensable au développement. Pour rassembler des hommes et des femmes afin d'œuvrer au développement d'un pays, il ne faut exclure personne. C'est ainsi que le Gabon a fait inscrire à l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies la résolution faisant du 23 juin de chaque année la Journée de la veuve et de l'orphelin, dont le niveau de précarité exige, de notre part, attention et protection.

8.9 Enfin, dans le domaine de la gestion durable des ressources, le Gabon s'est lancé dans un programme de lutte contre le changement climatique, dont la stratégie sera présentée à la Conférence de Durban en décembre prochain. Pour appuyer cet important programme, il s'ouvrira, en 2012, un Complexe d'observation spatiale qui offrira à plus d'une vingtaine de pays voisins du Gabon un outil moderne d'acquisition d'images satellites qui permettra de mettre en place et de suivre les politiques d'aménagement du territoire et d'exploitation des ressources naturelles. Né d'une coopération

entre pays développés, pays émergents et pays en voie de développement, ce projet reste un exemple de solidarité des nations et des peuples, seule à même de répondre efficacement aux grands défis qui mettent en péril l'avenir de notre planète.

8.10 Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'entends faire en sorte que le Gabon continue de tenir activement son rôle au sein de notre Organisation afin que notre coopération soit mutuellement bénéfique et fructueuse. L'UNESCO demeure, pour notre pays, un partenaire privilégié de l'action qu'il mène pour son développement. Ce développement, cependant, ne peut se réaliser que dans un contexte de paix et de partage. C'est le sens que je donne à la stratégie de développement d'un Gabon émergent qui apporte sa contribution à la préservation de notre environnement, tant est fort, dans l'esprit de toute Gabonaise et de tout Gabonais, le lien indissoluble entre nature et culture. Je vous remercie.

## 9. **The President:**

Your Excellency, thank you very much. And now, ladies and gentlemen, let me now introduce His Excellency Mr Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte d'Ivoire (*Applause*). Like his country, Mr Ouattara has a rich history. He is descendant of the rulers of the great Kong Empire. Lasting from 1710 until 1895, it embraced a diversity of religious groups over a vast area of West Africa, encompassing what is now Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. President Ouattara is an economist by profession. He studied natural sciences before obtaining his master's degree and doctorate in economics from the University of Pennsylvania. Mr Ouattara worked for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington DC, and then climbed the echelons of the Central Bank of West African States, where he was finally appointed as Governor. The late President of Côte d'Ivoire took note of the rising star and appointed him Prime Minister in 1990. He served in this post more than three years, while also carrying out presidential duties for the ailing President. President Ouattara then returned to the IMF, where he was Deputy Managing Director for five years, before returning to his country to take part in politics again. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

### 10.1 **M. Ouattara** (Président de la Côte d'Ivoire) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. J'étais un peu pressé, mais c'est parce que je souhaitais ardemment vous saluer et vous féliciter. Nous sommes tellement heureux et fiers que ce soit une grande dame qui préside cette Conférence générale auprès de la Directrice générale, notre grande amie. Merci beaucoup. Monsieur Schmitt, Président de la République de Hongrie, Monsieur Bongo Ondimba, Président de la République du Gabon, mon cher frère et ami, Monsieur Koupaki, Premier Ministre représentant le Président de la République du Bénin, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs d'État et de gouvernement, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs et délégués permanents, honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, comme je le disais, Madame la Présidente, c'est avec un réel plaisir que je me retrouve dans l'enceinte de cette prestigieuse institution qu'est l'UNESCO, pour la seconde fois en moins de deux mois aux côtés de la Directrice générale. En effet, après le 14 septembre dernier, date à laquelle l'UNESCO nous a accueillis pour la cérémonie de remise du Prix Félix Houphouët-Boigny pour la recherche de la paix, je suis heureux d'être une nouvelle fois ici, dans le cadre de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, pour traiter du thème « Comment l'UNESCO contribue-t-elle à l'édification d'une culture de la paix et au développement durable ? »

10.2 Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom propre, vous adresser mes sincères remerciements pour l'accueil toujours chaleureux et cordial qui nous est réservé chaque fois que nous venons ici, dans ce haut lieu du savoir et de la culture, ainsi que pour toutes les dispositions qui ont été prises pour rendre notre séjour des plus agréables. Avant de continuer, je voudrais, Madame Bogoy, vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection à la Présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. La Côte d'Ivoire se réjouit de voir une femme accéder à ce poste prestigieux. Et, comme nous le disions le mois dernier à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, dont la 66<sup>e</sup> session était également présidée par une femme, cela montre à quel point l'évolution du monde fait place aux femmes, ce dont nous sommes très fiers.

10.3 Votre élection témoigne de la reconnaissance de votre contribution au rayonnement de notre Organisation et à la promotion de ses idéaux. Nos vœux vous accompagnent et nous sommes persuadés que vous vous acquitterez avec brio de cette délicate mission. Je voudrais à présent dire à votre prédécesseur, Monsieur Hepbum, que sa présidence nous laissera le souvenir d'un éminent intellectuel, d'un brillant philosophe et d'un grand ambassadeur de toutes les cultures. Monsieur le Président, nous vous exprimons toute notre gratitude pour la contribution que vous avez apportée à l'essor de notre Organisation et pour les résultats encourageants enregistrés sous votre mandat. Je voudrais également saluer la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame Mitrofanova, ainsi que les éminents membres de cet organe essentiel de notre Organisation, et les féliciter pour l'immense travail qu'ils ont accompli depuis la 35<sup>e</sup> session. Je voudrais, enfin, féliciter très sincèrement la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Madame Bokova, pour la marche dynamique qu'elle a imprimée à l'UNESCO, l'orientant vers un nouvel humanisme.

10.4 Excellences, Messieurs les Chefs d'État et de gouvernement, Mesdames et Messieurs, honorables invités, la mission de l'UNESCO, qui vise à promouvoir la défense de la paix dans l'esprit et le cœur des hommes et des femmes, demeure d'actualité, d'autant que les défis à relever sont de plus en plus nombreux. En effet, malgré les efforts d'organisations humanistes telles que l'UNESCO, malgré le progrès des sciences et des technologies, le monde n'arrête pas de connaître des crises : crises alimentaires, financières et économiques, crises sociales et, dirais-je même, crises morales. On est en droit de se demander comment nous devons repenser la marche du monde et agir ensemble pour conduire les hommes et les femmes vers un mieux-être et donner au monde un visage plus humain. La paix et le développement durable sont les moyens les plus indiqués pour y parvenir. C'est pourquoi je voudrais féliciter l'UNESCO, qui nous donne aujourd'hui l'occasion de nous rencontrer pour partager nos expériences et nos espérances afin de nous enrichir et de nous appuyer dans notre quête commune d'une paix durable. Pour ma part, je suis convaincu que la culture de la paix et le développement durable sont intrinsèquement liés. En effet, si le développement durable nous

impose d'œuvrer à répondre aux besoins des générations présentes sans compromettre la capacité des générations futures à répondre aux leurs, c'est dans la paix et par la culture de la paix que cela pourra se faire. Sans paix, aucun développement durable n'est possible.

10.5 C'est pourquoi je voudrais insister sur la paix, ainsi que sur les conditions nécessaires à la paix, notamment à partir de l'expérience que vient de connaître mon pays, la Côte d'Ivoire. Pour cerner le concept de culture de la paix, je voudrais me référer à la définition de la paix donnée par feu le Président Houphouët-Boigny, notre premier Président, lors du huitième Sommet de l'OUA à Addis-Abeba, le 2 juin 1971. Cette définition, 40 ans après, conserve à mon sens toute son actualité. Le Président Houphouët-Boigny disait : « *La paix à l'intérieur des États africains ne doit reposer que sur la justice, la tolérance, le dialogue permanent, le respect de la personne humaine et de sa dignité, le respect des libertés, l'égalité entre les hommes* ». Voyez comme notre premier Président était visionnaire.

10.6 Mesdames et Messieurs, le difficile apprentissage de la démocratie a conduit la Côte d'Ivoire à une situation paradoxale. Elle a connu la guerre, alors qu'elle est la terre de naissance du concept de culture de la paix. Comme vous le savez, nous avons, auprès de l'UNESCO, un prix Félix Houphouët-Boigny lié à la recherche de la paix. La rupture qui s'est opérée dans mon pays permet de comprendre que la paix est fragile et délicate, ce qui explique qu'elle peut disparaître à tout moment. Longtemps, les Ivoiriens, dans leur immense majorité, ont pensé que la paix était établie pour de bon en Côte d'Ivoire. Nous avons appris à connaître la valeur de la paix à partir de l'expérience douloureuse que nous venons de vivre. La paix, à notre sens, est sacrée, et le Président Houphouët-Boigny disait : « *Le vrai bonheur, on ne l'apprécie que quand on l'a perdu* ». Il faut donc honorer la paix. Malheureusement, suite à une tentative de démocratisation mal conduite, la paix dans notre pays a été dangereusement contrariée. Elle continue de l'être dans bien des contrées, où des vies humaines sont détruites, des biens saccagés, et des femmes et filles violentées. La guerre et son cortège d'horreurs se manifestent, hélas, plus souvent que la paix, le respect des droits de l'homme et les bienfaits de la démocratie. Cependant, j'ai la conviction qu'il y a toujours des raisons profondes d'espérer, comme celle qui nous réunit ici, aujourd'hui, dans cette maison de la paix qu'est l'UNESCO.

10.7 Messieurs les Chefs d'État et de gouvernement, honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs et délégués permanents, la Côte d'Ivoire a aujourd'hui renoué avec la paix et la stabilité. Notre pays a décidé de tout mettre en œuvre pour éviter de replonger dans le chaos et les événements du passé que nous avons tant déplorés. Je voudrais, à ce stade de mon propos, renouveler la gratitude du peuple ivoirien à toute la communauté internationale, notamment à l'ONU et, plus particulièrement, à l'UNESCO, qui nous apporte, à travers un Programme global spécial post-conflit, un appui dans ses divers domaines de compétence, en vertu de la résolution 34 C/60 et des décisions 179 EX/38 et 180 EX/43 ; mon pays voudrait voir ce programme actualisé et renforcé. Nous y tenons fortement au regard de l'impact que la crise a sur le tissu social, le système éducatif et la situation des jeunes, surtout celle des réfugiés et des déplacés. Tous ces domaines relèvent, bien entendu, de la compétence de l'UNESCO. La construction d'une paix véritable nécessite une action pluridimensionnelle : matérielle, économique, financière, environnementale, mais également éthique. Pour parvenir à bâtir durablement la paix dans notre pays, il faut avant tout mettre en pratique les préceptes suivants, déjà évoqués : d'abord, respecter la vie en rejetant la violence sous tous ses aspects, respecter les droits de l'homme, et recourir au dialogue pour régler pacifiquement les conflits. L'application de ces préceptes qui, à mes yeux, constituent les enjeux de la culture de la paix, passe par plusieurs stratégies que nous avons décidé de mettre en œuvre pour, d'une part, sortir définitivement de la crise et, d'autre part, bâtir, à l'horizon 2020, un pays émergent avec une société inclusive, prospère, juste et ouverte à la modernité.

10.8 Parmi ces stratégies, il y a tout d'abord la construction de la démocratie. Pour bien des pays et pour l'UNESCO, cette entreprise n'est pas nouvelle. Elle l'est, en revanche, pour les peuples qui sortent d'un grand traumatisme comme celui que nous avons vécu. Il s'agit d'une rude tâche, qui exige un engagement sur tous les fronts, dont les plus difficiles se situent bien souvent au niveau des mentalités. Pour la construction de la démocratie, il nous faut édifier un véritable État de droit, où aucun citoyen ne se fait justice, et où les rapports sont régis par des règles de droit que chacun s'engage à respecter scrupuleusement. Pour ma part, j'ai pris cet engagement, et je veux promouvoir un État de justice et d'équité. La voie de la construction de la démocratie est certes difficile, mais nous n'y renoncerons pas. C'est, selon nous, la seule voie qui vaille durablement dans ce monde moderne.

10.9 Dans le cadre de ce processus de démocratisation, le Gouvernement ivoirien met tout en œuvre pour organiser des élections législatives le 11 décembre prochain. Ces élections, tout comme les élections présidentielles, seront conformes aux accords conclus entre les parties ivoiriennes, notamment à l'Accord politique de Ouagadougou. Par ailleurs, en mettant en place la Commission Dialogue, vérité et réconciliation, mon pays a conscience que la cohésion sociale est une priorité. Cette commission permettra de prendre en compte la dimension éthique de la restauration de la cohésion sociale. Le devoir de pardon doit conduire les uns et les autres au pardon, sans exclure la repentance, ni la justice. Nous estimons que cette réconciliation doit se faire dans la justice, qui doit sanctionner pleinement les crimes de guerre et les crimes contre l'humanité. Dans ce contexte, bien entendu, la justice internationale doit également jouer son rôle. On peut bien évidemment, à la recherche du pardon et de la justice, explorer les voies traditionnelles, ainsi que des modes de résolution des conflits et de consolidation de la cohésion inhérents à notre propre culture. Je pense, par exemple, à ce que nous appelons chez nous les « alliances » qui existent entre les différents groupes ethniques. En Côte d'Ivoire et, peut-être, ailleurs en Afrique, nos chercheurs œuvrent dans cette perspective. Il faut les y encourager et espérer que les résultats seront exploitables dans le contexte de la modernité. Le Programme Gestion des transformations sociales (MOST) de l'UNESCO peut nous aider à aller plus loin dans cette voie.

10.10 Messieurs les Chefs d'État et de gouvernement, Mesdames et Messieurs, de toutes les voies de recherche de la paix, celles qui induisent des valeurs et des comportements proprement humains forment, à nos yeux, le socle sur lequel tout doit reposer. Je demeure convaincu que la paix est aussi une exigence éthique inscrite dans le cœur des Ivoiriens, comme dans celui de toute personne. Pour conclure, je voudrais souligner que la culture de la paix s'impose

comme une exigence éthique et pédagogique ou, plus encore, comme une nécessité de conversion à cette paix. L'école, dans ce processus, a un rôle capital d'éducation et de formation à jouer, comme l'a indiqué tout à l'heure le Président Bongo Ondimba. De plus, les traités, les accords, les séminaires, les conférences et l'amélioration des conditions matérielles et physiques des peuples peuvent contribuer de manière significative à cette évolution. C'est pour cela qu'il importe de continuer à soutenir et à aider les pays en développement, notamment les plus pauvres, et je salue l'action que l'UNESCO mène à cet égard. Seules, cependant, ces conditions ne suffisent pas, car il faut également être efficace. Il faut que ces pays, qui ont connu des crises, aient la volonté de se prendre en main, de se prendre en charge. L'efficacité des instruments dépend des agents du changement que nous devons tous être, en œuvrant à sa réalisation, en tant qu'artisans de la paix. Nous devons croire en la paix. Nous devons la rechercher à tout prix. Si j'ai insisté sur la paix et non sur le développement durable, c'est parce que nous pensons que la paix conduit à ce développement, dont je sais que mes prédécesseurs ont longuement parlé. Madame la Directrice générale, je salue votre action et votre courage, et voudrais vous dire que vous avez tout notre soutien, car nous voyons tout ce que vous faites pour que la paix s'enracine durablement dans tous ces pays qui ont connu des crises. Nous vous en sommes reconnaissants. Tous les peuples du monde, à mon sens, sont capables de paix. Il faut y croire, s'engager et travailler à cela. Je vous remercie.

**11. The President:**

Your Excellency, thank you very much. And, ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, before giving the floor to our next speaker, I would like to inform you that the President of Hungary has to leave now, for a bilateral meeting with the President of the French National Assembly.

*The meeting is suspended briefly while the President and the Director-General take leave of the President of Hungary.*

**12. The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, delegates, now we are going to have the pleasure of hearing an address by His Excellency Mr Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of Grenada. Mr Thomas was born into humble beginnings. He was able to rise to the highest post in his country thanks to the values transmitted by his parents and the education he received, from his modest local Catholic school to New York's prestigious Fordham University, where he earned a degree in economics. He later studied law and became an attorney. Upon his return to Grenada, Mr Thomas began his political career and became involved in a human rights programme, providing legal support services to needy citizens. He campaigned for openness and transparency, for which he paid a heavy price. Mr Thomas was imprisoned for two years for his role in publishing the Grenadian Voice Newspaper, which was seen by the government at the time as "counter-revolutionary". When democracy was restored to Grenada, Mr Thomas was elected to the House of Representatives and served for six years as Junior Minister in the Ministry of Legal Affairs. He then entered the opposition, where he spent 13 years before winning the general election on 8 July 2008 and being sworn in as Prime Minister the following day. Ladies and gentlemen, it's an honour to welcome the Prime Minister of Grenada.

**13.1 Mr Thomas (Prime Minister of Grenada):**

Thank you, Madam President. Your Excellency President of the Republic of Gabon, Your Excellency President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Your Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Benin, Director-General of UNESCO, other officials of UNESCO, Ambassadors, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, allow me, Madam President, to offer my heartfelt congratulations to you upon your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference and wish you every success during your presidency. I am confident that you will guide this session to a great, successful outcome. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr Davidson Hepburn, President of the 35th session of the General Conference, the first President from our Caribbean Community (CARICOM), for having carried out his duties at this level with dignity and with a consensual spirit. His election to the position confirmed the determination of Member States to change the *status quo*, by choosing someone from a small island developing State of CARICOM to assume this important responsibility in UNESCO; and indeed someone from the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC).

13.2 Today we are gathered here to consider how UNESCO's action could create, develop and promote the pathways to lasting peace and sustainable development. Established to construct "the defences of peace in the minds of men", and women, through international cooperation in education, sciences, culture, communication and information, the ideals of UNESCO remain most relevant for strengthening Member States' solidarity and contributing to peace and security through the promotion of a culture of peace, and for sustainable development.

13.3 Madam President, achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 has been recognized as one of the best ways to lay the foundations for sustainable development. Unfortunately, the global economic crisis has accentuated the many challenges and obstacles to the attainment of these goals. Moreover, this has had dire consequences for developing countries, and in particular for the economy of Grenada and of many small island developing States. Thus our march towards the achievement of our desired goals has been considerably slowed. Sustainable development requires an ethical framework for a sustainable world, involving the simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, environmental quality and socio-political sustainability. Building a culture of peace is a prerequisite for reaching socio-economic equity and sustainable development.

13.4 Madam President, how then can we build a culture of peace? What strategies and initiatives can be developed to foster a culture of peace and non-violence as well as sustainable models of development? It is an accepted view that education is not only a human right, but also a prerequisite for sustainable development, and an essential tool for good governance, informed decisions and the promotion of democracy. As such, it is essential to integrate, at all levels of the education system, the values of a culture of peace, the principles of equality, freedom, justice and democracy, respect for all human rights, tolerance, reconciliation, solidarity and promotion of intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Similarly, developing education for sustainable development also requires a special focus on climate change and

disaster risk reduction and prevention. This leads to a greater awareness, and to new ways of thinking, new social and ethical attitudes, and innovative responses, to our most pressing contemporary challenges. In this context, may I propose that UNESCO should deepen the partnership with Member States in their efforts to transform education systems at all levels. This is necessary for accelerating progress towards education for all, lifelong learning, attaining quality education and developing skills for the world of work through curriculum reform; carrying out policy reviews and the further development of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), including green jobs, and higher education, to meet the demands of the twenty-first century.

13.5 Madam President, Madam Director-General, in this era of globalization, the world cannot genuinely prosper with inequalities between regions, and priority should continue to be given to Africa for building a strategy for African prosperity. Special attention should also be given to the needs of priority groups of countries such as the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). This is absolutely necessary to allow them to address the unique conditions that render them disadvantaged.

13.6 Likewise, a global society cannot maximize its true potential with inequality among its members. Hence, attention must be paid to gender equality, as a fundamental pillar of peace. Girls and women currently make up some 70% of the world's one billion poorest people, and the majority of the 793 million illiterate adults. As stated by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, in her message on the occasion of International Literacy Day, "Literacy is a prerequisite for peace because it carries multiple benefits, cutting across the human, cultural, social, political and economic spheres. In today's knowledge-driven societies, lack of literacy is more than ever synonymous with exclusion and marginalization". Given that one of UNESCO's global strategies is gender equality, the Organization should intensify its action in promoting education of girls and women at all levels of the education system. This would be timely following the recent awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize jointly to three women, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman, for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work. Advocating for gender equality also requires that specific attention be given to the needs and contributions of young men in our Caribbean societies where a disproportionate number of males are confronted by underachievement, poverty, violence and exclusion. We expect UNESCO to develop strategies to address the emerging social and ethical challenges of the twenty-first century, by supporting Member States in the development of social science knowledge, and elaborating forward-looking and inclusive approaches and policies, to respond to social transformations and promote social inclusion.

13.7 Madam President, our young people also want their voices to be heard and to be responsible actors in their various societies. That being so, it would be critical to empower them, to allow them to initiate social change and to be active participants in determining their own future. Today, they are interconnected and are constantly communicating and playing key roles in bringing change to their societies via the social media. It is therefore important for the potential of the free, independent and pluralistic media, and especially the new social media, to be harnessed. This is consistent with Agenda 21, which clearly identifies information, integration and participation as key building blocks to help countries achieve development. The media, in all forms, can serve as a bridge between cultures and societies. Consequently, I suggest that UNESCO should intensify its action in favour of building knowledge societies. UNESCO's mandate to contribute to bridging the digital divide by fostering information and communication capacity for universal access, freedom of expression and freedom of the press, notably through the International Programme for the Development of Communications and the Information for All Programme, should be actively pursued.

13.8 Madam President, Madam Director-General, the global environmental and ecological crisis, manifested in climate change, biodiversity loss, oceanic over-exploitation and degradation, desertification, freshwater shortages and sea-level rises, highlights the need for new approaches to the management of our resources. Our approach should involve cross-sectoral coordination and integration of environmental and social concerns into all development processes, as well as broad public participation in decision-making to generate responsible behaviours. In this regard, the participation of UNESCO in the preparation of the Rio + 20 Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, is of the utmost importance. The Organization's contribution in its main fields of competence, namely governance, education for sustainable development and ethical aspects of sciences, should be reinforced. This will be a major opportunity to rethink policies and approaches, taking into consideration the needs of all stakeholders, in particular the most vulnerable societies in Africa and island economies. It is expected that embracing the concept of inclusive blue/green societies will be considered in a realistic way. Madam President, the role of the oceans is of strategic importance in this environmental crisis. An integrated, responsible management of the oceans and an improved global ocean governance framework are also prerequisites for the sustainable use of these resources. The implementation of early warning systems for tsunamis and other marine hazards is necessary to prevent disasters such as the ones witnessed recently in Japan and other countries. UNESCO should seek to mobilize the necessary funds for the installation, in all regions, of early warning systems, in particular in the Caribbean, where only 20% of the extrabudgetary funds needed have presently been secured for this project. In this respect, I am happy that Grenada was able to host the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) workshop on "Strengthening Sea-level Observation Network and Coordination Activities in the Caribbean" in January this year. For small island countries such as we have in the Caribbean, this could mean the difference between survival and total destruction of our populations. In all its deliberations, GRULAC must reflect all perspectives, or perhaps due consideration should be given to sub-grouping which would facilitate such a process.

13.9 Madam President, culture can be a mainspring for the sustainable development of people, communities and nations. Developing a solid cultural policy and advocating a cultural dimension in all public policies are critical. As a result, we applaud the signal importance of UNESCO's action for the protection and promotion of heritage and cultural expressions. In particular, the Organization's mandate through its normative action, and the implementation of its main conventions, namely the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention for the

Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage must all be translated into meaningful tangible actions. As these conventions are becoming more and more widely recognized and effective, it is time now for UNESCO to work towards regional and subregional equity. The Organization should now focus on more capacity-building and innovative actions, to assist these countries and regions in maximizing the potential benefits from these instruments.

13.10 Madam President, science, too, can play a role in building a culture of peace by proposing innovative solutions to challenges encountered. Providing science-based knowledge, building science capacities for research, training and the popularization of science in development-oriented areas, as well as sharing the transfer of scientific information, are a collective and ethical responsibility, bearing in mind the borderless nature of the global environmental crises. It is important that UNESCO redouble its efforts in this area, assisting in providing solutions to the new challenges which affect the lives and livelihoods of so many people worldwide. The increased number of natural disasters resulting from climate change, which have an impact on all regions of the world, represents a great threat to global prosperity and security. The special needs of small islands, some of them in danger of extinction, and those of vulnerable groups, in particular those living in coastal zones, should be taken into consideration. A holistic approach, taking into account the scientific, educational, cultural and ethical dimensions, should be translated into concrete initiatives by all stakeholders. The ethical dimension of science and technology must be highlighted, and Grenada attaches great importance to the development of policies in the ethics of science and technology, and in particular to UNESCO's continued work concerning ethical principles in relation to climate change. The Organization should further mobilize science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, and natural disaster risk reduction and mitigation.

13.11 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, small island developing States are confronted by environmental degradation, and UNESCO's contribution to the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of SIDS should be developed through innovative, strategic and targeted contributions adapted to their specific needs in an intersectoral approach involving the active engagement of all Major Programmes – education, science, culture and communication and information. Consistent with UNESCO's Constitution, which clearly states that peace must be established on the basis of the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind", Member States should recognize that more solidarity and international cooperation is needed, to allow UNESCO to carry out its mission. To achieve solidarity in a transforming world, UNESCO also needs to be more efficient, more focused and able to reshape itself, adapting to an era in which multilateral cooperation is faced with increased demands and increased austerity. The results and recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation of UNESCO, and the recommendations of the ad hoc working group established by the Executive Board, present an opportunity for UNESCO to adapt to the realities of the twenty-first century, and to play its role as an agent of change within the United Nations. In this regard, we welcome the proposal to extend the Programme and Budget of UNESCO from two to four years and its Medium-Term Strategy from four to eight years. This will allow UNESCO to align its planning cycles with the United Nations' Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

13.12 Madam President, the defences of peace are constructed in the minds of men and women. They are also constructed in the precincts of international organizations. By recommending that the General Conference admit Palestine's membership to UNESCO, the Executive Board has taken a courageous decision consistent with its mandate. Its admission as a Member of the Organization will allow Palestine and Israel to work together, by a commitment to sustained security and democracy, and to building a culture of peace and sustainable development through the power of UNESCO's mandate.

13.13 What we now need is a new global commitment from all Member States to tackle the challenges we face, and to make the most of the transformative power of education, science, culture, and communication and information. Together we can make that difference. I wish to highly commend UNESCO for its outstanding achievements over the years and indeed the further growth it has been experiencing under the leadership of its first woman Director-General. You can count on our continued support.

#### 14. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would now like to give the floor to His Excellency Mr Pascal Irénée Koupaki, Prime Minister of Benin. Mr Koupaki earned his master's degree in economic sciences at the National University of Benin. He then pursued his studies at the Sorbonne, where he gained his post-doctoral degree. Later on, he followed in the footsteps of President Ouattara and joined the Central Bank of West African States, where he held various positions from 1979 to 1990. He then continued as Counsellor of the Deputy Director-General. He returned to Benin in 1996, after being appointed Minister of Development, Economy and Finance. In 2007, he was appointed Minister of State in charge of Foresight, Development, Evaluation of Public Policies and Coordination of Government Action. Mr Koupaki assumed his duties as Prime Minister in May this year. Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to welcome the Prime Minister. The floor is yours, Sir.

#### 15.1 **M. Koupaki** (Premier Ministre du Bénin) :

Merci beaucoup. Monsieur le Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, très cher aîné, je voudrais vous dire que vous avez été, pour moi, une grande source d'inspiration par votre dimension professionnelle, les valeurs que vous prônez et, surtout, votre courage politique. Merci d'avoir fait revenir la paix dans la sous-région ouest-africaine.

15.2 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, je tiens à noter que vous formez un bien merveilleux trio qui ne peut connaître que le succès.

15.3 Monsieur le Premier Ministre, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Président de la République du Bénin, empêché, m'a demandé de porter la



voix de notre pays au Forum des dirigeants de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, consacré au thème « Comment l'UNESCO contribue-t-elle à l'édification d'une culture de la paix et au développement durable ? »

15.4 L'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture précise notamment, et à juste titre, que la guerre prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix. Je voudrais rappeler qu'à travers la Déclaration et le Programme d'action sur la culture de la paix, adoptés à la 53<sup>e</sup> session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, à l'aube du millénaire, la communauté internationale reconnaît que la paix est un processus dynamique, participatif, qui favorise le règlement des conflits et le dialogue dans un esprit de compréhension mutuelle et de coopération. Elle reconnaît également l'impérieuse nécessité d'éliminer toutes les formes de discrimination et d'intolérance. La Déclaration affirme également, sans ambages, que l'éducation à tous les niveaux est l'un des principaux moyens d'édifier une culture de la paix. Elle stipule que l'UNESCO doit continuer à jouer un rôle important dans la promotion d'une culture de la paix et à apporter des contributions majeures à cette entreprise.

15.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO a, par son action, favorisé une culture de la paix en diffusant les bonnes pratiques et en aidant les États membres à relever le défi majeur que représente la promotion d'une éducation inclusive de qualité, qui défende les valeurs universelles que sont, notamment, les droits de l'homme, la paix, la tolérance et l'éducation pour tous au service du développement durable. Plus spécifiquement, elle a mis au point des outils d'enseignement et d'apprentissage, des manuels et des directives sur des sujets tels que le « vivre ensemble », les droits de l'homme et les droits de l'enfant, la paix et la démocratie, l'égalité entre les sexes et la prévention de la violence dans les écoles. Ce sont là des contributions concrètes qui permettent d'apprécier la valeur ajoutée que l'UNESCO apporte à l'action des États membres, qui, il faut le souligner, ont la responsabilité primordiale d'édifier un système éducatif répondant aux normes internationales. À cet égard, le Bénin salue l'action efficace qu'ont menée les différents directeurs généraux qui se sont succédé à la tête de l'Organisation et, plus particulièrement, Irina Bokova, élue Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour sa volonté de continuer à assurer la promotion d'une culture de la paix et du développement durable.

15.6 L'analyse de l'actualité économique et sociale montre que le monde reste troublé par des guerres et des conflits divers, ainsi que par des contestations sociales qui n'épargnent aucun continent. Ces contestations ont mis en évidence la nécessité de promouvoir un développement intégral de l'homme, quel qu'il soit, d'assurer un développement intégré des peuples, et de transformer le monde en un espace commun de croissance et de développement. Le développement est en effet l'autre nom de la paix. Bien plus, la paix et le développement, mots jumeaux, sont indissociables de la démocratie, qui est l'instrument majeur de leur réalisation. Il paraît donc important que l'UNESCO poursuive ses efforts pour, dans le monde, accompagner vers la démocratie les pays en transition. Pour éloigner le spectre de conflits sociaux ou générationnels et nous engager de façon irréversible dans un environnement de paix, il convient d'accorder une attention particulière à l'emploi des jeunes, qui représentent près de 60 % de la population africaine. C'est pourquoi l'UNESCO doit s'efforcer de mettre en œuvre les conclusions de la Réunion de haut niveau des Nations Unies sur la jeunesse tenue à New York les 25 et 26 juillet 2011, et contribuer à l'élaboration d'une stratégie mondiale de promotion de l'emploi des jeunes et d'élimination du sous-emploi. Il importe de faire des jeunes les principaux acteurs de la paix dans nos sociétés si l'on veut qu'ils cessent d'être une proie facile pour les ennemis de la démocratie et du développement durable inclusif.

15.7 Il nous faut, pour réduire la fracture sociale, inventer de nouvelles approches, aussi bien au niveau mondial qu'à celui de nos pays. Il nous faut développer une économie mondiale, sociale et solidaire qui valorise le capital humain et assure l'équilibre et la complémentarité entre l'homme et la nature. L'humanité, en effet, ne gagnera pas le pari de la paix, pour chacun et pour tous, si elle ne rompt pas avec la logique du profit maximal et immédiat, aveugle et sourd à toute forme de solidarité et de préservation des intérêts des générations futures. À ce titre, l'UNESCO est appelée, davantage encore que par le passé, à jouer un rôle déterminant dans le développement de la planète. Laboratoire d'idées, elle doit pleinement jouer son rôle d'éveilleur de conscience, inventer de nouvelles règles et créer des espaces d'échanges plus humains et porteurs d'espérance pour sauver les générations futures du fléau des guerres et favoriser ainsi l'émergence de meilleures conditions de vie.

15.8 Mesdames et Messieurs, le Bénin considère donc que l'UNESCO doit prendre une part active aux efforts que la communauté internationale déploie pour aider à éliminer la pauvreté et à réaliser les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. L'appui accordé aux pays les moins avancés pour les aider à atteindre leurs objectifs de développement durable doit être renforcé à la faveur de la mise en œuvre du Programme d'action adopté à la 4<sup>e</sup> Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés, tenue à Istanbul en mai 2011. Il est dans l'intérêt de tous les peuples que l'UNESCO soit constamment renforcée et continue d'être un lieu de dialogue entre les cultures et les civilisations en vue de l'émergence d'une humanité qui vive en parfaite harmonie avec la nature et coopère pour la paix et le bien-être commun. En ce qui concerne plus précisément le développement durable, le Bénin suggère de réactiver, au sein de l'UNESCO, la base de connaissances et de politiques en faveur des énergies renouvelables, en particulier de l'énergie solaire.

15.9 Par ailleurs, dans le domaine de la culture, il faudrait que l'UNESCO encourage la démarche qui fait de la langue maternelle une composante essentielle de l'éducation pour tous, bien que la mondialisation et le dialogue interculturel exigent d'acquérir, par la recherche et l'expérimentation, une éducation multilingue, autre porte d'accès aux technologies, à la science et à la culture. Mesdames et Messieurs, Messieurs les Chefs d'État et de gouvernement, je voudrais conclure en notant qu'en renforçant la solidarité entre nos pays et entre les générations, nous pouvons, en approfondissant la démocratie et en mettant en œuvre des politiques publiques qui favorisent l'accélération du développement, le partage de la prospérité et, partant, la recherche de la paix entre les nations et les peuples,

consolider la paix dans le monde et relever ensemble les défis que nous imposent les bouleversements mondiaux actuels. Je vous remercie.

**16.1 The President:**

Thank you very much. And I would like to now welcome the President of Palau, His Excellency Mr Johnson Toribiong, who has just arrived, and who is going to give his keynote speech tomorrow morning. Thank you, Mr President, for your presence.

16.2 And now, ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, dear friends, it gives me great pleasure to invite to the floor Her Excellency Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, the First Lady of Azerbaijan (*Applause*). Ms Aliyeva heads the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which works hand in hand with UNESCO to safeguard and promote the intangible cultural heritage. She has shown deep dedication to the goals that guide UNESCO. She is the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions. It is a great pleasure to welcome you, Madam, and the floor is yours.

**17.1 Ms Aliyeva (First Lady of Azerbaijan):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, dear guests and participants, first of all I would like to thank Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, for her kind invitation to take part in this important and high-level event.

17.2 The topic of today's Forum can hardly leave anyone indifferent because indeed the future of humanity is impossible without building a culture of peace and ensuring sustainable development. Today we live in a very complex world. On the one hand, it is characterized by the introduction of new technologies and rapid development of modern science. If natural resources once used to be the only source of wealth, now human beings themselves become its new source as the initiators of new ideas and technologies. But unlike natural resources, the human mind has no limits. The term "human capital" is no longer a metaphor. Intellect and wealth can go hand in hand.

17.3 On the other hand, the world is experiencing a deep financial crisis, which is seen by many as a symptom of a more serious systemic crisis. Ongoing globalization is making us all the residents of a global village, but unfortunately at the same time we are divided as never before. The economic world is constantly demonstrating how far it is from the ideals of social justice and global ethics.

17.4 Regrettably, intolerance, xenophobia and hatred are deepening this division. Tens of millions of people in many countries of the world face the tough consequences of discrimination and rejection because of their race, ethnic roots or religion. Terrorist attacks, which claim the lives of innocent people, and political and religious radicalism undermine our security and that of our children. Wars and conflicts continue in various corners of the world, killing millions of people. To our country, Azerbaijan, conflict and its consequences are not just words but a bitter experience. The Armenia-Azerbaijan-Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives, continues to cause the greatest pain to each of us. This conflict led to the occupation of 20% of Azerbaijan's lands, with nearly one million Azerbaijanis becoming refugees and internationally displaced persons (IDP). A large number of historical and architectural monuments, schools, museums and libraries were destroyed in occupied Azerbaijani territories. Experts forecast that, if not prevented, conflicts will have killed more than 150 million women and children in the twenty-first century. Most of these wars began with propaganda of hatred and intolerance.

17.5 But despite this grim picture I look forward with optimism. We should not avoid addressing these threats by means of civilized dialogue. And this was exactly the goal of the most recent Baku International Humanitarian Forum which provided an insight into many questions raised today in this hall. The forum, which gathered together representatives from thirty-nine nations, held discussions on such issues as multiculturalism, modern technologies, convergence of sciences, biotechnology and ethics problems, humanitarian aspects of economic development models, social media and advanced technologies, and traditional systems of values in post-modernist society. The forum participants adopted the Baku Declaration, calling on international organizations, including UNESCO, "to create realistic frames for intercultural, interconfessional and intercivilizational dialogues as the conditions of preserving and further positive development of mankind". And this is fundamental for building a culture of peace.

17.6 Dear participants, it appears that a new world order is already forming and that the process will be fraught with many complications. I believe that the humanitarian aspects of globalization have become extremely relevant. In this sense, realizing our responsibility for the fate of human civilization is of the essence. Sincere dialogue, goodwill, a broader vision of the problems we face and mutual understanding are the tools that we will all need in order to address these challenges successfully, for our own sake and for the sake of the generations to come. I wish you all a productive and interesting deliberation and thank you for your attention.

**18. The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentleman, we are now starting a new phase in our Leaders' Forum and I am very happy to welcome one of the best known faces of the broadcast media who is with us here, Zeinab Badawi, the presenter of World News Today on both BBC Four and BBC World. She has extensive experience in television and radio, working on a range of programmes in production, as well as presenting in the studio and reporting from the field. In 2009, she was named International TV Personality of the Year by the Association of International Broadcasters. She is currently patron of the BBC World Service Trust, the charitable arm of the BBC and a board member of the National Portrait Gallery. And personally, I have to tell you, she was the very first presenter I ever met after the political changes when I started to study at the BBC in London and I am still a staunch admirer of hers. I ended up here and you are here too, so that is great. I now give the floor to Ms Zeinab Badawi, who will introduce the debate. Ms Badawi, it is a pleasure to have you with us.

19.1, **The Moderator** (Ms Zeinab Badawi, news presenter and interviewer, BBC World and BBC Four):

Madam President, thank you. The feeling is mutual. I have long been an admirer of yours. Good morning, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I am really delighted to be here amongst you for this conference on a very, very vital topic. Before we start our general discussion, I thought I would just share one or two thoughts with you about the theme of this conference and why I believe what UNESCO does is very, very important.

19.2 Over several decades now I have worked as a journalist in all parts of the world. And, you know, when we journalists cover stories, we like to see tangible proof of the stories that we are covering. So, if you look at development issues and efforts to promote sustainable development, we want to see how many vaccination programmes are taking place in the developing world. We want to see, if there is some kind of food crisis, where the emergency food is coming from. There are various agencies that do all this, for example in the refugee camps.

19.3 When it comes to the work of UNESCO, which is obviously an organization that deals with soft power and matters of culture and values, it is much harder for the media to engage in the kind of topics that you deal with here because you are often involved in a process of trying to engender a culture of values, a human rights agenda, and promoting education. This is something that takes a long time and it is sometimes hard to get hold of it. But it is absolutely important. I really am convinced that it is in the battlefield of the mind that humanity will really win its war against poverty, against suffering and against a lack of freedom. So I really do applaud what you are trying to do here in terms of promoting culture nationally, as a way for people to gain an identity, get a sense of national pride – as well as also promoting an intercultural dialogue whereby people not only appreciate the differences between cultures but also share in the universal experiences that we all like. We know that culture is very, very important in helping to foster a sense of unity amongst people who might otherwise be divided along social class lines. We are convinced of the need for scientific education when it comes to development in all parts of the world. But I want to echo what Mr Tillman Thomas, the Prime Minister of Grenada, said about education, which is absolutely vital and, in particular, girls' education. And I say this from my heart because girls' education is, in a sense, my family business. I was born in the Sudan but I have been in England since I was two. However, it was my great-grandfather Sheikh Babiker Badri who, at the turn of the last century in the Sudan, – the Sudanese representative, of course, has heard of him – it was my great-grandfather who pioneered girls' education in the Sudan. Up until then, girls were not educated. He was a great visionary – sadly I never met him as he died before I was born – and he took very bold, brave actions. At the turn of the century Sudan was under British rule and he was told, "Sheikh Babiker, it is not worth it. Do not bother doing it because you are going to get a lot of hostility from the community", and he said, "No, no, no. I insist on doing this." And he established a school in his own house for his children. He had many children actually, a lot of daughters. We say in the family that he was so pro-women that he married four of them. So, he had a lot of children. He set an example by making sure that his own daughters were educated, and then they developed schools. To this day, my uncle runs a university for women in the capital, Khartoum, at Omdurman, the Al-Ahfad University for Women, where girls, not only from Sudan but also from other parts of Africa and the Arab world, are educated. They turn out as doctors and psychologists, historians, economists, and so on. And you know, my great-grandfather was really vilified by the community. People came and said, "You must not do this." The British said do not do it. But he persisted. So I grew up with great-aunts and grandmothers who could read. I grew up with aunts who are now in their eighties with Ph.Ds from Western universities. So, when people say to me that in developing countries which are Muslim, girls cannot be educated, it is inconsistent with the values of that religion, I say that is absolutely not true. I see it in my own family. Just to end the story on a happy note, my great-grandfather was, in the end, awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by the British for his efforts in promoting girls' education. This was back in the late 1940s. The Governor-General of Sudan gave it to him on behalf of the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, and my great-grandfather said, "Well, tell Mr Churchill I fought against him in the Battle of Omdurman, but I will not hold that against him." And he took the OBE. He was also a very generous-spirited man, so although he had opposed the British presence in the Sudan, he was happy to have his efforts applauded in this way.

19.4 It is absolutely true when people say that to promote development in a country and to try to achieve just about anything, you have to make sure that the girls are educated. We see this time and time and time again in terms of looking at improvements in health, improvements in the family, improvements in food security and so on. The key, as Kofi Annan said, is to get the girls educated. Another thing that UNESCO does, which is marvellous, is to promote the sharing of information and the importance of the media, another thing that I do not take for granted. I have travelled around many parts of the world where they do not have freedom of speech or freedom of expression, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. People are suffering, languishing in prison as we speak because they have been denied the right of freedom of speech. And, you know, it is not just a luxury. As the Nobel Prize-winning Indian-born economist Amartya Sen said, "There has never been a famine in a country that enjoys freedom of speech, freedom of expression". It is a cornerstone of democracy and development. And so, all of these factors come into the mix of what UNESCO is about and I applaud your efforts, UNESCO. And I look forward to having this discussion with you now, about the importance of UNESCO's role in promoting a culture of peace and working towards sustainable development because, as I said, it is in the battlefields of the mind that we will do this. On that note, I thank you for your interest and your attention and we can now open the discussion on the floor. I would like to start with the Minister for Education of the People's Republic of China, who is going to give us his perspective on the importance of education in China – a country, of course, which has improved literacy rates phenomenally over the last few decades. Minister.

20.1 **袁先生（中国）：**

大会主席先生，各位部长，女士们、先生们，上午好！当前，世界经济正缓慢复苏，但不稳定和不确定性加大，可持续发展面临严峻挑战，各国对和平、发展、合作的诉求比以往任何时候都更加强烈。本次论坛以构建和平文化、促进可持续发展为主题，非常富有现实性和针对性。通过教育传播和平文化、促进可持续发展，是我们的一致共识和追求。我赞同教科文组织《组织法》提出的在人的思想中“筑起保卫和平之屏障”的宗旨，也同意《波恩宣言》所强调的教育对实

现可持续发展具有关键作用。教育的一个重要功能就是要把体现和平文化、体现可持续发展理念的价值观传授给年轻一代。我们高度赞赏教科文组织始终把教育放在重中之重地位，为世界和平和可持续发展所作的不懈努力。

20.2 中华文明历来崇尚以“和”为贵，协和万邦，和而不同。中华民族几千年的历史证明，只有和平，才能实现国家的长治久安，才能创造人民的幸福生活。和平发展，教育为先。去年7月，中国政府颁布实施了《国家中长期教育改革和发展规划纲要（2010-2020年）》，强调要加强学生的国际理解教育，推动跨文化交流，增进中国学生对不同国家和不同文化的认识和理解。同时，我们还适应各国人民学习汉语和了解中华文化的需求，积极开办孔子学院，促进中外教育文化的交流交融，增进中国人民与世界各国人民的相互了解和友谊。

20.3 可持续发展是中国政府的基本战略，也是中国教育改革发展的核心理念。30多年来，中国经济连续高速增长，社会事业全面进步，人民生活显著改善。同时，资源环境约束增强等问题日益凸显。为此，基本要义是：以人为本，更注重可持续发展，更加注重全面协调可持续发展。时至今日，可持续发展已突破传统的环境保护的概念，教育将肩负更大的责任。中国各级各类学校普遍开展了可持续发展教育，其中有1000多所学校被教科文组织确立为可持续发展教育试点学校。就在10天前，我们还举办了第五届北京可持续发展教育国际论坛。Ladies and gentlemen，我们都生活在共同的地球家园，面对机遇和挑战，我们需要共同思考，就世界未来发展做出智慧的选择，大力发展教育事业，为促进可持续发展、实现世界和平繁荣做出更大贡献！谢谢大家！

(20.1) **Mr Yuan (China)** (*Translation from the Chinese*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. The world economy is recovering slowly, but with instability and uncertainty increasing, sustainable development is facing severe challenges. The demands of all nations for peace, development and cooperation have never been higher. The theme of this forum is building a culture of peace and promoting sustainable development, which is highly realistic and pertinent. The promotion of education for a culture of peace and sustainable development is our consensus and objective. We agree with the mission declared in the Constitution of UNESCO that “the defences of peace must be constructed” in the minds of men, and we also agree with the Bonn Declaration, which emphasizes the critical role of education in achieving sustainable development. One important function of education is to pass along to the younger generations the values that reflect a culture of peace and the idea of sustainable development. We highly appreciate the fact that UNESCO has always deemed education a priority and has done sterling work for world peace and sustainable development.

(20.2) China has always valued peace. All countries should be at peace with each other and accept other people's differences. Several thousand years of Chinese history have proved that only peace can help to accomplish a long period of social order and stability for a country and create happiness for its people. Education comes first in the development of peace. Last July, the Chinese Government promulgated and began to implement the *Outline of China's National Plan for Medium- and Long-Term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)*, emphasizing the promotion of education for international understanding and intercultural exchange, with the aim of improving Chinese students' awareness and understanding of different countries and cultures. Meanwhile, in response to the needs of other peoples to learn Chinese and Chinese cultures, we have actively established Confucius Institutes and promoted exchanges and interactions between Chinese and foreign education and culture, so as to improve the mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and other peoples.

(20.3) Sustainable development is the fundamental strategy of the Chinese Government and an important philosophy for education reform in China. Over the last 30 years, China's economy has maintained a high-speed growth, there has been overall social progress and people's lives have improved significantly. Meanwhile, issues such as resources and environment constraints have emerged. Therefore, we should adopt a people-centred policy for sustainable development and pay more attention to overall coordination. So far, sustainable development has gone beyond the traditional concept of environmental protection and has brought an even greater responsibility to education. Education for sustainable development has been generally implemented in schools at all levels and in all areas; over 1,000 schools have been designated ESD pilot schools by UNESCO. The Fifth Beijing International Forum on ESD was held 10 days ago. Ladies and gentlemen, we all live in the same homeland of Earth. Faced with both opportunities and challenges, we should think together and make wise decisions on the future development of the world. Let us make significant efforts in the development of education and contribute more to the promotion of sustainable development and the accomplishment of world peace and prosperity. Thank you.

21. **The Moderator:**

Minister Yuan, thank you very much for your perspective on China and your efforts to promote literacy in schools there. We also have an intervention from the floor from the Minister of Culture from Russia, Mr Alexander Avdeev. *Pozhaluista.*

22.1 **Г-н Авдеев** (Российская Федерация):

Уважаемая госпожа Председатель Генеральной конференции, уважаемая госпожа Председатель Исполнительного совета, уважаемая госпожа Генеральный директор, Ваши Превосходительства, приходится констатировать, что, не успев покончить с блоковой конфронтацией времен холодной войны, мы сталкиваемся с набирающими силу конфликтами, в основе которых лежат нетерпимость и насилие в сфере межнациональных, межэтнических, межрелигиозных и социальных отношений. Питательной средой для этого, не считая невежества, являются недоверие между социальными группами, массовые эмиграции, маргинализация молодежи, ухудшение окружающей среды и новые смертоносные эпидемии, торговля наркотиками, ксенофобия и т.д. Все эти беды, конечно, характерны для сегодняшней России. Мы – многонациональное государство, и в России сегодня 150 больших и малых народов и около двухсот языков. Конечно, для болезней, которые я перечислил, есть свой способ лечения, но, наверно, самым эффективным будет тот, который провозгласила ЮНЕСКО, – это культура мира и движение в интересах развития и укрепления культуры мира, которое мы считаем движением по оздоровлению не только людей, но и международных отношений в целом.

22.2 Хочу подчеркнуть, что культура мира требует и защиты, потому что сегодняшняя культура, к сожалению, производит не только интеллектуальный продукт, но и продукт, который должен продаваться на рынке. Поэтому культура попадает в подчинение к рынку. Хорошо продается привокзальная литература, хорошо продаются мыльные оперы по телевидению, хорошо продаются фильмы ужасов и детективы, а нам очень важно, чтобы

культура мира не зависела от потребительского спроса культуры общества потребления, а чтобы культура мира была притягательной, чтобы она защищалась и в условиях рынка не потерпела поражение перед культурным товаром другого сорта. Для того чтобы распространять культуру мира, нужно использовать мощное воздействие телевидения. А возьмется ли телевидение популяризировать культуру мира в самые смотримые часы? Будет ли культура мира прерываться каждые десять-пятнадцать минут рекламой на телевидении и мешать сосредоточиться? Будут ли культуру мира и ее продукт брать кинотеатры, которым нужно отбить деньги и показать «попкорновские» фильмы, а не продукт культуры мира? Все зависит от нас, все зависит от культурной политики отдельных государств, все зависит от приоритетов и от бюджета. Но хочу подчеркнуть, что культуру мира нужно обязательно защищать, потому что в глобальные потоки мировой культуры попадают культурные товары, которые, повторяю, хорошо продаются, прибыльные, а вот культура мира может в глобальный культурный поток не попасть.

22.3 Культура и просвещение формируют интеллект человека, и если в процесс формирования интеллекта не включить культуру мира, она не найдет отражения в психологии людей. Экономика, транспорт, социальные дела и другие области – это сферы, в которых действует человек, но интеллект человека формируется только культурой, просвещением. Поэтому культура мира должна быть в центре преподавательного процесса, о чем сегодня справедливо говорилось.

22.4 В заключение я хочу еще раз подчеркнуть наши надежды на реализацию стратегии, провозглашенной Генеральным директором ЮНЕСКО госпожой Боковой – это концепция нового гуманизма XXI века. Великий русский писатель Чехов говорил: «Если вы будете работать для настоящего, то ваша работа будет ничтожной. Надо работать, имея в виду только будущее». Значение ЮНЕСКО состоит в ускорении формирования в сознании людей именно этого императива устойчивого развития и культуры мира. Спасибо за внимание.

(22.1) **Mr Avdeev** (Russian Federation) (*translation from the Russian*):

Distinguished Madam President of the General Conference, distinguished Madam Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Madam Director-General, Excellencies, it must be noted that, with the Cold War confrontation between blocs barely over we are confronted by conflicts that are gathering in strength, and that are rooted in intolerance and violence in interethnic, interreligious and social relations. Fertile ground for this, alongside ignorance, is provided by mistrust among social groups, mass emigration, the marginalization of young people, worsening environmental conditions and new, deadly epidemics, the drugs trade, xenophobia, and so on. All of these ills of course are typical of Russia today. We are a multi-ethnic State, and in Russia today there are 150 large and small peoples and some 200 languages. Of course, for the ailments I have mentioned there is a cure but, probably, the most effective is that advocated by UNESCO – the culture of peace and movement in the interests of development and strengthening the culture of peace, which we consider to be a movement to heal not only people but also international relations as a whole.

(22.2) I should like to emphasize that the culture of peace also needs defending because culture today, unfortunately, does not only have an intellectual output, but output that can be sold in the marketplace. As a result, culture is falling under the sway of the market. Airport novels sell well, as do soap operas on television and horror films and thrillers but it is very important for us that the culture of peace not depend on the consumer demand of the culture of the consumer society, but that the culture of peace be attractive, that it defend itself and that in market conditions it not lose out to cultural goods of another sort. For the culture of peace to be disseminated, it is necessary to use the powerful influence of television. Would television undertake to popularize the culture of peace in prime time? Would the culture of peace be interrupted every ten to fifteen minutes by television adverts, impeding concentration? Would the culture of peace and its output be taken up by cinemas which need to earn money and screen “popcorn” films and not the product of the culture of peace? It all depends on us, it all depends on the culture policy of individual States, it all depends on priorities and the budget. I should like to stress though that the culture of peace must absolutely be protected, because in the global streams of world culture, there are cultural goods which, I say again, sell very well, and make a profit and the culture of peace might not be included in the global cultural stream.

(22.3) Culture and education shape individuals' intellect and if that process does not include the culture of peace, it will not be reflected in people's mentality. The economy, transport, social affairs and other fields are the places in which people act, but the human intellect is shaped only by culture and education. Accordingly, the culture of peace must be at the heart of the teaching process which has been quite rightly discussed today.

(22.4) To conclude, I should like once more to emphasize our hopes for the achievement of the strategy advocated by the UNESCO Director-General, Ms Bokova – the concept of the new twenty-first century humanism. The great Russian writer Chekov said that if one works for the present, one's work will be worthless – one must work always looking only to the future. UNESCO's significance lies in accelerating the forging in the minds of men and women of precisely that imperative of sustainable development and the culture of peace. Thank you for your attention.

23. **The Moderator** (Ms Badawi):

*Spasibo*, Minister. Thank you. I should just say to everybody that this is a free debate now so do raise your plaques when you want to intervene. You do not have to speak from a set speech, please. It would be nice to have some kind of exchange. I am very heartened to see that some plaques have gone up. But, Minister of Culture for Russia, if I may, you have made a very impassioned plea for the promotion of the culture of peace, but speaking very much in abstract terms. How would you depict the culture of peace? You have criticized the globalized culture where the content of television programmes, for instance, is very much market-driven. How would you make programmes or have newspaper articles that somehow promote a culture of peace? What exactly do you mean? How would you do it?

24.1 **Г-н Авдеев** (Российская Федерация):

Я думаю, что отвечу Вам, опираясь на российскую действительность и российские примеры. Мы сейчас переживаем сложный период, когда экономика рыночная, а культура еще не приспособилась к рынку. Быстро возникает социальное неравенство, растет разрыв между богатыми и бедными, культура требует материальной поддержки, и в то же время продукт культуры возникает из интеллектуального продукта, который раньше у нас не продавался, а просто распространялся не через торговые сети. И вот продукт культуры превращается в про-

дукт рынка. И для России это сегодня представляет большую сложность: культура оказалась не приспособленной к рыночной экономике. Культура не выживает в рыночной экономике. К примеру, российское кино. У нас есть прекрасные фильмы, они побеждают на многих международных фестивалях, они несут идею культуры мира, но они не попадают в коммерческие сети, потому что они не прибыльные, они не отбивают деньги, которые затратил продюсер, и они уходят в «андеграунд», в параллельное искусство для ограниченного круга элиты. Вот я боюсь, что и культура мира, если она коммерчески будет неприбыльна, а, наверно, она таковой и будет, не будет попадать в прокатные сети кино и не будет попадать в лучшее эфирное время на телевидении. Во многих странах телевидение избавляется от своей зависимости от рейтингов и рекламы. Это замечательный процесс, и достичь этого удастся тогда, когда страны становятся богатыми и могут содержать умное интеллигентное телевидение и не использовать рекламу в качестве средства финансирования телевидения. У нас пока такого нет.

24.2 Но если вы меня спрашиваете о том, как защищать культуру мира, я бы сказал, что выход только один – необходимы усилия государств, усилия правительств, элиты и, самое главное, финансирование. Надо, чтобы культура получала, как минимум, 2-2,5% от объема бюджетных средств. Вот такие простые ответы я бы дал сегодня, опираясь на опыт моей страны.

(24.1) **Mr Avdeev** (Russian Federation) (*translation from the Russian*):

I think that I shall answer you on the basis of Russian activities and Russian examples. We are currently going through a difficult period with a market economy and a culture that has not yet adapted to the market. Social inequality is rapidly emerging, the gap between rich and poor is widening, culture requires material support, and at the same time the product of culture is emerging out of the intellectual product, which was not beforehand for sale in my country and was merely disseminated outside of commercial networks. And now the product of culture is being transformed into a marketable product. For Russia this now presents a considerable difficulty: culture is not adapted to the market economy. Culture cannot survive in a market economy. Take Russian cinema as an example. We have wonderful films, they win awards at many international festivals, they convey the idea of a culture of peace but they do not end up in commercial networks because they are not profitable, they do not earn back the money spent by the producer, and they go "underground", to the parallel art circuit for small elite circles. So I fear that the culture of peace too, if it is not commercially viable, and it probably would not be, will not end up in the cinema distribution network and will not be broadcast in prime time on television. In many countries, television has done away with its dependency on ratings and advertising. This is remarkable, and it can be done when countries become rich and can support sensible, intelligent television and not use advertising as a means to fund it. We are not yet at that stage.

(24.2) If you are asking me, though, about how to defend the culture of peace, I would say that there is only one way out – State efforts are necessary, the efforts of governments and elites and, most importantly, financial efforts. Culture should receive at the very least 2-2.5% of total budget resources. These are the simple answers I would give today on the basis of my country's experience.

25. **The Moderator:**

*Bol'shoye spasibo*, Minister. Thank you very much. I would kindly ask speakers to introduce themselves when they take the floor. Now, Bahrain, very much a country which has been on the front pages recently because of the protests there, with groups and society wishing to assert themselves on the social or political agenda. You have the floor.

٢٦ السيد النعيمي (البحرين):

شكراً، سعادة الرئيسة، وشكراً للأخت البدوي على وجودها، وأنا سعيد أيضاً بأن نلتقي بها، وإدارتها للحوار كانت جداً مهمة. في الواقع، عندما نتكلم عن ثقافة السلام، أعتقد كوزير للتربية والتعليم في مملكة البحرين أنها هي مجموعة قيم واتجاهات وأنماط سلوك وأساليب حياة تقوم أولاً على نبذ العنف والحيلولة دون وقوع الصراعات واتباع أفضل الطرق، خصوصاً في قضية أساليب الحوار والتفاوض بين الأفراد والجماعات والأمم. بناء ثقافة السلام، أيها الحضور الكرام، مسؤولية مشتركة بين الجهات المعنية، حكومية كانت أم أهلية، في التعاون مع منظمات ووكالات الأمم المتحدة ذات الاختصاص، وأعتقد أن اليونسكو أفضل مكان لذلك. إن السياق الدولي الراهن يقتضي منا جميعاً أن نحدد التزاماً مشتركاً لبناء ثقافة السلام، وذلك بالعمل على تعزيز الجهود الرامية إلى إقامة الحوار بين الحضارات من خلال بناء جسور الثقافة المختلفة. في الواقع، لقد ظلت اليونسكو تعمل في مجال بناء ثقافة السلام منذ نشأتها ومنذ مطلع التسعينات. وفي القرن الماضي، جعلت اليونسكو من ثقافة السلام مجالاً حيويًا لنشاط منهجي يقوم على الصلة بين حقوق الإنسان والديمقراطية والسلام والتنمية. وما زالت اليونسكو تقدم العون الفني للدول الأعضاء، وهذا أيضاً جهدٌ تُشكر عليه. في الواقع، هناك نقطة مهمة جداً على الصعيد التربوي، وهي أن هناك أيضاً دوراً حيويًا يجب أن تضطلع به اليونسكو في ذلك. عزيزتي رئيسة المؤتمر، وكذلك الحضور الكرام، أعتقد أننا نحن كبشرية يجب أن نضع برامج تعليمية تتصل بقضايا السلام وإدماج ثقافة السلام في المناهج الدراسية ومراجعة كل تلك المناهج الدراسية لتلبي حاجات قيم حقوق الإنسان، وحق التعايش، ونزع الكراهية، وبالتالي تعزيز ثقافة السلام. وأعتقد من منظور تربوي، أنه يجب علينا أن نعمل كمجتمع دولي على إبعاد العنف والامتناع عن استخدام المدارس والمؤسسات التعليمية كوسيلة لتحقيق أهداف سياسية. أنا أعتقد أن هذا أمر مهم جداً، إذ يتعين على اليونسكو أن تضطلع بدور مهم في بناء الثقافة ودعم الدول في بناء القدرات الوطنية، وهذا دور كبير يقع على عاتقها. وأعتقد أننا نحن في مملكة البحرين نعمل مع منظمة اليونسكو وفي خطوات كبيرة جداً لتعزيز ثقافة السلام داخل المدارس. شكراً، سيدتي.

(26) **Mr Al Noaimi** (Bahrain) (*translation from the Arabic*):

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you Ms Badawi for your presence. I am also glad to meet you. Your moderation of the discussion is extremely important. Indeed, when we talk about a culture of peace, as Minister of Education in the Kingdom of Bahrain, I see it as a set of values, orientations, behaviour patterns and lifestyles based on rejecting violence, preventing conflicts and pursuing the best methods, especially in the case of approaches to dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations. Building a culture of peace, distinguished guests, is a shared responsibility among stakeholders, whether governmental or civil that requires cooperation with competent organizations and United Nations agencies, and I think that UNESCO is the best place for this. The current international context requires us all to identify a common commitment to building a culture of peace, and to strengthen efforts to establish dialogue among civilizations and build bridges between different cultures. Indeed, UNESCO has been working in the field of building a culture of peace since its inception and particularly since the early 1990s. In the past century, UNESCO has made a culture of peace a vital field for systematic activity based on the link between human rights, democracy, peace and development. UNESCO continues to provide technical assistance to Member States, and we are grateful for those efforts. In terms of education, UNESCO also has

a vital role to play. Dear President of the General Conference, ladies and gentlemen, I believe that we, as humanity, must integrate peace-related educational programmes and a culture of peace into the curriculum and review all curricula to meet the needs of human rights values, the right to co-exist and the eradication of hatred, thereby strengthening a culture of peace. I believe, from an educational perspective, that we must work as an international community in order to remove violence and stop schools and educational institutions from being used as a means to achieve political goals. I think this is very important, as UNESCO should play a leading role in building culture and supporting States in building national capacities; this is a critical role that it has taken upon itself. In Bahrain, we are working with UNESCO and taking considerable steps to promote a culture of peace within schools. Thank you Madam.

27. **The Moderator:**

*Shukran jazilan*, Minister. Now, in view of the number of people wishing to speak and the time available, I am going to ask you kindly to keep your interventions to the point so that everybody can speak. In the interest of democracy, please keep your comments as brief as possible. Just to keep the regional focus here, I understand that the representative from Yemen also wishes to speak -- another country that is going through a great deal of turmoil and, certainly, is badly in need of the promotion of peace.

٢٨ السيد الجوفي (اليمن):

شكراً جزيلاً، من يدرك أهمية السلام هم هؤلاء الذين يفتقدون السلام. يمثل بلدي واحدا من البلدان التي هي بحاجة إلى السلام أكثر من أي وقت مضى. وأنا أدرك تماماً أن الحديث اليوم يتناول الحوار، سواء كان الحوار بين الأشخاص أو الحوار بين الثقافات، وأدرك تماماً أنه لا يمكن صناعة السلام إلا بتسيخ ثقافة الحوار وثقافة السلام مثلما جاء في كلام وزير الثقافة الروسي، وأدرك تماماً اليوم أكثر من أي وقت مضى، أن هناك علاقة وطيدة بين الاقتصاد وحاجات الناس والسلام. وأدرك تماماً أيضاً أن الأجيال القادمة من أبنائنا وبناتنا قد يكونون ضحايا الحرب نتيجة أن أجيالاً قبلهم لم تتعامل بثقافة الحوار ولم تدرك أهمية السلام. نحن في اليمن ربما منذ الزمن الأول من أيام بلقيس وحوارها مع النبي سليمان، نلجأ إلى الحوار، لكننا ربما في العصر الحديث قد افتقدنا ذلك الحوار، وبالتالي أنا أؤكد تماماً أن دور اليونسكو الحيوي في صناعة ثقافة السلام بين الأجيال يتحقق عبر ترسيخه اليوم هنا في هذه القاعة، وجعله محورا أساسيا لهذا اللقاء المتميز، وأيضاً وجود القادة اليوم من نخب اقتصادية يدل على أن هناك علاقة وثيقة ووطيدة بين الاقتصاد والحوار والسلام وأيضاً التعليم. وأؤكد على ما قاله وزير التربية والتعليم البحريني وهو أنه يجب أن يكون هناك صوت قوي من اليونسكو على أن تكون المدارس حقولاً للتفكير والحوار بعيدة عن الصراعات وبعيدة أيضاً عن الحروب، وينطبق ذلك على كل الأطراف. فيجب على الجميع أن يسعوا إلى أن تكون المدرسة بعيدة عن ثقافة الكراهية. ربما أن الآثار الجانبية التي شاهدناها في الفترة الماضية من تنامي للقاعدة في كثير من المناطق على المستوى العالمي وأثرها التدميري على مستوى العالم هي نتيجة لوجود ثقافة تطرف وإرهاب. إذن بالمقابل، لا بد من وجود ثقافة سلام، وأنا أؤكد على ما قاله وزير الثقافة الروسي وما جاء في حديثه. وشكراً جزيلاً.

(28) **Mr Al-Joufi (Yemen) (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you very much. Those who are aware of the importance of peace are those who lack peace. I represent one of the countries that are in need of peace more than ever. I am well aware that the discussion today concerns dialogue, whether it be dialogue between people or intercultural dialogue, and I am fully aware that the only way of making peace is to consolidate the culture of dialogue and the culture of peace – as stated by the Russian Minister of Culture – and I understand perfectly today, more than ever, that there is a close relationship between the economy, peoples' needs and peace. I understand perfectly well that in the future our sons' and daughters' generations may be victims of war as a result of the failure of the generations before them to deal with the culture of dialogue and realize the importance of peace. Since biblical times and the dialogue with the Prophet Solomon, we in Yemen have used dialogue, but in the modern era this dialogue is perhaps lacking and I am therefore convinced that UNESCO's role is vital in building a culture of peace among the generations, by establishing today, here in this room, in the presence of leaders from the economic elite, a close relationship between the economy, dialogue and peace, as well as education. I would also like to highlight what the Bahraini Minister of Education said, that there must be a strong voice from UNESCO insisting that schools are places of reflection and dialogue, far removed from conflict and war, which applies to all parties. Everyone should strive to keep the culture of hatred far from schools. Perhaps the side effects that we have seen recently with the growth of Al-Qaida in many areas at the global level and its destructive impact on the world are the result of the presence of the culture of extremism and terrorism. So, instead there must be a culture of peace, and I emphasize what the Russian Minister of Culture said in his speech. Thank you very much.

29. **The Moderator:**

May I ask you a question? You talk about the link between the economy and freedom and so on. How worried are you about what is going on in your country at the moment and the fact that Yemen, of course, is one of the least developed in the Arab world? To what extent do you think that the problems we are seeing now are fuelled by either poverty or a lack of freedom? Which is more important?

٣٠ السيد الجوفي (اليمن):

شكراً، زينب. أعتقد أن الناس يتوقعون من المستقبل أن يعطيهم إمكانيات اقتصادية وظروفاً معيشية أفضل. ولهذا ربما أن هناك علاقة، وأنا في الحقيقة أجريت دراسة حول هذا الموضوع، هناك علاقة كبيرة جداً بين الظروف الاقتصادية وبين الميول إلى التطرف. فالميل إلى التطرف يؤدي إلى انعدام الحوار وتؤدي إلى الحرب. ومن حيث الوضع في بلدي، أنا قلق عليه جداً بالفعل لأن الأطراف ربما لم تصل حتى الآن إلى امتلاك ناصية جيدة للحوار، وللحوار الجاد للخروج من المشكلة الموجودة. والمشكلة الموجودة ليست فقط مشكلة اقتصادية وليست سياسية بحتة ولكنها معقدة. هي سياسية واقتصادية أكثر منها مشكلة حرية وديمقراطية. الحرية والديمقراطية غاية في الأهمية ولا بد من وجودها لكل الناس، لكل الشعوب، للمرأة، للرجل، لكل الناس، لكن الجانب الغائب عن الجميع هو أن هناك حاجات اقتصادية لم تلب للناس وربما أن ما يحصل اليوم هو نتاج غير مباشر للأزمة الاقتصادية العالمية التي مر بها العالم، ونتيجة أيضاً لوجود ثقافة معينة ولزيادة عدد السكان والانتشار السكاني الكبير ومعه قلة الموارد، وهذا ما سيؤدي إلى إشعال قضايا الكراهية وقضايا عدم وجود العدالة وقضايا الوصول إلى الحكم بأي صورة من الصور للوصول إلى المال. هذه هي الإشكالية الموجودة، مع تأكيدي تماماً على أننا بحاجة إلى مراعاة الجوانب الاقتصادية إلى جانب الحرية، والحرية للناس جميعاً، وخاصة حرية المرأة وإعطائها حقها الكامل.

(30) **Mr Al-Joufi (Yemen) (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you Ms Badawi. I think that people expect the future to give them the economic potential for better living conditions. I conducted a study on the subject, and there is a very strong correlation between economic conditions and extremist tendencies. Extremist tendencies lead to a lack of dialogue and to war. In terms of the situation in my country, I am very worried indeed, because the parties may not have reached a good basis for dialogue, for earnest dialogue in order to find a way out of the current problem. The problem is not only an economic one, nor is it purely political, but it is a complex one. It is a po-

litical and economic problem rather than a question of freedom and democracy. Freedom and democracy are very important and must exist for all people, women and men alike. However, people's economic needs are not being addressed and perhaps what is happening today is a result of the indirect global economic crisis in the world, in addition to the presence of a particular culture and the increasing number of inhabitants and proliferation of the population, together with the lack of resources that spark issues of hatred and the lack of justice or access to power in any way to gain access to money. This is an existing problem, with total confirmation that we need to take into account economic aspects as well as freedom, freedom of all people, especially freedom for women, giving full rights.

31. **The Moderator:**  
Thank you.

32. **The President:**  
Excuse me just for a second. The President of Gabon and the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire are leaving and I would like to thank them for their participation. Thank you very much.

*The meeting is suspended briefly while the President and the Director-General take leave of the Presidents of Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon.*

33. **The Moderator:**  
The President has just reminded me that last time we met was at the African Union Summit in Uganda which, believe me, was quite an experience. So, from Yemen I think we may as well go on to your neighbour in the Arabian Peninsula, the representative from Saudi Arabia. A country, again, that interests many people when we are talking about education and gender equality. The representative of Yemen touched on the fact that the ideology of extremism is something which appeals to many young people in Yemen and, of course, that is also something that the Saudi authorities have been grappling with, trying to give young men there, in particular, something else to aspire to, to keep them away from that. So, the representative from Saudi Arabia, please, *tafaddal*.

٣٤ السيد السبيّل (المملكة العربية السعودية):

شكراً جزيلاً للصحفية المتميزة زينب بدوي، ونحن نفخر بأننا من منطقتنا العربية، وهي نموذج بالتأكيد لكثير من الفتيات اللواتي يتطلعن إلى مستقبل أفضل. بالنسبة إلى السلام وثقافة السلام، مشكلتنا في الفقر والحرب. ونحن نريد أن نقضي على الفقر فلن يتسنى ذلك بمنح هذه الشعوب مالا، وإنما بتدريبها لكي تستطيع أن تعتمد على نفسها. أما فيما يتعلق بالحروب، فهناك قضايا كثيرة في مناطق مختلفة من العالم، هناك احتلال موجود في مناطق أخرى وكلها تحتاج إلى أن نبذل نحن هنا في اليونسكو جهوداً كبيرة لأنه دون تحقيق السلام لا يمكن أن نحقق تنمية ولا أن نحافظ على الثقافة ولا أن نقدم علماً يمكن أن يصنع قيمة كبرى للإنسانية. بعد ذلك يأتي الحوار، ونحن في المملكة العربية السعودية أمنا منذ فترة بهذه القضية، وأخذت جانبين: هناك حوار في الداخل بين شباب وشابات الوطن ليتعلموا فن الحوار ولتقاربوا فيما بينهم على اعتبار أن المملكة العربية السعودية بدت في مناطق مختلفة ثقافياً بعاداتها وتقاليدها، وأمننا بالحوار أيضاً على مستوى أكبر، ولذلك تبنت المملكة العربية السعودية مع اليونسكو برنامجاً للحوار والسلام، وقمنا بتجربة مهمة جداً لعلها تفيد دولاً أخرى في هذا الإطار، وهي الحوار بين الشباب في المملكة العربية السعودية وبين دول أخرى. ففي كل عام، تسافر مجموعة كبيرة من الشباب ومن الفتيات ومن الشابات في المملكة العربية السعودية إلى البرازيل وإلى الصين وإلى كوريا، وهناك برامج مع عدد من هذه الدول لأننا نتحدث عن المستقبل، والمستقبل هو للشباب في الحقيقة، فإذا كان هؤلاء الشباب على قناعة بمثل هذه القضايا، فيمكن لنا أن نحقق مستوى أكبر بدلاً من أن يكون الحوار بيننا نحن ممن تقدم به العمر. تجاربنا مهمة ولكن من المهم أن تنمي الحقيقة في داخل أذهان هؤلاء الشباب ليحققوا مستقبلاً أفضل للإنسانية. شكراً جزيلاً.

(34) **Mr Alsebaill (Saudi Arabia) (translation from the Arabic):**

Many thanks to the excellent journalist, Zeinab Badawi; we take pride in her being from our Arab region, as she is certainly a model for a lot of girls who aspire to a better future. With regard to peace and a culture of peace, our problems stem from poverty and war. It is not possible to eliminate poverty by giving people money, but by training people to become self-reliant. As to war, there are many issues in different regions of the world and occupied territories in other regions; we have to make great efforts here at UNESCO to meet all these needs because without attaining peace we cannot achieve development, we cannot maintain our culture, we cannot take cognizance that it is possible to add great value to humanity. Then comes dialogue; we in Saudi Arabia have had a dialogue of peace for a while, taking both sides: there is internal dialogue between the country's young men and women to learn the art of dialogue and rapprochement among themselves, considering the different cultural regions in Saudi Arabia, with their customs and traditions, as well as a dialogue of peace on a larger scale. Saudi Arabia supports UNESCO's programme for the Culture of Dialogue and Peace, and we have very significant experience that could perhaps benefit other countries in this framework: dialogue between young people in Saudi Arabia and among other countries. Each year, a large group of young men and women travel from Saudi Arabia to Brazil, China and the Republic of Korea, in the framework of programmes with a number of these countries, because we are talking about the future, and the future is for young people. In fact, if these young people are convinced about such issues, we can reach a higher level than through dialogue between those of us who are of a certain age. Our experience is important, but it is important to develop the truth inside the minds of these young people to achieve a better future for humanity. Thank you.

35. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. When you talk about gender dialogue and the role of women, it is something that has always baffled me. People always say to me, "Ah, Saudi Arabia, you have been there, Zeinab. Women there cannot drive a car." Yet, it has always puzzled me because they can fly an aeroplane. You can have a female pilot in Saudi Arabia but she is not allowed to drive a car. Just educate me on that one, please.

٣٦ السيد السبيّل (المملكة العربية السعودية):

أعتقد أن بجواري الآن الدكتورة هيا العواد، وكيلة وزارة التربية والتعليم. وكما أشرت، هي قائدة طائرة، ولدينا نائبة وزيرة التربية والتعليم، الأستاذة نورة الفايز. أنا أعتقد في الحقيقة أن قيادة المرأة للسيارة أمر مهم جداً لكن قيادة الفكر، قيادة الوعي، وجود المرأة في المملكة بشكل حقيقي أمر مهم، وأعتقد أن قيادة المرأة للسيارة مسألة إجرائية ستحدث قريباً إن شاء الله. شكراً جزيلاً.

(36) **Mr Alsebaill (Saudi Arabia) (translation from the Arabic):**

By my side, here, is Ms Haya Al-Awwad, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and as you pointed out, she can pilot a plane. We also have Ms Noura Al-Fayez here, Deputy Minister of Education. I think that it is very important for



women to drive cars, but I believe that women's intellectual leadership and awareness in Saudi Arabia is truly important and driving cars is a procedural matter that will be dealt with soon, God willing. Thank you very much.

37. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Sorry, I could not resist asking you that. *Shukran jazilan*. There are a lot of people who want to speak. I should just remind you that we will be continuing this ministerial discussion after lunch, so if I do not get to you before lunch, I promise I will after it. I see that the representative from Sudan wishes to speak. I defend my allowing you to speak sooner that you might have expected on the grounds that I am focusing at present on the Arabic-speaking nations. Sudan is a country which has had Africa's longest running civil war, and, of course, we saw the independence of South Sudan in July. So I am sure yours is a country which wishes to put its violent past behind it but still has a way to go. The representative from Sudan, please.

٣٨،١ السيد فرح (السودان):

شكراً جزيلاً للسيدة زينب بدوي. شكراً للسيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام. أود أن أقول بادئ ذي بدء أنني سعيد غاية السعادة للمشاركة في هذا الحوار الذي ينعقد في كنف اليونسكو، ويتناول كيفية إسهام اليونسكو في نشر ثقافة السلام والتنمية المستدامة. ولا شك أن واحداً من أسباب سعادي سبب ذاتي، وهو أن أرى واحدة من أعلام بلادي ممثلة بالسيدة زينب بدوي، الإعلامية السودانية البريطانية المرموقة وابنة الأستاذ محمد خير البدوي، وهو واحد من أعضاء الرعييل الأول من المذيعين السودانيين والعرب الذين عملوا في القسم العربي بهيئة الإذاعة البريطانية في أوائل الخمسينيات من القرن الماضي، أي قبل ميلاد زينب بخمسة عشر عاماً على الأقل. أقول إنني سعيد بأن أراها تدير هذا الحوار ببراعة واقتدار وبإنجليزية بريطانية معيارية. إن المكانة المرموقة التي تتبوؤها السيدة زينب البدوي، هذه الإعلامية البريطانية والعالمية المشهورة، لحسن الحظ، تعكس المكانة التي ظلت تتمتع بها المرأة السودانية في المجتمع السوداني منذ فجر التاريخ، على عكس ما قد يشاع في بعض الدوائر، فقد حرص المجتمع السوداني على إعطاء المرأة حقوقها كاملة، بما في ذلك حقوقها السياسية. ومن المعروف تاريخياً أن الحضارات السودانية هي من أوائل الحضارات في العالم التي مكنت المرأة تمكيناً، بكل ما تحمل هذه الكلمة من معان، بل اتخذت منها ملكات معروفة تاريخياً في الحضارات المروية التي تسمى "الكنداكات"، وهي في قرون ما قبل الميلاد، فكانت هنالك نساء يتولين السلطة السياسية المطلقة في بلاد السودان القدم، يعرفن بالـ"كنداكات".

٣٨،٢ أعود إلى الموضوع الأساسي في هذا الحوار وهو مساهمة اليونسكو في نشر ثقافة السلام والتنمية المستدامة، وأقول بكل فخر واقتدار إن للسودان تجربة رائدة في التوصل إلى السلام وإنهاء الصراعات والنزاعات عبر الحوار، وإنهاء ما تفضلت بذكره السيدة زينب من أطول حرب أهلية في أفريقيا عبر الحوار وعبر المفاوضات بين حكومة السودان والإخوة في جنوب السودان، "الحركة الشعبية لتحرير السودان"، بموجب اتفاقية السلام التي وقعت في نيروبي في عام ٢٠٠٥، وأفضت كما هو معروف في آخر استحقاقاتها إلى الاستفتاء حول تقرير مصير جنوب السودان الذي شهد عليه العالم جميعه بأنه تم في أجواء سلمية وروح عالية من المسؤولية ومن التسامح وأفضى، كما هو معروف، إلى قيام الدولة الرابعة والخمسين في القارة الأفريقية، وتم كل ذلك بكل شفافية شهد عليها العالم أجمع. فهذه تجربة رائدة في إمكانية التوصل إلى السلام وبناء السلام عن طريق الحوار والمفاوضات، نفخر بأن نهددها إلى العالم أجمع. أما فيما يخص اليونسكو بالتحديد، فإن السودان بوصفه دولة خارجة لتوها من النزاع ودولة فقيرة ودولة تقع في نطاق "الأولوية لأفريقيا"، فإنها مدعوة في هذا المقام إلى أن تبذل كل ما في وسعها من أجل دعم مشاريع التنمية التي من شأنها أن تعمل على استدامة السلام في السودان لتتمتع به الأجيال المقبلة. شكراً جزيلاً.

(38.1) **Mr Farah (Sudan) (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you very much, Ms Zeinab Badawi. Thank you, Madam President of the General Conference. First, I would like to say how happy I am and excited to be participating in this dialogue under the auspices of UNESCO, which makes a valuable contribution to spreading the culture of peace and sustainable development. Undoubtedly, one of the reasons for my happiness is personal, in that my country is represented by the prestigious Sudanese-British media presenter Ms Zeinab Badawi, daughter of Mohammed-Khair el Badawi, one of the members of the first generation of Sudanese and Arab broadcasters, who worked in the BBC Arabic Service in the early 1950s, at least 15 years before Zeinab was born. I am happy to see her moderate this discussion so brilliantly in English. Her global renown fortunately reflects the stature that has been enjoyed by Sudanese women in our society since the dawn of time. Contrary to what has been rumoured in some circles, Sudanese society is keen to give women their full rights, including political rights. It is historically known that the Sudanese civilization is one of the world's first civilizations to have enabled women's empowerment, in every sense of the word. Queens were historically known in irrigated civilizations as "Alkendakat" and centuries before the modern era, in ancient Sudan there were women who had absolute political power, known as "Kendakat".

(38.2) I will return now to the main theme of this discussion: UNESCO's contribution to spreading a culture of peace and sustainable development. I say with honour and pride that Sudan's pioneering experience in reaching peace and ending conflicts and disputes through dialogue, as Ms Badawi kindly mentioned, resulted in the end of the longest civil war in Africa, through dialogue and negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the "Sudan People's Liberation Movement" of South Sudan, under the peace agreement signed in Nairobi in 2005. It also resulted, as you are aware, in other benefits; the referendum on the report about the fate of South Sudan, of which the whole world witnessed the creation, was conducted in good spirits and a healthy atmosphere of responsibility and tolerance, leading, as you know, to the creation of the fifty-fourth African State. The full transparency of the process was witnessed by the whole world. We are proud to give to the world this pioneering experience in the potential of reaching peace and building peace through dialogue and negotiations. With regard to UNESCO in particular, Sudan may be described as a post-conflict country, a poor country and a country within the scope of "Priority Africa", and UNESCO is therefore invited to do everything in its power to support development projects that will work on the sustainability of peace in Sudan for future generations. Thank you very much.

39. **The Moderator:**

*Shukran jazilan* and thank you for your kind comments. Yes, the Minister is right when he talks about the ancient Kingdom of Kush: in the eighth century B.C., the kings of Kush governed ancient Egypt for the best part of a century and were very much a regional super-power in northern Sudan. For those of you who are not aware of this, it has more pyramids than Egypt, something like 234 pyramids in northern Sudan. So, UNESCO knows all about this centre of a great ancient civilization, and is, I hope, encouraging the Sudanese authorities to preserve this marvellous national heritage, a subject very close to my heart. Please make your statements much shorter than this in future. Do not abuse my generosity as moderator. Let us move further south to the Gambia, whose representative wishes to speak.

40.1 **Ms Faye** (Gambia):

My name is Fatou Lamin Faye, the Minister of Basic and Secondary Education in the Gambia. It gives me great pleasure to contribute to an issue that is fundamental to progress and the survival of humanity. We are aware that access to education is essential for attaining a culture of peace but certainly not sufficient. This is so because formal and non-formal educational training programmes ought to be available to people at all levels, and peace education must be included to cover tolerance, respect for human rights and democracy, international and intercultural understanding, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. Madam Moderator, the Gambia has recently incorporated peace education into the basic education curriculum and materials have been developed taking cognizance of the abolition of corporal punishment and gender-based violence in schools. This was done because we believe that the concept of peace must be instilled in the young mind. Over the years, my Ministry, together with youth and civil society organizations, has actively engaged in peace education activities. Youth organizations such as the Youth Ambassadors for Peace and the National Patriotic Students Association work with schools on peace education. These organizations engage in peaceful means or processes that respond to the social, gender, spiritual, cultural, economic, environmental and political aspects of society. They place a high premium on values that focus on respect for all life, rejection of violence, sharing with others, listening to and understanding others, preserving the earth and rediscovering solidarity with our neighbours and society. Thus, the organizations engage youth and children through school-based peace activities, summer camps and leadership training programmes geared towards promoting peace, tolerance and understanding of our diversities.

40.2 Civil society organizations such as the National Civic Education Council and The Human Rights Centre, to name but two, have worked with my Ministry to draw up teaching and learning materials on universal values of human rights, the promotion of a culture of peace, non-violence and tolerance. Schools in the Gambia have been encouraged to establish UNESCO clubs, and peace and order and non-curricular clubs to promote respect for values. These values of peace and tolerance are an essential part of quality basic education. Basic education imparts not only the skills of literacy and numeracy, but also values and attitudes needed for self-development, improving the quality of life and facilitating active participation in society. Most importantly, basic education provides the ability to engage in lifelong learning, giving people the power to think, to form opinions and to work towards the promotion of peace, tolerance and universal respect for human rights. Madam Moderator, you will agree that building a systemic culture of peace requires committed efforts by educators, researchers and other members of society. It requires a change in attitude, a difficult process that will not happen overnight. This is where the role of knowledge will be crucial. Education can provide people with information, but most essential is its appropriate application. This information must be transformed into knowledge that is beneficial. Only then will people begin to change their mindset, attitude and behaviour, and that will help us stem the tide of conflict and intolerance. I thank you for your attention.

41. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much, Minister, for that very thorough overview of education in the Gambia. Trinidad and Tobago, your plaque has been up for a very long time, and you now have the floor. Please keep your comments brief.

42. **Mr Gopeesingh** (Trinidad and Tobago):

Thank you very much, Madam Moderator. I am Tim Gopeesingh, the Minister of Education for Trinidad and Tobago. I am a medical doctor. I was a professor in medicine at the university but I am now focused on education. Distinguished Presidents, Heads of State, my country, Trinidad and Tobago, with a population of approximately 15 million, is one of 15 English-speaking countries in the Caribbean, along with about twenty French- and Dutch-speaking countries. We have no wars within the Caribbean and Latin America but an increasing restlessness among our youth, as is evident elsewhere around the world. We belong to the GRULAC group of countries, which has not been experiencing wars but a great deal of instability with regular changes of governments, which eventually or even shortly may lead to conflict. This arises because of the citizens' need to reduce their poverty and alleviate their needs, and also illiteracy. Illiteracy rates are very high among the adult population, amounting to about a third of this population in my country, and this adult illiteracy is what we are moving to reduce. We have a seamless education programme; we have universal primary and secondary education in most of the countries, as was made clear by one of our speakers, the Prime Minister of Grenada, Mr Tillman Thomas. But we need to prevent wars and continue sustainable peace and development. So, we need to refocus our education efforts not just on academic subjects alone but on the realization of the full potential of the child, promoting the citizenship and character development that have been lacking in our schools for a long time, moral and spiritual values and ethics, competencies in information and communication technology (ICT), visual and performing arts, and sports and physical education, as the President of Hungary said. In closing, in a place where culture is a driving force of our social, economic and political life, because Trinidad and Tobago is a multicultural society, very plural, with antecedent populations coming from all parts of the world – India, China, Africa, Europe and North America – we still have much work to do in mainstreaming our culture within the Caribbean. It is central to our development and for full gender parity and equity. Girls are outstripping boys in academic performance in the Caribbean, so we have to find methodologies for bringing the boys back into focus so that we do not have this restlessness, and we need to mainstream our education in terms of technology development to ensure that we train people, young men and women, for the workplace. We have defined our workplace needs and we need to move in tandem, training for what we really need. So, in summary, technical and vocational education, training in moral and spiritual values, citizenship and character development, and creation of jobs for the restless young men and women, ensuring that we have the workplace and the workforce aligned with our training and development. Thank you.

43. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much, you were very admirably brief there and to the point. I have here Congo. The floor is yours and briefly, if you could.

44. **M. Abena** (Congo) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Après avoir écouté ce matin les interventions d'illustres et respectables personnalités, nous reconnaissons que l'éducation est le principal moyen d'asseoir la paix et le développement durable. Dans sa déclaration, d'ailleurs, l'UNESCO l'avait déjà reconnu. C'est pour cela que la délégation du Congo propose que soit intégrée, de façon générale dans les programmes aussi bien scolaires qu'universitaires, une culture de la paix. Nous avons entendu, ici, que dans certains pays, cela se faisait déjà. Nous pourrions nous appuyer sur cette expérience, éventuellement sous la coordination de l'UNESCO. Des spécialistes pourraient se pencher sur le contenu d'un tel programme, qui pourrait également s'accompagner d'une formation du personnel enseignant. Je souhaite vivement que cette proposition devienne réalité à l'avenir, un avenir que je vois très proche. Je vous remercie.

45. **The Moderator:**

*Merci.* Thank you very much indeed. Let me just turn to the gentleman seated behind me. Prime Minister Tillman Thomas of Grenada, we heard your comments earlier on. I just wondered if you wanted to react in any way to the interventions you have heard from the floor. I mean, we have heard some people refer to how the financial crisis is creating upheavals and increasing social inequities and inequalities. Crisis? Or also an opportunity for countries to actually see they must meet the needs of the people as they become more vocal in making their demands?

46. **Mr Thomas** (Prime Minister of Grenada):

Thank you, Madam Moderator. Yes, I believe that disadvantaged people tend to get involved in a conflict with authority, or they could be used. Therefore the economic situation is vital. I believe that we have sufficient resources in the world for people to live comfortably. But it is a whole system, a question of values, of humanity. Everything should be geared towards advancing humanity: education, the political system, the NGOs. This is where I think the problem lies. We should be a value-driven world and humanity should be the priority. Therefore, the political parties involved in the process of gaining control of a State should be value-driven. Human rights and human values should be prominent. So, too, the NGOs and the whole State apparatus, all should be focused on promoting human values because if we do not, where we have disparity, as someone mentioned before, people could be used, and when they are in a state of economic depression, they could always blame others in society, and that could create conflict in itself. But if people are properly spiritually oriented and have the right values, they will find solutions to the problem. I think we all have to focus on values. In particular, respecting human rights and making values a part of our total system. Journalists have a major role to play, as was mentioned by the representative from Russia. It should be part of the educational process so that we see the human person as paramount in whatever we are doing, irrespective of race or background. So I think UNESCO is doing an excellent job. We need to focus, to get the political directorate in particular, I believe, to focus on the values that we are trying to promote.

47. **The Moderator:**

Is the Prime Minister of Benin still with us? I know you made your intervention on behalf of the government because the President could not be with us, but one theme that has come up from the floor and also from the earlier speeches is this issue of youth and needing to address the demands of youth. We saw very much in the Arab world at least, the countries which have gone through upheavals, that it is very much youth, the young people, who are in the vanguard. I think a lot of people are asking, what about African youth? Where are they in this mix? Are they using social media to have a dialogue in terms of making greater demands of their leaders in the way that we saw in the Arab world? Where is African youth?

48. **M. Koupaki** (Premier Ministre du Bénin) :

Merci. Ce qui selon moi ressort des différentes interventions, c'est que tout le monde partage en réalité l'objectif primordial d'une préservation de la paix pour un développement accéléré, mais qu'il existe différentes façons d'aborder la question. Je retiens, essentiellement, le rôle majeur que l'UNESCO doit jouer dans la mise en place d'un enseignement axé sur une culture de la paix. Comment, alors, cela peut-il s'organiser ? C'est la question que la Conférence générale devra trancher. Certains pays comptent une chaire UNESCO dans l'une ou plusieurs de leurs universités ; au Bénin, il y en a sept. Je me demande si la promotion de cet enseignement ne devrait pas passer par ce canal. Bien entendu, il faut que l'éducation de base comporte également cette orientation, peut-être à travers l'éducation civique en général. Dans notre pays, en tout cas, la demande de paix est une demande forte et nous sommes moins confrontés à ce problème-là. Nous avons, en revanche, beaucoup de problèmes de développement, et c'est dans ce domaine, avec les changements que l'on observe dans le monde ces dernières années et plus récemment, d'ailleurs, que l'on compte sur une importante contribution de la part de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

49. **The Moderator:**

*Merci.* Thank you. The Under-Secretary of State of Hungary, do you wish to make some final comments just to wrap up this session, and then we shall continue again after lunch? You have heard a variety of opinions. In countries like Hungary for instance, we have seen that the role of civil society organizations is one that has become very developed, and so you have this bottom-up promotion of values and people coalescing around a new identity after the fall of the Berlin wall.

50. **Mr Hóvári** (Hungary):

Thank you very much for this opportunity to say a few words on that issue. You know, in most, or all, of the Central European countries, we are very education-orientated. We inherit our good education from the past. In our region, our Queen, *Mária Terézia*, introduced compulsory education in the eighteenth century, in the 1770s. And all the villages built schools. So we have a long tradition and owing to that, we had well-educated people who could be very successful everywhere, and one day emigrate to the United States of America or other parts of the world. With this tradition behind us, we try to contribute to the dissemination of this kind of thinking all around the world. In my country, from the early 1960s until the mid-1990s, we provided scholarships to more than 20,000 students from the developing world. When we

are travel around Africa, we find ministers and important persons in the leadership who studied in my country – and not only in Hungary, but in other parts of the so-called former Eastern Bloc. That was our contribution and we believe it should now be continued. to find new ways in which we can provide a good education and scholarships for the young generation of Africa and different parts of the world. is very important to us and we are working on it.

51. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much, Under-Secretary of State. Well, what a discussion we have had, ending with the Empress Maria Theresa. We have heard about Tchaikovsky and Russian films and Russian literature – I am a big fan of Russian literature. And extremism in Yemen, and the kings and queens of Kush from the Sudan. I think we have had quite a panorama. Also the intricacies of secondary education in the Gambia – we must not forget that. But we will continue our discussions on how you all, and how UNESCO, can try to promote a culture of peace, which also, of course, contributes to sustainable development. After what I hope will be a very good lunch, we will also have some more keynote speeches and, for the moment, I thank you for your attention. From me, *Zeinab Badawi*, goodbye.

52. **The President:**

Thank you very much. What an uplifting morning we have had, ladies and gentlemen. We are continuing with our next plenary at 3 p.m. sharp. We are going to welcome the Prime Minister of Kenya, the President of the Republic of Serbia and the First Lady of the Dominican Republic and continue our conversation. Thank you very much.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 55*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.55*

*Заседание закрывается в 12.55*

*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٢,٥٥ بعد الظهر*

*会议于 12 时 55 分结束*

# Fourth plenary meeting

Wednesday 26 October 2011 at 3.15 p.m.  
President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Quatrième séance plénière

Mercredi 26 octobre 2011 à 15 h 15  
Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Cuarta sesión plenaria

Miércoles 26 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.15  
Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Четвертое пленарное заседание

среда 26 октября 2011 г. в 15.15  
Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الرابعة

الأربعاء ٢٦ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣,١٥ بعد الظهر  
الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第四次全体会议

2011年10月26日星期三 15时15分  
主席：**Bogyay**女士(匈牙利)

*Leaders' Forum (continued)*  
*Forum des dirigeants (suite)*  
*Foro de dirigentes (continuación)*  
*Форум руководителей (продолжение)*  
*منتدى القادة (تابع)*  
**领导人论坛 (续)**

1. **The President:**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, dear friends. I would like to declare open the fourth plenary meeting, devoted to the Leaders' Forum. We had a very interesting morning session, and I think we will have a very interesting afternoon session as well. I am very honoured to welcome to this afternoon's meeting His Excellency Mr Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya, and Her Excellency Ms Margarita Cedeño de Fernández, First Lady of the Dominican Republic. We are going to welcome the President of Serbia, Mr Tadić, as well, around 4 p.m. And I am very happy to give the floor to our Moderator, Ms Zeinab Badawi, presenter of World News Today on both BBC Four and BBC World News, who will be introducing the President and the speakers, and we will be continuing our discussion. The floor is yours.

2. **The Moderator (Ms Badawi):**

Thank you very much and good afternoon everybody. I certainly had a very good lunch and I hope you did too. Our first keynote speaker this afternoon is somebody who has experienced both conflict and post-conflict society at the sharp end, the Prime Minister of Kenya, Mr Raila Odinga. To tell you briefly just a little bit about Mr Odinga, he actually started off life as an engineer and also worked as a university teacher for some time. Then, following a coup attempt in Kenya in 1981, Raila Odinga found himself languishing in prison for eight years because he was a supporter of multi-party democracy and a pluralist society. Then after the restoration of multi-party politics in 1992, he became a Member of the Kenyan Parliament, served as a Cabinet Minister with various portfolios and then of course, as most of you will remember, in the very difficult elections in Kenya in 2007 in which Raila Odinga was the principal opposition candidate, there were problems in Kenya, but, after a great deal of discussion and negotiations, he then became Prime Minister in the Government of National Unity, serving under President Mwai Kibaki. So, Mr Prime Minister, it is with great interest that we will listen to your speech this afternoon, focusing I believe, at least in part, on education. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

3.1 **Mr Odinga (Prime Minister of Kenya):**

Thank you very much, Madam Moderator. President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General Ms Irina Bokova, Your Excellencies the Presidents, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to begin by congratulating the President of the General Conference of UNESCO on her election. Secondly, I want to congratulate this Conference for the tribute that it paid to the late Professor Wangari Maathai. Wangari Maathai played a very pivotal role in environmental conservation in our country, Kenya. She worked tirelessly for the entire continent of Africa and was a great member of humanity in general, and her passing away was a great blow to us all. I want to thank my brother, the President of Gabon, for the tribute that he paid to Madame Wangari Maathai this morning.

3.2 Ladies and gentlemen, allow me now on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya and of our national delegation here today, to congratulate UNESCO for initiating a Leaders' Forum as one of the activities of this Conference. I trust and believe that the forum's resolutions will contribute significantly to strengthening UNESCO's promotion of the kind of peace that fosters meaningful social and economic development. You have Kenya's full support in this. I should like to thank Ms Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO, as well as the Government and the people of France, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in Paris.

3.3 Ladies and gentlemen, in my view, peace and sustainable development are two sides of the same coin. Neither can truly exist without the other. The onus is upon us, therefore, to pursue a culture of peace from the individual through the national, regional and global levels. UNESCO has done an amazing job since its inception more than 60 years ago. But there is always room for ever more practical and innovative solutions to help us meet the changing and developing challenges of the twenty-first century. International cooperation, collaboration and partnership are the watchwords. None of us can act in isolation any longer. We must all willingly cooperate, especially in instituting governance systems that prevent violence. The preamble to UNESCO's Constitution says it well: "Peace begins in the minds of men, [and] it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." The fact is that the kind of peace we can achieve will depend on our ability to transform both the way people think and the systems that dominate the world order. We all desire a world with workable ways of resolving conflict. Destructive, expensive wars must be a thing of the past, for violence has never been a solution to political and economic challenges. All empirical evidence shows that an absence of peace stifles development and denies citizens the ability to chart their own destinies and develop their intellectual potential. Without peace there is neither freedom nor dignity, and ultimately all human life is threatened. As pointed out in the Global Peace Index in May this year, had the world been even a quarter more peaceful over the preceding year, the global economy would have benefited by an additional \$2 trillion – equal to the two per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) per annum required to mitigate global warming and cover the costs of achieving the Millennium Development Goals – and with some left over to meet other development challenges.

3.4 Ladies and gentlemen, you will recall that, in December last year, the United Nations adopted a resolution emphasizing the importance of culture in meeting sustainable development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. By that time, we in Kenya had not only incorporated the cultural component into our national

development strategy, which we call Vision 2030, but we had also embraced culture as one of the four major pillars of our foreign policy. We fully believe that communication, education, science and culture are vital vehicles for peace-building. Education and international exposure teach our youth about different cultures, different lifestyles and different religious beliefs. Using these vehicles to reach out across national borders lessens the hostility engendered by prejudice and ignorance, and fosters appreciation, tolerance and mutual awareness. UNESCO's efforts have long been at the heart of this kind of international understanding. We have noted with appreciation that, as the lead agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014, UNESCO is supporting Member States as they integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into the design and development of inclusive education policies. This will no doubt go a long way towards achieving the desired societal reform. But we must not forget that ultimate responsibility for inculcating and nurturing a culture of peace lies with individual Member States. Through this forum, we have the chance to seek, re-examine and share knowledge and mechanisms that could guarantee lasting solutions and benefit all nations, individually and communally.

3.5 Ladies and gentlemen, the paradox of Africa is the extensive wealth of its human and natural resources on the one hand, and the extreme poverty of its people on the other. African countries have for decades faced the challenges of underdevelopment, armed conflict, refugees, the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, malaria, AIDS and other communicable diseases. More recently, Africa has also faced disproportionate threats to human security – those brought about by terrorism, piracy, and human and drug trafficking. This is another reason why it is imperative that we strengthen international cooperation and collaboration to eliminate these evil threats to peace and development. Kenya has already been in the forefront of promoting peace, stability and security in Africa. Our officers are frequent participants in regional peace initiatives and in peacekeeping missions in different parts of the world. Recently, we have made a significant contribution to the pursuit of peace in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. Our biggest current challenge is the urgent security and humanitarian crisis in Somalia, and I should like to take this opportunity to call for continued support from the international community for the Somali political process. One vital step towards peace is the uplifting of living standards – removing people from grinding, hopeless poverty. The world needs scientific and technological innovation and knowledge to improve health, find low-cost energy solutions, enhance food security, and effectively reclaim and conserve ecosystems. To this end, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that access to new technology is made available to communities where the social and economic impact will be greatest.

3.6 Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, may I pay tribute once again to UNESCO's long experience in building a culture of peace, both through the implementation of United Nations declarations and through its own focused programmes. I conclude by stating that since Kenya became independent, our troops had never gone across our borders into a neighbouring country. We have had very peaceful, friendly relationships with all our neighbours, but over the last one and a half weeks, our troops have crossed our border for the first time and are right now inside Somalia. This is in order to protect peace in our country. For far too long, a gang known as al-Shabab have continued to carry out attacks within our territories. Three weeks ago, they shot and killed a British tourist and abducted his wife. Ten days later they abducted a French lady, whom they eventually killed. A few days later they abducted two Spanish aid workers, who they are still holding now. So many of our people have been killed in the process, in spite of the fact that Kenya is host to over half a million refugees from Somalia. We have the biggest refugee camp in the world in our country. That is why we have said that we need a sustainable peace in our country. We must have secure borders. That is the reason why our troops are in Somalia and will remain there until we are satisfied that the borders of our country are secure and free. It is our challenge to look at what has been successful and to absorb the lessons learned and the experiences gained, so that we have the tools to change cultural mindsets for the better. We must commit to proposing and approving practical measures that will really make a difference. Let us not be afraid to do whatever it takes to lead the way in nurturing a culture of peace in the minds of men. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, and I wish all conference attendees very fruitful discussions. Thank you.

#### 4. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed, Prime Minister Raila Odinga of Kenya, and thank you for sharing your thoughts with us about the entry of Kenyan soldiers into Somali territory. Our next keynote speaker this afternoon is the First Lady of the Dominican Republic, Ms Margarita Cedeño de Fernández. She is a lawyer by training and she began her public career in 1996, when she became the legal adviser to the President of the Dominican Republic; then in 2004 she assumed her duties as First Lady and she has been very instrumental in the implementation of the President's social programmes in the Dominican Republic. So I invite the First Lady to please take the floor.

#### 5.1 **Sra. Cedeño de Fernández (Primera Dama de la República Dominicana):**

*Thank you.* Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, señores Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, Excelencias, señoras y señores muy buenas tardes a todos y a todas. Recordando la Declaración y el Programa de Acción sobre una Cultura de Paz, que señala que el logro de la paz está vinculado al desarrollo, es un alto honor para mí participar en esta 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO, orientada a la reflexión sobre su rol en la construcción de una cultura de paz y el desarrollo sostenible. Felicito el llamado que ha hecho la UNESCO, bajo la magistral dirección de la Dra. Irina Bokova, a presentar ideas innovadoras y creativas revolucionarias para la erradicación de la idea de violencia de las mentes de los hombres y las mujeres. Hoy más que nunca cobra importancia el papel de la UNESCO justamente en un contexto internacional caracterizado por crisis financieras, alimentarias y medioambientales, así como por el incremento de la desigualdad social, la delincuencia organizada, el narcotráfico y la violencia intrafamiliar; hechos que ponen en peligro la armonía social, el respeto a la dignidad humana y que vulneran los derechos humanos.

5.2 Les hablo hoy, como representante de un pequeño gran país, la República Dominicana. Una isla en el corazón del Caribe, abierta al mundo, a sus culturas y que siente como hermanos a todos los ciudadanos del mundo; un pueblo libre, alegre, que ama la vida y que defiende la dignidad del ser humano, la justicia social y el desarrollo como

estandartes de la paz. Pero también, un país que no escapa a las crisis mundiales actuales, las cuales afectan sobre todo a los más jóvenes que sufren con mayor rigor las consecuencias de la pobreza, la desigualdad, el desempleo y la falta de oportunidades. Estas situaciones, vinculadas a la actual carencia de valores, torna a la juventud más vulnerable a todo tipo de riesgos, frente a los que los gobiernos y la cooperación internacional tenemos el compromiso de implementar efectivas políticas públicas de desarrollo, tomando en cuenta que la mitad de los habitantes del mundo tiene menos de 25 años. A propósito del informe que recién citara el señor Presidente de Kenya -del cual también nos habla el Banco Mundial- relativo a que el Producto Interno Bruto de nuestros países crecería un 2% más si integrásemos a los jóvenes como catalizadores del desarrollo económico. Pero además, para que ese desarrollo sea incluyente, debemos contribuir a la formación de un nuevo ser humano, que fundamente su accionar en principios éticos y morales y en valores relacionados con la paz, la honestidad, la responsabilidad, el respeto y la solidaridad.

5.3 Como Primera Dama, hemos creado la "Estrategia por una sociedad de valores" y los jóvenes son los principales protagonistas de esta iniciativa. A través de los medios de comunicación y de las redes sociales promueven acciones de transformación en sus comunidades y una cultura de práctica de valores en todos los ámbitos de la vida de las personas y la sociedad. Y quiero aquí decirles que realmente mi discurso no va a ser un discurso político, sino que quiero llevar a la plenaria ideas realmente que puedan contribuir a lo que la juventud en el séptimo Foro de la Juventud nos pidiera, esto es, que pasáramos de la teoría a la práctica. Quiero que reflexionemos al respecto y sobre el mandato de esta Asamblea y aquí traigo a colación el pensamiento de Juan Pablo II, que plantea que los jóvenes son la esperanza de la paz y los que construyen la paz. Asimismo, analizando las conclusiones del séptimo Foro de la Juventud, recién celebrado estos días, en el que se señala que ellos y ellas son vectores de paz en sus sociedades, propongo a la UNESCO que aprovechemos el potencial de los jóvenes y enfoquemos nuestras intervenciones en la creación de capacidades de los jóvenes para la construcción de una cultura de paz, desde un ámbito holístico, integrador y abarcador, que incorpore también a sus familias y a las comunidades en que viven, en su doble rol de emisores y receptores. Desde mi despacho de Primera Dama, hemos trabajado con la UNESCO en la implementación en escuelas secundarias del importante y eficaz "Plan de desarrollo juvenil y prevención de la violencia", que capacita a jóvenes líderes como multiplicadores y promotores de paz.

5.4 Creo oportuno que amplíemos estas intervenciones para lograr así un mayor impacto en las familias y en las comunidades, implementando en nuestros países una "Estrategia nacional de formación de jóvenes líderes por el progreso y la paz", tomando como modelo la experiencia exitosa del proyecto del mismo nombre que hemos ejecutado y que seguimos ejecutando en mi país desde mi despacho. Con una metodología participativa y experiencias vivenciales, promoveríamos entre los jóvenes una ética basada en el respeto de los derechos humanos, los valores democráticos, el compromiso social, la solidaridad, la tolerancia y la defensa de la paz, como base de sus acciones, para que sean sujetos de su propio desarrollo y agentes de cambio social. Trabajaríamos para formar a los nuevos líderes sociales y una verdadera cultura de paz; líderes con capacidad para solucionar conflictos de forma creativa, responsable y pacífica e inculcaríamos en ellos una base moral y de desarrollo comunitario para que sean verdaderos agentes de cohesión social comunitaria. Asimismo, podríamos promover también, desde este Foro y en nuestros países, propuestas innovadoras acerca de cómo hacer realidad la práctica del valor de la paz a todos los niveles, reconociendo y apoyando en nuestros países aquellas iniciativas que resulten más visionarias y pertinentes para nuestros contextos.

5.5 Señoras y señores, las espontáneas movilizaciones juveniles en la primavera árabe, los "indignados" en España y "Ocupemos Wall Street" en los Estados Unidos nos convencen de que los jóvenes quieren un cambio y están dispuestos a grandes sacrificios para construir sociedades más democráticas y justas, en las que primen el diálogo y la colaboración solidaria y se erradiquen el individualismo, el egoísmo y la especulación que contribuyen a su exclusión frenando su desarrollo. Aprovechemos la fuerza y el ímpetu de la juventud de hoy y su compromiso social y deseo de participar, de contribuir al desarrollo y al avance de sus países y sus sociedades fuera de partidos políticos y de ideologías. Los jóvenes son claves en el desarrollo. Si los jóvenes son capaces de cambiar sistemas políticos, derribar gobiernos y exigir un mundo más justo, también son capaces de labrar la paz en sus hogares, en sus comunidades, en sus escuelas y en toda la sociedad. Sigamos apostando por ellos y ellas. Fomentemos un liderazgo juvenil basado en los valores de progreso, compromiso social, respeto de los derechos humanos y tolerancia, para que actúen como entes de cohesión social, ejerciendo la paz como un derecho y como un deber. Enseñemos a nuestros jóvenes a que aprendan a vivir y hacer la paz en la cotidianidad, y que esto a su vez nos ayude a forjar familias sanas y a tener sociedades más seguras y pacíficas. Como dijera Mahatma Gandhi, "no hay camino para la paz, la paz es el camino"; y yo diría, un camino de lazos de amor, de tolerancia y solidaridad entre las personas y las naciones; un camino de educación integral y de calidad; un camino de promoción y fortalecimiento de la familia; un camino de valores humanos, éticos y ciudadanos; un camino de respeto a la naturaleza y cuidado al medio ambiente; un camino de igualdad entre todos los seres humanos. En fin un camino, señoras y señores, que en definitiva, empieza en cada uno de nosotros y se consolida con el compromiso de todos y de todas. Un abrazo muy fuerte de paz y mis felicitaciones a los directores y las directoras de esta institución, de esta Conferencia y de este Consejo. Muchísimas gracias.

(5.1) **Mme Cedeño de Fernández** (Première Dame de la République dominicaine) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Je vous remercie. Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Messieurs les Chefs d'État et de gouvernement, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour à toutes et à tous. Rappelant la Déclaration et le Programme d'action sur une culture de la paix, qui souligne que la réalisation de la paix est liée au développement, c'est avec un immense honneur que je prends part à cette 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, axée sur la réflexion autour du rôle de l'Organisation dans l'instauration d'une culture de la paix et du développement durable. Je salue l'appel lancé par l'UNESCO, sous la direction magistrale de Mme Irina Bokova, pour trouver des idées novatrices, créatives et révolutionnaires afin de chasser l'idée de violence de l'esprit des hommes et des femmes. Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, le rôle de l'UNESCO revêt de l'importance, dans un contexte international précisément marqué par des crises financières, alimentaires et environnementales, ainsi que par une augmentation des inégalités sociales, de la criminalité organisée, du trafic de drogues et de la violence domestique, qui mettent en péril l'harmonie sociale et le respect de la dignité humaine, et qui portent atteinte aux droits de l'homme.



(5.2) Je m'exprime aujourd'hui en tant que représentante d'un pays à la fois petit et grand, la République dominicaine, île située au cœur des Caraïbes, ouverte au monde et à ses cultures, et qui considère comme des frères tous les citoyens du monde ; un pays au peuple libre, joyeux, qui aime la vie et qui défend la dignité humaine, la justice sociale et le développement comme étendards de la paix. Il s'agit néanmoins d'un pays qui n'échappe pas aux crises mondiales actuelles, lesquelles touchent principalement les plus jeunes, qui subissent plus durement les conséquences de la pauvreté, les inégalités, le chômage et de l'absence de perspectives. Cette situation, conjuguée au manque de valeurs actuel, rend la jeunesse plus vulnérable à toutes sortes de risques, face auxquels nous, gouvernements et acteurs de la coopération internationale, avons l'obligation de mettre en œuvre des politiques de développement efficaces, compte tenu du fait que la moitié de la population mondiale a moins de 25 ans, et comme il ressort du rapport que vient de citer le Président kényan – également mentionné par la Banque mondiale – selon lequel le Produit intérieur brut de nos pays augmenterait de 2 % si nous intégrions les jeunes en tant que catalyseurs du développement économique. Cependant, pour que ce développement soit inclusif, nous devons aussi contribuer à l'émergence d'un nouvel être humain, dont le comportement serait guidé par des principes éthiques et moraux, ainsi que des valeurs en rapport avec la paix, l'honnêteté, la responsabilité, le respect et la solidarité.

(5.3) En tant que Première Dame, j'ai lancé avec mon équipe la « Stratégie pour une société fondée sur des valeurs », dont les jeunes sont les principaux acteurs. À travers différents moyens de communication et les réseaux sociaux, ils s'attachent à promouvoir des actions transformatrices auprès de leurs communautés, ainsi qu'une culture du respect des valeurs dans tous les domaines de la vie privée et de la société. Je tiens ici à préciser que mon propos n'a rien d'un discours politique, et que je souhaite seulement faire part à la plénière d'idées qui pourraient véritablement permettre de réaliser ce que les jeunes nous ont demandé lors du 7<sup>e</sup> Forum des jeunes, à savoir passer de la théorie à la pratique. Je voudrais que nous réfléchissions au mandat de cette Assemblée, et je mentionnerais ici la pensée de Jean-Paul II selon laquelle les jeunes incarnent l'espoir de la paix, dont ils sont les artisans. De même, au vu des conclusions du 7<sup>e</sup> Forum des jeunes qui s'est tenu ces derniers jours, et où il a été souligné que les jeunes étaient des vecteurs de paix au sein de leurs sociétés, je propose que l'UNESCO mette à profit le potentiel des jeunes, en leur double qualité d'émetteurs et de récepteurs, et axe ses interventions sur le développement de leurs capacités en vue de l'instauration d'une culture de la paix, dans un cadre holistique, inclusif et rassembleur, qui englobe leur famille et la communauté dans laquelle ils vivent. Dans le cadre de mon rôle de Première Dame, mon équipe et moi avons coopéré avec l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre, dans des établissements d'enseignement secondaire, du « Plan de développement de la jeunesse et de prévention de la violence ». Il s'agit d'un plan important et efficace qui prépare les jeunes leaders à diffuser et promouvoir la paix.

(5.4) Je crois qu'il est temps que nous élargissions ces interventions pour en accroître l'impact sur les familles et les communautés en mettant en œuvre dans nos pays une « Stratégie nationale de formation de jeunes leaders pour le progrès et la paix », sur le modèle de l'expérience fructueuse du projet du même nom que mon Bureau met en œuvre dans mon pays. Grâce à des méthodes participatives et à des expériences vécues, nous pourrions promouvoir auprès des jeunes une éthique fondée sur le respect des droits de l'homme, les valeurs démocratiques, l'engagement social, la solidarité, la tolérance et la défense de la paix, qui guiderait leurs actions, pour qu'ils soient les acteurs de leur propre développement et du changement social. Nous œuvrerions ainsi à l'instauration d'une véritable culture de la paix et à la formation de nouveaux leaders sociaux, capables de résoudre les conflits de façon créative, responsable et pacifique, et nous leur inculquerions un fondement moral et des principes de développement communautaire pour en faire de véritables agents de la cohésion sociale et communautaire. De même, nous pourrions promouvoir à travers ce Forum et dans nos pays, des propositions novatrices pour faire en sorte que le respect de la valeur de paix devienne réalité à tous les niveaux, en reconnaissant et en soutenant dans nos pays les initiatives qui s'avèrent les plus visionnaires et les mieux adaptées à nos contextes respectifs.

(5.5) Mesdames et Messieurs, les mobilisations spontanées de la jeunesse, notamment dans le cadre du Printemps arabe, du mouvement des « Indignés » en Espagne et du mouvement « Occupy Wall Street » aux États-Unis, nous montrent clairement que les jeunes souhaitent un changement et sont prêts à d'importants sacrifices pour édifier des sociétés plus démocratiques et plus justes, dans lesquelles priment le dialogue et la solidarité au détriment de l'individualisme, de l'égoïsme et de la spéculation, qui contribuent à leur exclusion et freinent leur développement. Tirons parti de la force et de l'énergie de la jeunesse d'aujourd'hui, ainsi que de son engagement social et de son désir de participer, de contribuer au développement et au progrès de leur pays et de leur société, en dehors de tout parti politique ou idéologie. Les jeunes sont la clé du développement. S'ils sont capables de changer des systèmes politiques, de renverser des gouvernements et d'exiger un monde plus juste, ils sont également capables de cultiver la paix au sein de leur foyer, de leur communauté, de leur école et de la société tout entière. Continuons de miser sur eux. Encourageons en eux un esprit d'initiative fondé sur les valeurs de progrès, d'engagement social, de respect des droits de l'homme et de tolérance pour qu'ils agissent en faveur de la cohésion sociale et qu'ils exercent la paix comme un droit et un devoir. Enseignons aux jeunes à vivre et à cultiver la paix au quotidien, permettant ainsi de construire des familles saines et de rendre les sociétés plus sûres et pacifiques. Comme le disait le Mahatma Gandhi, « il n'y a pas de chemin vers la paix, la paix est le chemin » ; et, j'ajouterais, un chemin où s'entremêlent l'amour, la tolérance et la solidarité entre les individus et les nations, un chemin d'éducation complète et de qualité, un chemin de promotion et de renforcement de la famille, un chemin de valeurs humaines, éthiques et citoyennes, un chemin de respect de la nature et de protection de l'environnement, un chemin d'égalité entre tous les êtres humains et, enfin, Mesdames et Messieurs, un chemin qui, en définitive, commence en chacun de nous et se consolide avec l'engagement de tout un chacun. Tous mes vœux de paix et toutes mes félicitations aux directeurs et directrices de cette institution, de cette Conférence et de ce Conseil. Je vous remercie.

#### 6.1 **The Moderator:**

*Muchísimas gracias*, First Lady of the Dominican Republic. We are now going to carry on with our ministerial discussions from before lunch, but we will interrupt them when the President of Serbia, Mr Boris Tadić, arrives, to hear his keynote speech.

*The meeting is suspended briefly while the President of the General Conference and the Director-General take leave of the Prime Minister of Kenya and the First Lady of the Dominican Republic*

6.2 Now that we all know one another a little better, I would like to say that for this afternoon I have a long list of delegations wishing to speak and I need to make sure we have time to hear the comments of as many of you as possible about the theme of this year's General Conference. Do remember that we are looking for very concrete examples of how you can all take this agenda forward and also consider things which UNESCO has perhaps not considered sufficiently in the past or new things that UNESCO could be doing. You are already preaching to the converted here, so do not just

come with your prepared speeches as, with due respect to all of you, it would be nice if we could have something of a discussion. We are going to start with the representative of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation. Representative of Indonesia, please introduce yourself and make your comments. Thank you.

7. **Mr Nuh (Indonesia):**

Thank you, Madam. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the General Conference, which has prepared such comprehensive material regarding the topic of discussion, "How does UNESCO contribute to building of the culture of peace and sustainable development?". Please let me contribute a few thoughts. Firstly, all of us should acknowledge that the sole purpose of education and culture is to ameliorate the standard of living in every possible dimension: in the economic dimension, in the social dimension and in the environmental dimension. It is important to underscore the fact that these dimensions are mutually dependent on one another. Secondly, we need to revisit the definition of tolerance. Tolerance is regarded as one of the most essential elements in creativity, aside from talent and technology. We should not only be socially tolerant but we also need to be tolerant to open thought, self-expression and new ideas, since this will facilitate the invention of new technologies, business models and many other unprecedented solutions to the world's current problems. With such an understanding of the meaning of tolerance, we can expect racial, ethnic, cultural and spiritual conflict to be prevented from happening, to establish peaceful life and at the same time also establish creative societies to boost productivity. Thirdly, honesty is the most important value that needs to be imposed in any concept of development in order to promote peaceful and sustainable development. Looking at events in the last decade, the damage inflicted by the absence of honesty is palpable in a myriad forms, such as wars, social conflicts, economic crises and environmental crises. As has famously been said, "For successful technology, honesty must take precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled." Corollaries to this argument are applicable to business models, government policies and so on, for not only nature but also society cannot be fooled. The importance of tolerance and honesty demonstrates the need for character education to be part of school curricula, embedded in each subject and taught at all stages of education, especially at the early stages. All in all, we should never perceive any of the world's problems as a local problem, but as a global problem instead, as in the case of our bodies; if any one part of the body is suffering, all of the other parts will share its suffering. Therefore, it is a responsibility of the world community to collaborate in solving the world's problems. In order to work, collaboration should always be driven by mutual benefit and based on mutual understanding and mutual respect of all parties involved. Thank you very much.

8. **The Moderator:**

Thank you, representative of Indonesia, for your very interesting intervention. I heard you use the word "honesty" many times. Are you willing to be a bit more specific about who you think is behind this lack of honesty? What exactly do you mean?

9. **Mr Nuh (Indonesia):**

The key is the significance of honesty and tolerance for open thought and new ideas. Thank you.

10. **The Moderator:**

So it is the promotion of honesty that you are for, and are not accusing any agents of being behind a lack of honesty. I see, thank you. We now have a statement by Turkey and of course we offer our condolences to your nation on the tragic earthquake that has struck around the city of Van.

11.1 **Mr Dinçer (Turkey):**

Madam Director-General, esteemed Ministers, first of all, I would like to present my sincere gratitude to Madam Director-General and all delegations who have shared our sorrow after the earthquake disaster in Turkey. Madam President, I am pleased to see that the existence of a shared understanding of a "culture of peace" and "sustainable development" continues to be a primary goal for humanity in today's world. It is clear that our common struggle requires new methods and tools to face global challenges. The challenges include the increase in waste and consumption despite the scarcity of world resources, natural disasters, global warming and pollution, violence and terrorism, as well as the unemployment threatening the young. Education and culture are among the foremost of such methods and tools in addressing these issues. UNESCO provides us with an excellent platform to effectively promote education and culture at both national and international levels. Certain steps taken last year on the initiative of Madam Director-General have created the opportunity for UNESCO to play an even more active role in these fields. The establishment of an intersectoral platform focusing on the culture of peace within the UNESCO Secretariat is a significant and timely initiative. Turkey, as a co-sponsor of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative, together with Spain, strongly supports the collaboration between UNESCO and the Alliance of Civilizations. The United Nations Economic and Social Council dedicated this year's session to education, which is another important step towards embracing education and culture as indispensable aspects of sustainable development in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals. During this session, the Council named UNESCO as the lead agency for the coordination of global activities regarding education, thereby adding to UNESCO's responsibilities.

11.2 The agenda of the 36th session of the General Conference addresses the challenges faced in the attainment of the education for all objectives. This is an indication of UNESCO's awareness of such challenges. Turkey supports UNESCO's initiative for a Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education. Africa, and gender equality, which are among the primary topics in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy, are also Turkey's priorities. In the light of the Protocol that was signed last May between UNESCO and the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency, Turkey is prepared to cooperate with UNESCO and all Member States in these fields. Distinguished Members, as I said before, UNESCO is developing new instruments, standards and principles to more effectively contribute to the culture of peace and sustainable development through education and culture on the basis of democracy and human rights. However, since Member States and the international community are not always successful enough in implementing

these tools at the national and regional levels, I believe that it is necessary to benefit from UNESCO's 65 years of experience in order to develop new strategies that will help us determine and implement our cultural and educational policies. Thank you.

12. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much for that statement from Turkey.

13. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, we would like to welcome the President of Serbia, Mr Boris Tadić, who has just arrived and is about to enter the room.

*The meeting is suspended briefly to allow the President of the General Conference and the Director-General to welcome His Excellency Mr Boris Tadić, President of Serbia*

14. **The Moderator:**

As we await the arrival of President Boris Tadić, I would like to encourage speakers to engage more in a discussion, a real dialogue, perhaps picking up points from previous speakers and adding to, or expanding or commenting on something that they have raised. This would be a good way of giving more dynamism and cohesiveness to our discussions.

15. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour to welcome the President of Serbia, Mr Boris Tadić.

16. **The Moderator:**

Allow me briefly to introduce President Boris Tadić of Serbia. He is the leader of the Democratic Party in Serbia. He assumed that position in 2004. Before that he was the Defence Minister of what was then Serbia and Montenegro. In 2004, he was elected President of Serbia and then in 2008 he was re-elected for a second term. President Tadić, you are a social scientist by training, is that right? Absolutely. Well, we would like you to share your wisdom with us, so please, Sir, the floor is yours.

17.1 **Mr Tadić (President of Serbia):**

Dear Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, I would like to thank Director-General Bokova for her exemplary leadership of this Organization, and for inviting me to address the 2011 UNESCO Leaders' Forum. Allow me to underline what a pleasure it is to share the stage with this distinguished group.

17.2 Our topic this year is UNESCO's contribution to building a culture of peace and sustainable development. This is a critically important topic for us in these globally challenging times. The present crisis is on everyone's lips. It is not just an economic crisis, however; it is first and foremost a crisis of morals and values. Understandably, material considerations dominate the international discourse on how to solve the crisis.

17.3 But today, I want to focus on another – for me, equally important – element. This is our topic, defined as building a culture of peace and sustainable development. The framework that UNESCO provides is indeed the most appropriate one. Aristotle pointed out that only mankind possesses *logos* – or “reasoned speech” – and that we are naturally drawn to live in communities, not in seclusion. Reflecting on this, Thomas Mann wrote that “speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact – it is silence which isolates”. More than anything else, this capacity to communicate, to have discussions among ourselves in an orderly and thoughtful way, is what continues to define us as human beings. This intrinsically human trait opens up the possibility for dialogue to result in understanding, and ultimately agreement.

17.4 In times past, technology placed limits on the scope of our knowledge of whatever we defined as the outside world. For millennia, various cultures – various civilizations – could develop independently of one another. The world of today has made this impossible. Information flows instantaneously, whether its source is across the street or on the other side of the planet, of the globe. In other words, the gap between what is local and what is global is bridged in the blink of an eye. This appears to be an irreversible development. The basic issue before us is not how to counter globalization, but how to harness it to the common advantage of mankind. Ultimately, this is what UNESCO is about. One may describe our work here as a sort of confluence of a great many rivers. Some, being ancient and placid, have been imbued over time with reflection and knowledge; others, younger, more ebullient, cascade forth with a vitality conducive to innovation and rapid development.

17.5 Our basic task is not to judge or evaluate the merits of any single source, but to try and draw together the various streams. The result would bring forth a world in which all cultures would grow increasingly secure in respect of each other. As a consequence, inequalities would become less prevalent, discrimination less rampant, and the instability arising from want or violence not only less extensive, but ultimately relegated to the margins of history. This is how we can build a global culture of peace and sustainable development. To do so, we must guard against the erasing hand of uniformity. Dialogue is not about sameness, but about respect and reconciliation. It is not about standardizing cultures or changing faiths, but about enlarging the common denominator of values and principles that bind us all to each other as human beings. What we need is a new verticality of values.

17.6 Our times call for the construction of a new *axis mundi* – symbolically speaking, a new global spine around which all of us – regardless of the country we come from and the culture we embrace – can rally and create a new moral and humanist environment. In our century, there can no longer be divisions between large and small cultures and traditions. Each in its own way possesses a fundamental value that must never be allowed to be denigrated by anyone else. This is what I meant when a moment ago I spoke of enlarging the common denominator of values and principles

that bind us all to each other as human beings. And this is what we endorsed 10 years ago when we embraced the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

17.7 Working through UNESCO will actively help us overcome the daunting threats to peace and stability we all face in the twenty-first century. Working through UNESCO helps us to confront the silence Thomas Mann warned leads to isolation, but also to mistrust, instability and ultimately conflict. Success will be achieved if our descendants are able to look back on our efforts and say, “in the twenty-first century, hope prevailed over fear, and the cultures came together in all their wonderful diversity to conquer hostility and hatred”. Consider the words of Sir Julian Sorell Huxley, the first Director-General of UNESCO. Upon being asked to define the parameters of progress, he wrote that fulfilling the human race’s potential meant directing its “diversity away from competitive discord to harmonious symphony”. I can think of no better way to define the generational task before us: to produce a harmonious symphony of humanity.

17.8 Ladies and gentlemen, in this context, I would like to express my agreement with Director-General Bokova’s recent statement that “these difficult times call for more UNESCO, not less”. That sentence perfectly encapsulates the reason why Serbia has put forward its candidacy for membership of the World Heritage Committee for the period 2011-2015. We strongly believe our well-known and wide-ranging experience and expertise in all the areas under the Committee’s jurisdiction can strengthen the Convention and further promote its august principles. Because we need more UNESCO, not less, Serbia is committed to making sure that vision becomes a reality in the years and decades to come. In our globalizing times of challenge and renewal, the question of identity – from the perspective of both the individual and the national culture – is one of our most pressing problems. Mainstream cultures around the world are increasing their fascination with the here-and-now. More than in past times, what is trendy and contemporary dominates. We are almost obsessed with what is modern – with being modern.

17.9 This healthy approach has a dark side, however. If we are not careful, it can lead to a sense of losing or forgetting our roots. I do not think we can be thoughtfully modern without remaining strongly linked with our own particular tradition – our own specific heritage and inheritance. We must remain connected to our past without becoming subservient to it. In other words, we must not allow our destiny to be one characterized by forgetfulness. Modernity properly understood is not a liberation from the past.

17.10 Whether we are fully aware of it or not, we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors – of those who came before us and who contributed to making our culture what it is today. Those famous and anonymous heroes of yesterday, who contributed their genius, wisdom and knowledge to prevent the collective forgetting of where we came from, deserve our sustained respect. We owe our very modernity to them, that is to say, we owe our identity to them and their hard, ennobling work. They represent the source of the rocks with which we built our monuments, the alphabet with which we wrote our chronicles, and the songs with which we sang of our exploits and our pain. This is what the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is about. It is what the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is about. And it is what the Memory of the World Programme is about. These are the frameworks we should use for the establishment of a culture of peace. Conserving and reconstructing what came before for the benefit of those who will come later is a solid definition of identity.

17.11 Thanks to UNESCO, our personal and national identities become integral parts of world heritage. This has never happened before in human history. But we have to be careful in the conclusions we draw from this unprecedented state of affairs. So let me underline the point. Identities are becoming universal because they are first and foremost particular. They have to be somebody’s before they can belong to everyone. As this is the case everywhere, it is the case in Serbia’s breakaway province of Kosovo and Metohija as well. As a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional, democratic country, we deny no one’s identity, and so we have every right to expect the same from everyone else. Four of our holiest sites are located in Kosovo and have been placed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. Their unquestionable Serbian identity must be preserved, and any attempt to make them “Kosovar” must be prevented. Serbia, as a State Party responsible for these monuments, will remain committed to this task. We also count on the support of UNESCO, because here is where we protect cultural identities, not make up new ones.

17.12 Ladies and gentlemen, Serbia attaches great significance to regional cooperation in the context of the Convention that frames the legitimacy of all the work we do in the context of UNESCO. In our part of the world, cultural heritage often crosses international, recognized borders. My country has taken a lead in strengthening cross-border cultural cooperation. We see it as a strong contributor to regional reconciliation. For instance, Serbia, together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro, jointly proposed adding to the World Heritage List the medieval funerary monuments of the Bogumils, the Stecci. We are also committed to nominating the Dinaric Karst Region jointly with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia.

17.13 I recently hosted the Ninth UNESCO Summit of Heads of State of South-East Europe, whose theme was Contemporary Art and Reconciliation in South-East Europe. Despite its critical importance, this universal form of intercultural communication has often not been sufficiently recognized as a vehicle for promoting common values. Its outstanding potential to bridge divides was emphasized at the Summit in various ways. In my remarks on that occasion, I reminded everyone present that even during the divisions that arose during the Yugoslav civil war of the 1990s, joint contemporary art projects continued to flourish. They went on to play a visible role in the cultural reconnection of the Western Balkans in this young century.

17.14 Today, we are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that artistic expression is a powerful instrument for encouraging sustainable development. By emphasizing creativity, innovation and social cohesion, it generates confidence in the process of reconciliation and promotes human rights, tolerance and mutual understanding. That is why we have so strongly supported the initiative by Serbian and Bosnian artists and galleries to establish a Museum of Contemporary Art in Sarajevo – an idea in keeping with the city’s multi-ethnic history. We have also lent our support to

an initiative by Mr Ivan Tasovac, the director of the Belgrade Philharmonic. Thanks to his efforts, the philharmonic orchestras of Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana – the capitals of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, respectively – will play a series of concerts in each of these three cities in the next year for the first time in several decades. Increasing intercultural cooperation in the Balkans also plays a strong role in cross-border education.

17.15 One of Serbia's most significant contributions is the Petnica Science Centre, located near the Western Serbian town of Valjevo. Petnica is the largest and oldest independent science and technology education organization in South-East Europe, responsible for more than 2,500 seminars, workshops and research projects involving more than 50,000 students and science professors in 15 disciplines. These are conducted at the high-school and university levels and include participants from all Western Balkan countries. We are working on a series of proposals designed to better inform and interest UNESCO Member States in participating in the cross-cultural scientific activities of the Petnica Science Centre. We hope its forthcoming 30th anniversary will take place under the auspices of UNESCO.

17.16 Ladies and gentlemen, the regional UNESCO Summit that I hosted this past September took place at the Roman archaeological site of Viminacium – the Pompeii of the Balkans. This once-thriving city, buried and forgotten for many centuries, was one of the most culturally rich cities of the late Roman Empire – a great crossroads that connected East and West, North and South. Viminacium stands as a powerful embodiment of what the Balkans represent in these times of increasing globalization: a place where bridges across cultures are built; a place where divisions are being overcome. Right at the centre of the Balkans stands Serbia – a country with many centuries of heritage to share with the rest of mankind. We are proud to offer our distinct contribution to the beautification of the world through our active participation in UNESCO. One way to do this is through the written word – the most precious manifestation of the *Logos* Aristotle wrote so much about. Fifty years ago, the great author Ivo Andrić, who in the best way presented multi-ethnicity of our region, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

17.17 Let me therefore come to the end of my remarks by quoting from his *magnum opus*, *The Bridge on the Drina*, a book that more than any other brings out the message I have tried to convey to you today: "From everything that man erects and builds in his urge for living, nothing is in my eyes better and more valuable than bridges. [...] Belonging to everyone and being equal to everyone, useful, always built with a sense [of purpose], on the spot where most human needs are crossing, they are more durable than other buildings and they do not serve for anything secret and bad." *Logos*, like bridges, preserves and ultimately enhances contact. It is our duty to the sort of future we seek to build, to make sure UNESCO continues to encourage all of us Member States to resist the temptation to create distance and build walls of seclusion, instead of bridges of understanding. Our job is to create a harmonious symphony of mankind, to make sure we all better and more seamlessly connect, and thus enrich, the world of the twenty-first century – the kind of world we want our children to grow up in. For that to happen, my friends, we need more UNESCO, not less. Thank you very much for your attention.

18. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed, Mr President, for sharing your thoughts with us on the challenges ahead for Serbia, a country which, as you say, is having to tackle the very difficult legacy of the war that broke up the former Yugoslavia. You talk of building bridges of understanding and it is certainly an area of the world that does require a great deal of reconciliation and a happier future. Mr President, please stay as long as you have the time to listen to our discussions, and if you wish to speak again, please do just indicate this and I will be happy to oblige. Thank you. We have heard from Indonesia and Turkey. Let us continue with an intervention from another Muslim country, Pakistan, another country that is currently going through a great deal of violent upheaval in one way or another. The representative of Pakistan, please introduce yourself and if you can keep your statement to the point I would be grateful.

19.1 **Mr Khan Jamali (Pakistan):**

Mir Changez Khan Jamali, Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan. Thank you, Madam Badawi. Excellencies, Heads of State, distinguished delegates, today is a memorable day because since this morning we have seen UNESCO's core mission of intellectual cooperation in action. We have heard honourable Heads of State deliberate on how to construct in the minds of men the defences of peace. Therefore, Pakistan's major discussion point is that it welcomes the Director-General's initiative of segmenting the general policy debate, and Pakistan also recommends for future General Conferences that the Leaders' Forum be included and that the policy-setting function of intellectual inputs by Heads of State is made a permanent feature. In the limited time available, Pakistan would like to emphasize that in the twenty-first century UNESCO's core mandate of education is the key to both sustainable development and the promotion of the culture of peace. In this regard, it is recommended that for the promotion of the culture of peace, the dimension of global citizenship is added to the six education for all goals.

19.2 The work done by UNESCO on the development of a universal peace curriculum needs to be brought to centre stage. At the regional level, consultations on peace education are proposed for imparting values which respect cultural diversity, lead to a democratic culture and make education a social investment. It is, then, for Member States to adapt these outcomes within their given cultural identity for everyday peace. My delegation would like to share with this Forum that the concept of everyday peace has come from the ongoing discourse of the Director-General's High Level Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, and strongly recommends that this valuable concept be also integrated into the peace curriculum: sustainability, reinforced economic viability, social responsiveness and protection of the environment. This leads us to acknowledge that the cultural traits of society, the diversity of cultural contacts and participatory approaches are key levers in education for sustainable development. There is also enough evidence of ecological and social dislocation when development is imposed on communities. I would for these reasons like to add to the discussion that the cultural dimension is the central pillar of education for sustainable development. Thank you.

20. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed for reminding us that we are discussing how to build not only the culture of peace but also sustainable development. The representative of Kazakhstan is the next speaker, having waited patiently since this morning to make an intervention. Kazakhstan has the floor.

21.1 **Г-жа Исимбаева (Казakhstan):**

Уважаемая г-жа Председатель Генеральной конференции, уважаемая г-жа Генеральный директор, я благодарю всех организаторов за эту возможность видеть и слышать саму Зейнаб Бадави. Хотела бы начать с того, что вчера, выступавшая на открытии сессии г-жа Председатель Генеральной конференции, говоря о своем народе, сказала, что венгры впитывают и другие культуры. Эти слова применимы и к моему народу, к Казахстану. В Казахстане проживают представители более ста тридцати наций, народностей, и нашим главным достоянием являются наша гордость, единство и толерантность. За последние 20 лет Казахстану удалось не только сохранить межэтническое и межконфессиональное равенство, но и создать для него эффективную правовую базу. В Казахстане действует уникальный институт – Ассамблея народов Казахстана, которая обладает конституционным статусом и особым законом. В этот институт входят 820 этнокультурных объединений, он действительно является институтом межнационального согласия. Традиционными стали съезды лидеров мировых и традиционных религий, которые уже трижды прошли в Казахстане по инициативе Президента страны Нурсултана Назарбаева. И здесь получает практическое воплощение идея построения мира на принципах толерантности и вековых общечеловеческих ценностей.

21.2 Сегодня, безусловно, нет альтернативы диалогу цивилизаций и культур. Подтверждением этому был и международный год сближения культур, у истоков которого стоял Казахстан; об успешном проведении этого года вчера говорила г-жа Бокова. При этом мы считаем, что добрый импульс и универсальный посыл этого международного года должны быть распространены на деятельность мирового сообщества и в последующий период. Мне очень близки сегодня те проблемы, которые поднимали предыдущие ораторы. И как педагогу по образованию мне понятно то, что много говорилось об образовании, об образовании детей и женщин. Кроме того, ставились вопросы о том, как, когда и каким образом это осуществлять. Что касается того, когда это нужно осуществлять, то мы понимаем, что за один год, в одночасье этого не сделать. Поэтому Казахстан предложил внести в повестку дня текущей сессии вопрос о провозглашении международного десятилетия культур с 2013 года по 2022 год.

21.3 Сегодня действительно много говорилось о духовном потенциале человечества, и все мы единодушны в том, что только при его объединении можно противостоять угрозам и вызовам современности. А духовный потенциал заключается в умении уважать и понимать друг друга, другие языки, традиции, культуры. Здесь хочется добавить замечательные слова г-жи Ирины Боковой, которые она вчера произнесла. Это простые по форме, но глубокие по содержанию слова: уметь жить вместе, а не бок о бок. Возникает вопрос, учить-то этому когда? Именно с детских лет, вовлекая как можно больше молодежи. Об этом очень хорошо говорила сегодня первая леди Доминиканской Республики. Такое новое поколение молодежи можно сформировать не меньше, чем за десятилетие. Ведь от того, какие ценности впитывают сегодняшние дети, зависит мир завтрашний.

21.4 Мы уверены, что такая авторитетная международная организация, как ЮНЕСКО, имеет все необходимые ресурсы и инструменты для организации этой работы, для содействия социальной сплоченности и расширению сотрудничества между народами в целях обеспечения всеобщего уважения и справедливости для всех народов. Мы надеемся, что наше предложение встретит поддержку со стороны стран-членов ЮНЕСКО. Благодарю за внимание.

(21.1) **Mme Issimbaeva (Kazakhstan) (traduit du russe) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, je remercie tous les organisateurs pour cette occasion qui nous est offerte de voir et d'entendre Mme Zeinab Badawi. Pour commencer je voudrais rappeler qu'hier, dans son allocution d'ouverture, la Présidente de la Conférence générale, parlant de son peuple, a dit que les Hongrois s'imprègnent des autres cultures. Ces paroles peuvent également s'appliquer à mon peuple et à mon pays, le Kazakhstan où cohabitent près de 130 nations et ethnies. Notre fierté, notre unité et notre tolérance sont notre bien le plus précieux. Depuis 20 ans, le Kazakhstan a non seulement réussi à maintenir une égalité entre les nationalités et les confessions, mais il est parvenu à inscrire cette égalité dans la loi. Le Kazakhstan abrite une institution unique en son genre : l'Assemblée des peuples du Kazakhstan, dotée d'un statut constitutionnel et d'une loi spéciale. Elle rassemble 820 unions ethnoculturelles qui font d'elle l'institution de la concorde entre les peuples. Le Congrès des dirigeants des religions mondiales et traditionnelles qui s'est déjà réuni à trois reprises au Kazakhstan à l'initiative du Président M. Noursoultan Nazarbaïev est désormais une tradition. C'est au Kazakhstan que s'incarne l'idée de l'édification de la paix sur des principes de tolérance et des valeurs humanistes séculaires.

(21.2) Indiscutablement, il n'existe pas aujourd'hui d'alternative au dialogue entre les civilisations et les cultures, comme en atteste l'Année internationale du rapprochement des cultures, dont le Kazakhstan a été l'un des initiateurs. Mme Bokova a évoqué hier la réussite qu'a été cette année internationale. Nous souhaitons que l'élan et le message universel associés à cette année internationale bénéficient à l'action de la communauté internationale dans la période qui s'annonce. Je suis extrêmement concernée aujourd'hui par les problèmes évoqués par les orateurs qui se sont exprimés avant moi. En tant que pédagogue, je comprends que l'on ait beaucoup parlé de l'éducation, en particulier des enfants et des femmes. On s'est demandé comment, quand et par quels moyens agir. Nous sommes conscients qu'il s'agit d'un travail de longue haleine, c'est pourquoi le Kazakhstan a proposé d'inscrire à l'ordre du jour de la présente session la question de la proclamation d'une décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures (2013 à 2022).

(21.3) On a beaucoup parlé aujourd'hui du potentiel spirituel de l'humanité, et nous sommes tous unanimes pour dire que seule l'union permettra de lutter contre les menaces et les défis de notre époque. Or le potentiel spirituel consiste à savoir se respecter et se comprendre les uns les autres, avec nos langues, nos traditions et nos cultures. Je souhaiterais ajouter que Mme Bokova a tenu hier des propos admirables. Simples dans leur forme, mais profonds par leur teneur : apprendre à vivre

ensemble, et non pas côte-à-côte. Mais à quel âge enseigne-t-on cela, peut-on se demander. Mais dès la plus tendre enfance, en s'efforçant de toucher le plus grand nombre de jeunes possible, ce qu'a très bien souligné aujourd'hui la Première Dame de la République dominicaine. Il ne faudra pas moins d'une décennie pour former cette nouvelle génération de jeunes. Le monde de demain dépend des valeurs dont s'imprègnent les enfants d'aujourd'hui.

(21.4) Nous sommes convaincus qu'une organisation internationale reconnue comme l'est l'UNESCO possède toutes les ressources et les instruments nécessaires pour orchestrer ce travail, pour la promotion de la cohésion sociale et l'élargissement de la coopération entre les peuples, en vue de garantir le respect et la justice pour tous les peuples. Nous espérons que notre proposition rencontrera le soutien des États membres de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

22. **The Moderator:**

*Spasibo bol'shoye.* Thank you for your message there. Now, I have so many requests for the floor that I will have to restrict statements to no more than two minutes. If you have a prepared speech, maybe give us just the introduction and then proceed to your conclusion, compressing your thoughts if possible. Sri Lanka is next – another country that has just recently put a civil war behind it, and so is looking to promote peace. You have the floor, Sir.

23. **Mr Vitarana (Sri Lanka):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Ms Badawi, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to focus on certain issues. I am Professor Tissa Vitarana, Senior Minister of Scientific Affairs. I would like to focus on a few, in my view, critical issues which we need to address if we are going to achieve the peace and sustainable development that we all desire. The role of UNESCO will be how to focus on those critical issues. Firstly, sustainable development for the developing poor countries is a big challenge, because it is not being done with, shall we say, a level playing field or in a situation of economic stability, but really one of intense competition. This is again complicated by the fact that we have a global economic crisis which is affecting the rich countries most of all. So the rich and powerful countries are going to be faced with the challenge in the context of emerging economies that will be challenging their share of the market. It is in that context that poor countries have to add value to their raw materials. Their goods and services have to compete successfully in the world market if you are going to eradicate poverty in our countries. So this is the crux of the problem. If we want to achieve that, we have to have the globalization process taking place in such a way that there should be a level playing field. Seen, actually, in the context of the past where certain countries gained an advantage, they have to be, shall we say, overtaken in the marketplace.

24. **The Moderator:**

And in order to promote sustainable development, countries cannot rely on low value-added projects. You have done a lot of that, though, in Sri Lanka with your manufacturing of garments and so on, but you are shifting, I understand.

25. **Mr Vitarana (Sri Lanka):**

Garments are low value-added. We are trying to go into nanotechnology, biotechnology, electronics, mechatronics and so on.

26. **The Moderator:**

And do you think that is vital, not just for Sri Lanka but for other countries? And how would that be achieved? By promoting greater scientific teaching, scientific centres of learning, in the South, in the southern hemisphere? We are looking for constructive examples.

27. **Mr Vitarana (Sri Lanka):**

That is critical for all developing countries. Therefore, if we are really trying to achieve meaningful economic development to emerge from poverty, UNESCO must play a key role in supporting our countries to achieve that. What I would say is that there has to be individual country focusing, because situations differ from country to country. Raw material availability differs from country to country. In addition, there will be regional specificities. So there has to be a global approach which has regional specificities as well as local specificities. It is on the basis of that that we have to go ahead. Then, if we are talking about achieving peace, the whole occurrence of conflicts has to be viewed in the global perspective. We know that there is armaments production. Countries whose economies depend on armaments production would be happy with conflicts. In that context, they are going to foster conflicts rather than prevent them. So, it is in that context that we have to work out a strategy for peace. Also, beside the external factors, there are also internal factors. I will give you an example from Sri Lanka's own history. In the course of the discussion there has been a lot of focus on education, on education for youth, education for women. Sri Lanka has 94% literacy rate. We have a free education system that reaches all parts of the country. There are over 10,000 schools that are State-supported, State-run, really. Despite what happened in Sri Lanka, in 1971 we had a youth rebellion. In 1988-1989, again we had a youth rebellion. If you look at the conflict that you referred to recently, at the heart of it was youth frustration, because, through the education system, you have youth with aspirations, which cannot be satisfied in the context of the lack of economic development. So, it is in this context that we have these conflict situations arising.

28. **The Moderator:**

All right. And before we move on to the next person, just picking up something that President Boris Tadić said, and obviously Serbia and that part of the world is interesting because you have people living in a country who have a different historical background, a different ethnic background and so on. President Tadić very much emphasized that you have to preserve your past heritage and so on in order to forge ahead and find some kind of future. Insofar as the Sri Lankan context is concerned, where you have the Sinhalese community and also the Tamil community, different ethnic and religious groups, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, the Tamil, the Sinhalese and so on, how do you try to recognize that there are people who acknowledge that they have this different past, yet at the same time they can coalesce around common universal values to all unite under one banner because, clearly, when you look at the former Yugoslavia, there have been difficulties in doing that. You have had difficulties in the past, so how do you try to relieve this tension?

29. **Mr Vitarana** (Sri Lanka):

Actually, I myself have been Chairman of the All Party Representatives Committee that has been meeting to try to work out a consensus, a political consensus to solve the national question. We have really reached a consensus. We have been able to get agreement because the communities, the people, live in harmony. It is really the fact that there are political forces, both internal and external, that have exploited the situation, exploited the differences. So we have had to understand that we all, Third World countries, the 40-odd countries which have had conflicts in the last 10 years, all have multicultural, multi-racial societies, multi-tribal and so on. They could live in harmony, but what is happening is that there are forces that would make use of their differences to promote conflict. There are forces that are generating conflict and they have to be effectively countered.

30. **The Moderator:**

All right. And on that point, I would like to go on to our next speaker, the representative of Bangladesh, because that is very much a theme that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, talks about – the fact that, although Bangladesh is a very homogenous country, there are, she says, external factors that are instrumental in seeking to create conflict when it is not there. Bangladesh, you may wish to pick up on what the representative of Sri Lanka said, but also to look at the issue that Pakistan raised in terms of sustainable development. Of course, the environmental challenge is huge in Bangladesh. Please introduce yourself.

31. **Mr Nahid** (Bangladesh):

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. I am Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister for Education of Bangladesh. I thank the honourable Ministers and other participants who have given valuable solutions and their remarks. This afternoon the Honourable Prime Minister of Kenya mentioned that peace and development are two sides of the same coin. I wish to add to that, but I will be very brief. I understand what you want, and am very much aware of it. Peace and sustainable development are not things that can be achieved separately. Keeping wide inequality among nations, keeping millions of people hungry and millions of children out of school, how can we expect any development effort to be sustainable? How can peace be achieved in a world which is intolerant, when war breaks out here and there, children get killed, our daughters are wounded. Peace is the outcome of a lot of interactions on the basis of mutual respect and understanding among nations, both big and small. Thank you very much.

32. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Is that all you have to say? All right. I now call on Uganda, a country with a the long-running conflict between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army.

33.1 **Ms Alupo** (Uganda):

Thank you very much, Madam. My name is Jessica Epel Alupo, Minister of Education and Sports from Uganda. Madam Moderator, the Preamble to UNESCO's Constitution gives us a good take-off point to consider in our discussion. For instance, building peace in the minds of men and women in respect of each other's culture is a good basis for lasting peace. These assertions therefore are perhaps more relevant today than they were at the time of the founding of our Organization.

33.2 The provision of appropriate quality education that will ensure sustainable development for our people, girls and boys, young and old, is a moral imperative for us all. We therefore need an education that enables the learners to harness their environment sustainably, for the present as well as for future generations, taking into account our diverse social and economic circumstances. In this context and in particular in the Ugandan context, our education sector strategic plan addresses the question of access to education through universal primary education and universal secondary education.

33.3 The liberalization policy in Uganda has opened the way for the private sector to participate in the provision of education at all levels, including tertiary education. These policies have enabled us in Uganda to ensure almost full enrolment at primary level and equal access of boys and girls to school. Our attention now is focused on science education and the provision of technical and vocational education and training that will enable our learners to become gainfully employed in life and has the potential to attract many young people who drop out of school before acquiring skills.

33.4 Ladies and gentlemen, we treasure our cultural identity in Uganda and therefore put a high premium on the use of our mother tongue as a language of instruction in our primary education. This way we also impart our rich traditional values and heritage to young learners and protect them for posterity. The above policies can only survive and thrive in a peaceful environment that promotes freedom of expression and access to knowledge, and that makes the theme of this year's UNESCO General Conference session extremely timely in Uganda. Our policies and programmes are derived from our Constitution and the political will to ensure the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development in our country. Thank you.

34. **The Moderator:**

It was worth making that distinction. I now give the floor to Saint Kitts and Nevis.

35. **Mr Nisbett** (Saint Kitts and Nevis):

Madam Moderator, thank you for giving me the floor. I am Patrice Nisbett, the Attorney-General and Minister of Education of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, with the profound expectation that a new and reinvigorated level of world stability would emerge, the United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali suggested that the time had come to create a new paradigm in international policy thinking. There is no peace without development and there is no development without peace. What might have been seen as an opportunity to create the basis for a new world order that at last would have taken account of the social, economic and environmental dimension



in policy development, continues to fall well below everyone's expectations. We still struggle with conflict between nations, between social and religious groups. At the level of small island developing States like Saint Kitts and Nevis we face ever-increasing challenges with climate change, which devastates our crops, habitations and coastlines. Compounding these phenomena, we also have growing levels of youth violence, especially by young men who have been dropping out of formal education, drifting into antisocial activities, becoming disenchanting and feeling disenfranchised from the society around them. Despite the fact that scientific insights and access to formal education have improved in the past 20 years, our ability and indeed capacity have failed to generate and sustain intergenerational peace and adapt to, or at least mitigate, the effects of global warming, melting snow and ice, rising sea levels, temperature extremes, changes in rainfall patterns, severe drought and a great intensity of hurricanes. At a time when persistent social, political, cultural and more recently economic tensions continue to tax politicians around the world, it is vital that we act to bridge the gap between sustainable development and peace in our nations. This is where I see a pivotal role for UNESCO, in particular. UNESCO, with its strong values, widely shared expertise and competencies and well-accepted procedures to improve access to education and identify solutions to climate change, both of which have an impact on peace and communities, has an even greater role to play today. UNESCO has the key tools and expertise to address this relationship between sustainable development and peace. In fact, it is a capacity-builder, a catalyst capable of delivering highly targeted and focused programmes of work and activities on the ground in a number of areas. Lastly, we must embrace sustainability as a means of sowing seeds of life. Sustainability is an inclusive concept that can contribute to peace among our youth through providing education linked to ICT and science disciplines enabling people to live in safe and clean habitats, secure access to fresh water and health care, secure entitlement to resources which ultimately create harmony within all society and, critically, for young men, generate mutual respect in relation to their peers and families.

36. **The Moderator:**

Saint Kitts and Nevis, thank you very much, Sir, for your rallying cry to UNESCO. I believe Bhutan wishes to speak. Correct me if I am wrong, but is it not Bhutan that comes first on the "happiness" indicator as a gauge of a country's health, rather than GDP? – something to do with the disproportionate number of people very happy in Bhutan compared to other countries? You have the floor, Sir.

37.1 **Mr Powdyel (Bhutan):**

Thank you so much for giving me this space. I thought I would mention something more general. We heard this morning, at the start of the session, about UNESCO going right back to its roots. I would like to share something that perhaps would also go towards expanding on that idea of the beginnings of UNESCO. Pressing issues of our time command priority in UNESCO's attention. We have to be pragmatic in the face of compelling facts, with millions of children still out of school, millions more still unable to read and write. There are issues of science that need humanizing, culture that ought to concern itself with the cultivation of civilization. Then again, there are questions of climate change and environmental degradation. Notwithstanding these challenges, UNESCO, in order to remain relevant to our times, must remain faithful to its founding principles. Its role must continuously be fed and nourished by its soul. The ideas that elevate and edify the human mind, to look for and to love what is true and good and beautiful, the sublime and the pragmatic, must be mutually reinforcing and mutually illuminating. Bhutan's effort at building green schools would be a tangible way to do just this.

37.2 As to your question, Madam Badawi, about Bhutan's efforts towards building a society that believes in "gross national happiness", as opposed to gross domestic product, we are right on target. We have been making a lot of efforts. As far as the Education Ministry itself is concerned, we launched a programme called "Educating for gross national happiness" in 2010 and the strategy to do that is building green schools for a green Bhutan, having eight elements. So we hope that, especially in the light of the United Nations General Assembly having endorsed Bhutan's proposal to include the pursuit of happiness as one of the important goals of the United Nations family of nations, we believe that our world is going to be a much happier place. Thank you.

38. **The Moderator:**

I do not think anybody can argue with that, can you? No. We all like that happiness indicator. We will all have to visit Bhutan. I now give the floor to the representative of Paraguay. *Buenos días!*

39. **Sra. Serafini (Paraguay):**

A todos y todas muy buenas tardes. Soy Diana Serafini, Viceministra de Educación para la Gestión Educativa del Paraguay. En torno al interesante debate que se dio respecto a la cultura de paz, había tres ideas que queríamos compartir en relación con los esfuerzos que se pueden hacer en torno a este tema. La primera es el necesario llamado a la coherencia. Es muy difícil hablar de exigir o hablar de cultura de paz, cuando como sociedades, como Estados, como países, no presentamos en nuestras acciones, decisiones y políticas públicas una coherencia de las acciones que tomamos con los principios de la cultura de paz. Un segundo planteamiento que tal vez puede ser interesante para la UNESCO es lo que implica trabajar desde la educación en lo que es la percepción crítica de los medios de comunicación, agentes socializadores por excelencia igual que la escuela, igual que la educación. Hacer realmente frente a las industrias culturales, tener ciudadanos y ciudadanas preparados y preparadas para percibir críticamente esos medios que muchas veces socializan en la lógica del mercado y en la lógica sobre todo de la confrontación y no de la cultura de paz, puede ser una línea de acción muy interesante. Y en tercer lugar, sencillamente recordar que toda política pública se sustenta básicamente en tres pilares: los principios, la normativa y el presupuesto. Si queremos que realmente la cultura de paz sea una realidad en nuestros países, y en los organismos internacionales también, tenemos que trabajar para que ese paradigma de la cultura de paz se exprese en los principios de las políticas públicas en las normativas de las políticas públicas y en los presupuestos de las políticas públicas. Muchas gracias.

(39) **Mme Serafini** (Paraguay) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Bonjour à toutes et à tous. Je suis Diana Serafini, Vice-Ministre de l'éducation du Paraguay. Au sujet de l'intéressant débat qui a eu lieu sur une culture de la paix, je voudrais vous exposer trois idées concernant les efforts qui pourraient être déployés à cet égard. La première concerne le besoin de cohérence. Il est très difficile d'appeler à une culture de la paix, ou simplement de l'évoquer, lorsque nous-mêmes, en tant que sociétés, États ou pays, ne faisons preuve d'aucune cohérence dans nos actions, décisions et politiques publiques relatives à une culture de la paix. Une deuxième observation qui pourrait peut-être intéresser l'UNESCO concerne la possibilité de développer, par l'éducation, un sens critique à l'égard des médias de communication, agents de socialisation par excellence au même titre que l'école. En effet, il pourrait être intéressant comme axe d'action de prendre réellement en compte les industries culturelles, de préparer les citoyens et les citoyennes à porter un regard critique sur ces médias qui, bien souvent, socialisent les individus dans le sens de la logique du marché et, surtout, selon une logique de confrontation plutôt que de culture de la paix. Enfin, troisièmement, il faut tout simplement garder à l'esprit que toute politique publique repose essentiellement sur trois piliers : les principes, la réglementation et le budget. Si nous voulons vraiment faire de la culture de la paix une réalité dans nos pays, mais également au sein des instances internationales, nous devons faire en sorte que ce paradigme d'une culture de la paix soit reflété dans les principes, la réglementation et les budgets qui sous-tendent les politiques publiques. Je vous remercie.

40. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much, Paraguay. It would be interesting now to hear what Denmark has to say, as one of the wealthier nations in the world. The floor is yours.

41. **Mr Rasmussen** (Denmark):

Thank you, Madam. We are indeed meeting at a particularly challenging time of a combination of crises, and Denmark remains committed to efficient multilateral action to address these global challenges on the basis of our common interests and shared values, respect for human rights, equal opportunities for human development, freedom of expression, tolerance and dialogue. In order to make a more significant difference and have true impact, we need to sharpen our focus and define clear priorities. In my brief intervention here, I would like to concentrate on education for sustainable development, the education aspects, where UNESCO has a very strong role to play. ESD – education for sustainable development – concerns the way we think and the way we behave. It promotes the values, principles and practices that help people to respond effectively and confidently to current and new challenges and it therefore has implications for education and training at all levels. We have to deal with the transversal key competence of learners including entrepreneurship in its widest sense. It should be tailored to each level of education. We must aim at developing what you could call a whole school, or whole institution approach. This can help to harness the motivation and commitment of all pupils and students, develop critical thinking and improve educational attainment in general. Schools should strive to be sustainable institutions, to be role models so to speak, and to incorporate the principles of sustainable development in policy and practice. It is certainly a very important task for UNESCO as a lead agency in this field to contribute to this development. In this area, certainly, there should be more UNESCO and not less, to quote a distinguished speaker from earlier today. Thank you.

42. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. We shall now go ahead with a couple of interventions from the Arab world. Morocco, just picking up on what Denmark said, that there is a need to focus on priorities, I wonder if you could share with us briefly your perspective on what your priorities are in this area. You have the floor.

43.1 **Mme Akherbach** (Maroc) :

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, je voudrais proposer des idées sur deux points qui me paraissent importants. D'abord, dire qu'en tant qu'espace de réflexion et d'anticipation, l'UNESCO, qui a par ailleurs la légitimité et l'expertise requises, est attendue pour sa contribution précieuse à la définition d'une nouvelle approche des problèmes d'éducation et d'accès au savoir. En effet, il reste encore, bien sûr, à se mobiliser, notamment sur le continent africain, notre continent, pour assurer un accès universel à l'école. Le mouvement de l'Éducation pour tous est ici à saluer et à appuyer mais, et il est très important de ne pas l'oublier, il existe également un très grand défi d'une acuité avérée et d'une complexité croissante : celui de la qualité des enseignements et de l'aptitude des systèmes éducatifs à relever le défi de l'emploi, de l'insertion professionnelle des jeunes et de la promotion sociale par le savoir et l'apprentissage. Les milliers de jeunes qui ont fait le Printemps arabe ont battu le pavé non seulement en quête d'oxygène démocratique, mais aussi pour réclamer la dignité par l'emploi, ainsi qu'une place dans la société.

43.2 Je voudrais dire, également, que la promotion de la qualité de l'enseignement et le renforcement des formations qualifiantes ne sauraient résulter uniquement d'une approche officielle unilatérale. Il est très important, *a contrario*, de créer un consensus social autour de l'école et de ses missions démocratiques de développement. C'est cela qui fait la différence quand on regroupe tous les acteurs – agents économiques, élus ou responsables locaux – autour de cette école. C'est un peu l'expérience que le Maroc a tenté de réussir à travers son Plan d'urgence par la réforme de l'enseignement. Je voudrais dire, enfin, que la présence de diplômés chômeurs dans des pays qui n'ont pas encore achevé le chantier de la généralisation de l'accès à l'école est un paradoxe lourd de conséquences sur le développement et la cohésion sociale de ces pays.

43.3 Je voudrais, pour conclure, passer à la deuxième idée. Cette idée a été abordée tout à l'heure par le Président Ouattara, notamment. Je voudrais dire qu'en ce qui concerne la consolidation de la culture de la paix et de la non-violence, il apparaît, à la lumière des événements vécus dans plusieurs pays de plusieurs régions du monde, que l'enjeu de la réconciliation nationale est désormais prioritaire, non seulement après des révolutions et des conflits, mais aussi après des élections, notamment dans certains pays africains. Le Maroc plaide pour un renforcement de l'action de l'UNESCO à cet égard et est prêt à s'engager auprès de cette dernière et de tout programme qu'elle met en œuvre en ce sens parce que le Maroc a mené, à la fin des années 1980, une expérience réussie de réconciliation nationale et de justice transitionnelle.

43.4 La création, dans ces années-là, de l'Instance équité et réconciliation, dont les décisions viennent d'être consacrées par la nouvelle constitution marocaine, a permis de dépasser les traumatismes des violations passées des droits de l'homme, mais surtout de lancer, d'encadrer et de réussir un vaste programme de réparation individuelle et collective où la culture, la conservation de la mémoire, le droit au développement et le développement économique ont une part importante. Le Maroc est donc prêt à partager l'expérience qu'il a acquise dans ce domaine et à se joindre à l'action menée. Finalement, la conclusion est la suivante : la réconciliation nationale, une réconciliation nationale réussie, conforte le droit à la différence et consacre la diversité dans l'union nationale. C'est un acquis majeur pour l'édification démocratique, mais aussi pour la dynamique de développement. Les sociétés plurielles sont des sociétés créatives. Je vous remercie.

44. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. And, representative of Morocco, I would like to ask you about something that you just raised. You say that the aspirations of youth in Morocco are legitimate and that you are doing your best to try to promote education and so on. Obviously we do know that in countries such as yours, Egypt and Tunisia and so on, a huge number of people are educated. But then you see the figures. For instance, I know the figures in Egypt, which show that something like 800,000 graduates leave college every year, but they do not have the jobs. So, what are you doing to meet the aspirations of the young and educated and unemployed, because obviously you are not going to achieve development if you do not find some kind of meaningful employment for them.

45. **Mme Akherbach (Maroc) :**

C'est exactement cela, le sens de mon propos : il faut continuer d'œuvrer pour que chacun accède à l'école, tout en travaillant à la qualité de l'enseignement et en jetant des ponts entre les mondes du savoir, de la formation, du travail et de l'emploi. Il serait terrible, pour nos pays, d'avoir des jeunes capables de participer et d'apporter une valeur ajoutée et de voir ces jeunes diplômés de l'enseignement supérieur rester en marge de la société. Il faut donc travailler sur la qualité de l'enseignement, et surtout impliquer, dans la dynamique réformatrice, les acteurs économiques, les investisseurs et les élus de la nation, en étant toujours dans une logique d'écoute et non de décisions imposées d'en haut.

46. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Iraq, I understand that you also wish to make a statement. It would be good if you could share your thoughts with us on these themes. If you wish to pick up anything from what the representative of Morocco said, please feel free.

47.1 **Mr Dizayee (Iraq):**

Thank you very much. Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished guests, since my colleague, the Minister of Education for Federal Iraq, is not here presently, I take this opportunity to share a few thoughts of mine, as Minister of Education for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. You all know that Iraq and the Iraqis have suffered a great deal and undergone calamities, and that unfortunately many of these difficulties are continuing and are pending. However, there have been major developments and changes in Iraq for the better. We have covered a lot of ground. We still have a lot of ground to cover. For that, Iraq needs to be encouraged and assisted. The issue of the culture of peace, I think, is a multidimensional matter. Perhaps I can compare it to cooking a dish with many ingredients and recipes. If one or some of the ingredients, or a key ingredient, are missing, then of course the dish will be incomplete. What I mean by this is of course that in such a culture, to have peace, you need to have acceptance of one another, coexistence, tolerance of each other, the right of existence, and of course with education as one of the key components, particularly education in the mother tongue. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, like all of Iraq in fact, there is a multi-ethnic, multicultural society, with different religions and sects. In Iraqi Kurdistan we are proud of our tradition of multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Within the present boundaries of the three provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok, with a population of almost 5 million, we have Kurds, Turkmens, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Armenians, Arabs and Yezidis, with Islam and Christianity being the main religions, including sub-groups such as Shi'ites, Sunnis, Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Sabians and others. In our education system in Iraqi Kurdistan we have mother tongue education for every ethnic group and we are proud of that. Education is provided in Assyrian, Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkmen, with of course English and some French and German schools as well. We have incorporated basic human rights values, the principles of democracy, within our curriculum and social studies.

47.2 What I would like to suggest perhaps is that UNESCO might also encourage such initiatives for human rights, moral values and encouraging peace and coexistence to be incorporated into curricula and the education system as a whole. I believe that UNESCO can play that role, follow it up, implement it and make sure that it has been implemented properly. One of the keynote speakers mentioned the engagement of young people, the younger generation. I believe that this is a very important lesson to be drawn from what we have seen since February in North Africa and the Middle East, with the role that the young have played, particularly in deploying and employing new technology and the use made of Facebook and Twitter. I think they should be part of a project that leads the way for changes and reforms, but it has to be with the right approach and it has to be with a view to making changes for the better. What we do not want to see is that such youngsters are in disarray and lose hope in life and certainly not that they should become rebels without a cause. Thank you.

48. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Just one point to you, really. I understand that you speak only for the Kurdistan part of Iraq, and we note that you talked about the role of UNESCO, but do you feel in any way, given that Iraq is so far ahead in the curve from other Arab countries, and since you are from that region and are watching with interest what is going on in these countries that are going through transition, with your experience of a multilingual, multi-ethnic, multi-faith part of the world that you could, not exactly set an example, but perhaps share your experiences?

49. **Mr Dizayee (Iraq):**

Where some Arab countries or Middle Eastern countries are right now or perhaps will be, we passed that stage in 2003, after the regime change. It was certainly a difficult period; it was a painful delivery, I can say. That pain is still there, but I think the decision has been made by the Iraqi people along the right lines; we certainly feel that we need to make adjustments from time to time in order to be on the right path to democracy and social development and to have an approach of engaging all people in all aspects of life – and that includes minorities, religious groups – and, rather than pushing them away, embracing and including them, as part of an inclusive policy. I think the governments in Iraq so far have done that; maybe they have not been very successful, but at least the approach is the right one.

50. **The Moderator:**

And this kind of umbrella organization enables them to share your experiences?

51. **Mr Dizayee (Iraq):**

I believe so. This is an important experience for us, at least since Iraq was pushed away for many, many years during the embargo period, from the early 1990s until 2003, when Iraq was not able to participate in such forums actively. But I think with Iraq coming back, it is important for us to be active, to be part of it and to learn from such platforms, but also to share our own experiences.

52. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. Let us now go on to Guatemala, a country I had the privilege of visiting last year. The representative of Guatemala has the floor.

53.1 **Sr. Alonzo Mazariegos (Guatemala):**

Muchas gracias por concederme la palabra. Estimada señora Directora General, distinguida señora Presidenta de la Conferencia, excelencias, señoras y señores: soy Denis Alonzo Mazariegos, Ministro de Educación de Guatemala. En los valores universales se asientan los principios éticos profundos comunes a todos los seres humanos del planeta tierra, independientemente de su cultura, sus creencias religiosas, su nacionalidad, el color de su piel o su sexo. Los valores esenciales promueven el respeto de la dignidad humana, afirman lo sustantivo de la vida y son coherentes con el respeto de las culturas del mundo. Este pleno reconocimiento de la diversidad cultural beneficia a todas y todos en todo el orbe. Los modelos económicos que hemos vivido no han sido lo mejor para la humanidad y por lo tanto le estamos debiendo a la niñez y a la juventud una educación sostenible que defienda los valores sobre los que se debe sustentar y construir un nuevo mundo que contribuya a la adaptación al cambio climático provocado por el calentamiento global. El Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de la Educación para el Desarrollo Sostenible promovido por la UNESCO constituye una oportunidad para la juventud de provocar la creatividad, la ampliación de una inteligencia crítica basada en la búsqueda de los derechos humanos, el desarrollo humano equitativo, el consumo responsable, la protección medioambiental y la paz, desafíos interdependientes en el mundo que hoy vivimos. Se trata de hacer reflexionar a las personas dedicadas a la docencia sobre la necesidad urgente de cambiar los hábitos de vida y adoptar actitudes con las cuales se pueda incidir para manejar el entorno, gestionar adecuadamente los bienes y servicios naturales, respetar el medio ambiente, distribuir de forma más equitativa los medios de que dispone la naturaleza y permear en la mente y el corazón de la niñez y la juventud una nueva conducta humana que conduzca a la justicia económica y a la cultura de paz.

53.2 Las sociedades necesitan aportar respuestas coherentes a su propio contexto, reafirmar la alianza de la sociedad humana con la naturaleza para dar respuestas ágiles a una nueva manera de vivir y afrontar la dignidad humana. Como decían los antiguos mayas: nosotros somos parte de la naturaleza y debemos vivir en armonía con ella. Educar y compartir las buenas prácticas y las nuevas competencias requiere de equipos interdisciplinarios que estén muy interesados en trabajar por el cuidado de la vida de manera integral. La paz se construye desde escenarios reales, buscando soluciones reales. El apoyo que la UNESCO brinda a Guatemala con miras a la construcción de la paz es un buen ejemplo de cómo es posible concretar estas ideas de manera exitosa. Es importante tener en cuenta el pensamiento de la juventud para planificar cada paso de la formación, además se convierte en relevante considerar las condiciones de vida que ofrece el planeta y relacionarlo no sólo con la conducta sino con la ciencia. La deuda intergeneracional debe cubrirse con la búsqueda de las mejores formas de adaptación irreversible. La UNESCO a través de sus programas de actividades destinados a la juventud y la participación de los mismos en los foros mundiales de la juventud que se celebran cada dos años, demuestra no sólo su contribución significativa al desarrollo de los mismos, sino que los pone en un lugar privilegiado tomándolos como agentes de cambio y líderes del futuro. La dignidad humana, la cultura y la diferenciación de la población en relación con sus derechos merecen gran atención, por lo que la educación debe formar a la juventud para sobrevivir con dignidad a los cambios trascendentales gracias a la solidaridad humana. Muchas gracias.

(53.1) **M. Alonzo Mazariegos (Guatemala) (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Merci de me donner la parole. Madame la Directrice générale, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis Denis Alonzo Mazariegos, Ministre de l'éducation du Guatemala. Les valeurs universelles reposent sur de profonds principes éthiques communs à tous les êtres humains de la planète, indépendamment de leur culture, de leur confession religieuse, de leur nationalité, de leur couleur de peau ou de leur genre. Ces valeurs essentielles favorisent le respect de la dignité humaine, affirment l'essence de la vie et vont dans le sens du respect des cultures du monde. Cette pleine reconnaissance de la diversité culturelle bénéficie à toutes et à tous à travers le monde. Les modèles économiques que nous avons connus n'étaient pas toujours ce qu'il y avait de mieux pour l'humanité. C'est pourquoi nous devons assurer aux enfants et aux jeunes une éducation durable, qui défende les valeurs sur lesquelles doit reposer et se construire un nouveau monde permettant l'adaptation au changement climatique. La Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable, que l'UNESCO s'attache à promouvoir, donne aux jeunes l'occasion de développer leur créativité, ainsi qu'un sens critique fondé sur la quête des droits de l'homme, d'un développement humain équitable, d'une consommation responsable, de la protection de l'environnement et de la paix, qui sont autant de défis interdépendants dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Il s'agit pour les acteurs de l'enseignement de mener une réflexion sur l'urgence

de changer les habitudes de vie et d'adopter des comportements permettant d'exploiter le milieu environnant, de gérer comme il convient les biens et services qu'offre la nature, de respecter l'environnement, de répartir plus équitablement les ressources naturelles, ainsi que d'instiller dans l'esprit et le cœur des enfants et des jeunes une nouvelle conduite propice à la justice économique et à une culture de la paix.

(53.2) Les sociétés doivent trouver des solutions adaptées à leur propre contexte et réaffirmer l'alliance entre la société humaine et la nature pour apporter des réponses souples face à un nouveau mode de vie et prendre en compte la dignité humaine. Comme l'affirmaient les anciens mayas, nous faisons partie de la nature et nous devons vivre en harmonie avec elle. L'éducation et le partage de bonnes pratiques et de nouvelles compétences requièrent des équipes interdisciplinaires déterminées à œuvrer en faveur de la vie dans son ensemble. La paix se construit à partir de scénarios réels, en recherchant des solutions réelles. Le soutien que l'UNESCO apporte au Guatemala en vue de l'édification de la paix illustre bien la manière dont il est possible de concrétiser ces idées avec succès. Il est important de prendre en considération les idées des jeunes lors de la planification de chacune des étapes de la formation, tout comme il est important de tenir compte des conditions de vie qu'offre la planète et de rattacher cela, non seulement aux comportements, mais également à la science. La dette intergénérationnelle doit être réglée en recherchant les meilleurs moyens de s'adapter, de manière irréversible. L'UNESCO, grâce à ses programmes en faveur des jeunes et à la participation de ces derniers au forum qui leur est consacré tous les deux ans, démontre non seulement son importante contribution au développement des jeunes, mais leur offre également une place privilégiée en faisant d'eux les agents du changement et les leaders de demain. La dignité humaine, la culture et la distinction des individus en ce qui concerne leurs droits méritent une grande attention, et c'est pourquoi l'éducation doit permettre aux jeunes de survivre dignement face aux changements transcendants, grâce à la solidarité humaine. Je vous remercie.

54. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Just to raise one very quick point with you, you may recall that the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis talked about the importance of finding programmes, notably educational programmes, particularly to keep young men from turning to crime, and obviously this is a huge challenge also for you in Guatemala and I note your comment that there has to be a strong and coherent response to meet the needs of the people. People often say that what Guatemala needs is very strong State institutions in order to do so. I wonder if you would perhaps comment on that, bearing in mind what the Saint Kitts and Nevis representative said about keeping youth away from criminal activity.

55. **Sr. Alonzo Mazariegos (Guatemala):**

Por supuesto recuerdo lo que dijo el señor representante de Saint Kitts y Nevis: efectivamente en nuestro país se instaló, una semana después de haber asumido el cargo el actual Presidente, el Consejo de Cohesión Social, el cual a través de la complementariedad y la coordinación interinstitucional del Gabinete Social y del Ministerio de Educación y Salud, y la presencia significativa de la Secretaría de Bienestar Social, tiene programas específicos y trascendentes no sólo para la reinserción sino para la revisión y la readecuación de las conductas de tantos jóvenes y jovencitas que se ven expuestas en las calles. Adicionalmente nuestro proceso educativo trata cada vez más de incorporarlos o de regresarlos a la escuela.

(55) **M. Alonzo Mazariegos (Guatemala) (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Naturellement, j'ai suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt ce qu'a dit le représentant de Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis. Effectivement, notre pays a mis en place, une semaine après l'investiture de l'actuel Président, un Conseil de la cohésion sociale qui, grâce à sa complémentarité et à sa coordination avec le Cabinet des affaires sociales et le Ministère de l'éducation et de la santé, ainsi qu'à l'engagement important de la Secrétaire d'État chargée du bien-être social, mène des programmes spécifiques d'une extrême importance, non seulement en matière de réinsertion, mais également de réadaptation et de réhabilitation d'un très grand nombre de jeunes, garçons et filles, qui se trouvent exposés aux dangers de la rue. En outre, notre système éducatif s'efforce de scolariser ces jeunes ou de leur faire réintégrer l'école.

56. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed. The next speaker is the representative of Rwanda. I do not know whether you wish to pick up on what the Minister from Guatemala said about the need, in seeking to achieve a culture of peace and sustainable development, for not just the Ministry of Education to be involved, but for action right across government departments, for that kind of joined-up thinking that he says is needed in order to really deliver results. I do not know if you wish to incorporate a response to that in your comments, but please do make your remarks.

57.1 **M. Kabale (Rwanda) :**

Absolument, vous avez tout à fait raison. Je suis Jacques Kabale, Ambassadeur du Rwanda en France et Délégué permanent à l'UNESCO. En effet, le Rwanda a connu nombre de tragédies avec, malheureusement, les génocides et la guerre. Pour répondre à cet état de fait, à cette situation de tragédie, il a fallu, dès le lendemain, mettre en place des mécanismes pour non seulement préserver cette paix chèrement acquise, mais aussi empêcher qu'à l'avenir, on ne retombe dans cette tragédie. Ces mécanismes commencent, notamment, par le système éducatif. L'ignorance, l'analphabétisme et la pauvreté ont malheureusement joué un rôle important dans la tragédie que le Rwanda a connue. Il fallait donc trouver des solutions ; l'une d'elles consistait à assurer la scolarité des enfants. La gratuité a donc été instaurée dans l'enseignement primaire et une partie du secondaire, avec neuf années de scolarité obligatoire. Cela a été l'un de ces mécanismes.

57.2 Un autre a consisté à créer différentes commissions : la Commission jeunesse, la Commission femmes et la Commission des droits de l'homme, notamment. Dans toutes ces commissions, il a été organisé des débats, des dialogues et des discussions, le tout étant médiatisé afin de permettre à tous les Rwandais d'y participer. Il s'est tenu, également, au niveau d'institutions universitaires ou institutionnelles comme le Parlement et le Sénat, des débats et des discussions destinés à mettre le doigt sur les problèmes qui ont entraîné ce génocide et ce qui en a suivi, et différentes solutions ont été proposées. Il était clair que l'impunité était à bannir, parce que la population devait se retrouver et avoir foi dans la justice. Étant donné le nombre important – 25 000 – de détenus que le Rwanda comptait au lendemain du génocide perpétré contre les Tutsis, la justice classique ne pouvait pas faire face. Il a donc fallu puiser, dans notre patrimoine culturel, un mode de règlement des conflits qui existait dans le temps, mais qu'il fallait adapter à la situation

que connaissait le Rwanda. Grâce à ce processus, grâce à ce mode de règlement des conflits, les Rwandais ont pu connaître la vérité, participer tous au rétablissement de la justice, se réconcilier et avoir de nouveau foi dans le système judiciaire.

57.3 Nous savons tous que la femme n'est pas encline à faire la guerre. Comme elle jouait un rôle important dans le développement, mais n'apparaissait pas ou voyait son rôle méconnu quand il fallait la former ou lui permettre de connaître les différentes technologies afin d'améliorer les semences ou la production, il a fallu lui redonner sa place et la lui reconnaître. C'est ainsi que je peux aujourd'hui dire avec fierté que la femme rwandaise a sa place, non pas une place qu'on lui donne, mais une place qu'elle a elle-même acquise et qui aujourd'hui fait que deux des trois pouvoirs – législatif, exécutif et judiciaire – sont aux mains de femmes.

58. **The Moderator:**

I do know that you have more Members of Parliament who are women in Rwanda than anywhere else in the world. Thank you. I now have six countries left to speak, so I really have to allow you only two minutes each, so that all those who have indicated that they want to speak are given the chance. The Ambassador of Djibouti, please, you have the floor for a very brief comment.

59.1 **M. Farah** (Djibouti) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Je crois que nous avons tous, à juste titre, parlé de l'espoir que nous plaçons en la jeunesse. Je voudrais dire, à propos des pays du Sud et, plus particulièrement, du continent africain, que deux tiers des habitants ont moins de 30 ans. Cela constitue-t-il un danger ou un espoir ? Je forme le vœu que l'UNESCO décide, aujourd'hui, de créer un fonds spécial pour la jeunesse qui intégrera les thèmes du dialogue, de la tolérance et du savoir, ainsi que des actions ciblées, destinées à combattre les sentiments d'exclusion, de violence et d'extrémisme. Un programme qui, je peux rêver, pourrait s'intituler « *À l'écoute de demain* ». Il se ferait par des actions tout à fait modestes. Je prends, Madame la Présidente, l'exemple de Djibouti. Nous avons créé, voilà dix ans, un Forum des jeunes, qui regroupe les jeunes de toute la région de l'Afrique de l'Est et du sud de la mer Rouge.

59.2 Nous avons eu le plaisir de recevoir la Sous-Directrice générale pour les sciences sociales et humaines, qui était avec nous, l'an dernier, autour de toute cette jeunesse, autour des ministres de la jeunesse de tous les pays d'Afrique de l'Est. Ce Forum, tiens-je à ajouter, est un forum qui porte. Le dernier point, sur lequel je voudrais ici insister, c'est que l'UNESCO a créé avec nous le premier *think tank*, car il faut intégrer les intellectuels. Il faudrait aussi intégrer les intellectuels de la diaspora. Nous en sommes à la quatrième édition du Forum que nous avons créé avec les pays d'Afrique de l'Est, forum qui est totalement indépendant des Gouvernements et qui propose à nos politiques des solutions fondées sur l'action. Je vous remercie.

60. **The Moderator:**

Mozambique now has the floor.

61. **Mr Martins** (Mozambique):

Thank you. All protocols observed, we would like to commend the UNESCO initiative of convening this forum. It offers us a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and viewpoints towards the promotion of peace and stability in our countries. We understand the culture of peace as a set of values, attitudes, behaviour and ways of life upon which a society acts to reject violence and resolve differences through peaceful means such as dialogue and negotiations. We have found that home-grown initiatives towards peace within our respective countries are a key element for sustainable peace, stability and development. Our own recent past in Mozambique can be considered a vivid example. The signing of the general peace agreement in October 1992 in Rome, which brought to an end a 16-year war of destabilization, was indicative of the willingness of the Mozambican people to end the scourge of violence, remove negative external factors, put aside divergences and capitalize on factors that contribute to national unity, tolerance and mutual respect. This marked a new era of continuous dialogue in Mozambican society where tolerance in diversity, respect for individual freedoms and the rule of law are now nurtured. This has contributed decisively to the betterment of living standards for the Mozambican people and reinforced the determination of Mozambicans in our quest for the promotion of sustained peace, development and prosperity. Finally, I would like to request UNESCO to continue its support in developing curricula and teaching materials on the culture of peace. This will help education systems to prepare our children in promoting dialogue, respecting differences and living together. Thank you.

62. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Let us now hear Cape Verde. Your former President Pires just recently won the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Good Governance. So do you have a good tale to tell us?

63. **M. Correia e Silva** (Cabo Verde) :

Merci, Madame la modératrice. Je viens d'un pays de petites dimensions, insulaire, situé dans le Sahel et qui souffre d'une double contrainte : isolement océanique et aridité. Malgré cet état de choses, cependant, mon pays a fait un effort immense pour réduire l'analphabétisme et augmenter les taux de fréquentation dans l'enseignement secondaire et supérieur, tout cela en respectant l'équilibre des genres, à tous les niveaux d'éducation. Je suis membre d'un Gouvernement qui compte plus de femmes que d'hommes. Cela dit, bien que nous ayons, avec l'appui de l'UNESCO, introduit à tous les niveaux du programme d'enseignement des matières telles que les droits de l'homme, l'éducation pour l'environnement et l'éducation aux valeurs, nous constatons avec frustration le développement d'attitudes violentes chez les jeunes, surtout urbains. Je pense qu'il faut s'interroger sur le paradoxe qui fait que plus il y a d'éducation, plus il y a de violence chez les jeunes scolarisés. Les médias mondiaux font partout une sorte de « promotion » de la violence : dans les jeux vidéo, les films, etc. Les héros violents semblent séduire davantage que les professeurs. Je voulais partager cette réflexion avec l'assemblée. Je vous remercie.

64. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed. We go now to Burundi.

65. **M. Nimubona** (Burundi) :

Merci, Madame la modératrice. Je suis Julien Nimubona, Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique de la République du Burundi. Je m'associe pleinement à ce qu'ont dit les autres intervenants sur l'éducation des jeunes parce que c'est effectivement à ce niveau-là, nous l'avons vu, qu'il faut renforcer la culture de la paix. Je voudrais, cependant, introduire rapidement trois éléments issus de l'expérience burundaise. Premièrement, la culture de la paix est conditionnée par un renforcement des mécanismes de dialogue. Le processus d'Arusha, qui a conduit à la signature d'un accord de paix au Burundi, en est un parfait témoignage. Deuxièmement, il faut décourager l'installation de ce que l'on pourrait appeler une culture de la violence, mécanisme qui produit des effets politiques lorsque l'on recourt à la violence pour accéder à des postes de responsabilité. Je pense qu'il incombe à l'UNESCO, comme à d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies, de renforcer la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance dans les sociétés. Troisièmement, enfin, je pense que le principal terreau de la violence, en particulier la pauvreté des jeunes, pose un réel problème, car on ne peut pas construire un environnement de paix sans une croissance économique, sans, surtout, s'intéresser au développement de la jeunesse, d'où le lancement d'importants programmes dans ce secteur. J'y reviendrai dans mon propos de demain. Je vous remercie.

66. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. And thank you for that sneak preview. Our next speaker is Burkina Faso.

67.1 **M. Ouedraogo** (Burkina Faso) :

Merci, Madame. Je suis Albert Ouedraogo, Ministre de l'enseignement secondaire et supérieur du Burkina Faso. Je voudrais m'inscrire dans le droit fil de ce que mes prédécesseurs ont dit et me poser la question de savoir comment, depuis 1945, l'UNESCO s'efforce de créer les conditions d'une paix durable. Or, lorsque l'on se projette dans le passé, on est surpris de voir le nombre de guerres qui persistent. On peut donc, par conséquent, se poser la question de savoir s'il n'est pas grand temps de passer d'une culture de la paix à une paix des cultures. Tout simplement parce que toutes les cultures se fondent sur la paix, sauf lorsqu'interviennent, sur les plans politique, économique et moral, des dérives qui ont pour noms pouvoir et peur. On peut s'interroger sur la manière d'instaurer une paix durable dans un monde inégalitaire, où ceux qui ont raison ont souvent le tort d'être pauvres, où ceux qui ont tort ont souvent l'avantage d'être riches et d'avoir des armes de destruction massive et des médias de grande écoute à leur disposition, où ce qui est juste pour les forts ne l'est pas pour les pays en développement.

67.2 Dans ces conditions, la justice semble avoir une géométrie variable : lorsque l'on est fort, on est toléré, lorsque l'on est pauvre, on est condamné. Aussi nous demandons-nous si l'UNESCO ne gagnerait pas à revoir la vision que l'on a des pays selon que l'on est pauvre ou riche, parce que la question de la paix est une question primordiale qui ne saurait être fonction de votre puissance économique, politique ou militaire. Nous voulons également poser la question de la criminalisation de la migration, où plus les pays sont riches, moins ils sont ouverts sur les autres, si bien qu'aujourd'hui, se déplacer d'un pays à l'autre devient un véritable parcours du combattant, alors que l'on parle de mondialisation. Mais de quelle mondialisation s'agit-il ? Celle des ressources économiques ou celle des hommes ? Or, c'est d'abord l'homme qu'il faut mettre en avant, et non l'économie. Je vous remercie.

68. **The Moderator:**

Thank you, Minister for Higher Education of Burkina Faso. Brunei Darussalam wishes to make an intervention. The floor is yours, Sir.

69. **Mr Apong** (Brunei Darussalam):

Thank you, Madam. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, education has been acknowledged as an important building block for achieving various aims and objectives, and plays an important role in promoting peace and a culture of peace. Education should cover various aspects, not only confined to the need to enhance cognitive skills and physical development. Indeed it should be able to inculcate social, cultural attitudes and values and impart twenty-first century skills encompassing thinking competencies, the ability to acquire language and ICT skills, the capability of self-management and the ability to relate to others and participate and contribute. In a sense, education should be conducive to and facilitate the all-round development of the individual. In order to achieve this, it is important to design and develop a holistic curriculum that integrates overall development, emphasizing the integrative nature of citizenship and twenty-first century competencies. The new initiative will certainly call for stakeholders in education to synergize efforts in nurturing children to be active contributors and concerned citizens for the community. Because of our cultural differences, it is not possible to have one common holistic approach to the education system applicable across the continents. Thus, diverse holistic approaches to the education system need to be considered in order to cater to different groupings of countries, based on their cultural similarities. As one of the leading international organizations in education, UNESCO can play its part and will be able to determine the characteristics of holistic curricula that can meet all these challenges, while at the same time taking into account the cultural differences among Member States. In this respect, consistent with its main aim and objectives, the International Bureau of Education of UNESCO can play a pivotal role in developing the strategy and studying this issue comprehensively in greater depth. The issue is one that warrants UNESCO's consideration and special attention. Thank you.

70. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Timor Leste has the floor.

71. **Mr Cândia Freitas** (Timor Leste):

Thank you, Madam Moderator. As you know, Timor Leste is a young fledgling nation, born in 2002, around 10 years ago. That independence came as a result of a long period of colonization, conflict and war. We are currently

rebuilding our country from scratch, in terms of both infrastructure and human resources. We have emphasized the pivotal role that education plays in terms of taking forward and sustaining our development by embracing EFA goals and policies and making progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We have introduced for the first time nine years of free and compulsory education as a first major objective of the government, and the second one is trying to build more in terms of providing education and training for the 60% of our population that is aged 16 to 25. So, at the moment we are embarking upon a big programme of peace-building and State-building, whereby all the programmes are centred around a motto that we have just come up with, which is "goodbye conflict and welcome development". All government and civil society organizations are embracing this motto and we are trying to cultivate three things that we think are important. First, knowledge, second, skills, and third, attitude towards peace-building and State-building. As a young and post-conflict nation, we recognize the importance of education and training for our youth and culture in helping to develop not only an economically prosperous and sustainably developed State, but also in helping to build a tolerant, just and informed nation, a nation where everyone has the opportunity to be educated and to be part of a wider culturally rich community in the world and the global village. Thank you.

**72. The Moderator:**

Just very quickly, Timor Leste. You know, your country has been very central to discussions about whether, in post-conflict societies, you perhaps sacrifice the seeking of justice in order to move on and promote development. There are those that say, let us just put our terrible, violent past behind us and not try to seek justice but go more towards reconciliation.

**73. Mr Cândia Freitas (Timor Leste):**

Well, if you are referring to justice in terms of what happened in the past prior to independence, it is not only the responsibility of Timor Leste, but is the responsibility of the whole world. We are part of the whole world, so at the moment, while leaving this part to the United Nations, which is mainly responsible for that, we are currently trying to build ourselves, to reconcile ourselves in order to promote the much-needed development that our youth is expecting. Thank you.

**74. The Moderator:**

Thank you. And now we go to the representative of Palestine, which of course has observer status at the moment here at UNESCO. Please introduce yourself. Your brief comments, please.

٧٥ السيد يخلف (المراقب الدائم عن فلسطين):

شكراً، لقد أسعدنا كثيراً أن يكون موضوع هذه الدورة ثقافة السلام والتنمية المستدامة لأن ثقافة السلام هي ضرورة، وهي ثقافة الحرية والنزاهة، وثقافة تعترف بالآخر وتعتبر، كما جاء في إعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي، أن الثقافات كلها هي ملك للبشرية جمعاء. ولقد استمعت كثيراً وابتغاه إلى ما قاله جميع المتدخلين عن ثقافة السلام، وهذا جيد. ولكن وأنا أعيش في ظروف احتلال، وبوصفي أولاً وزيراً ورئيساً للوفد الفلسطيني، اسمي يحيي بخلف، إضافة إلى أنني كاتب وروائي معروف في العالم العربي، أرى أننا بحاجة إلى ثقافة السلام لأنها يجب أن تقف إلى جانب الثقافات المهتدة، والثقافة الفلسطينية المهتدة، والهوية الفلسطينية المهتدة بسبب الاحتلال. وإن الاحتلال الإسرائيلي يشكل عدواً للثقافة ولكل أوجه الحياة. ولقد مضى على الاحتلال ٤٤ عاماً، مما يعني أن أربعة أجيال ولدت وفتحت عيونها في زمن الاحتلال، وأن ٧٥٠ ألف فلسطيني دخلوا سجون الاحتلال منذ عام ١٩٦٧ حتى الآن. إن ثقافة السلام هي ثقافة الحرية، والحوار الثقافي يجب أن يكون بين ندين متكافئين، لا بين جلال وضحية أو بين أسيا وعبيد، بل يجب أن يكون بين طرفين ندين يتسمان بالنزاهة والحرية، وأن يكون كل طرف مستعداً ليكون له لسان وأذان وليس لساناً فقط، وأن يكون كل طرف مستعداً لأن يقطع نصف المسافة بين جهتين. ونحترق نحن في فلسطين هي أن حكومة نتياهو تحاورنا بثقافة الحقد والكراهية والاستيطان والجدار والرصاص وبأسنان الجرافات عندما تصادر الأراضي وتقيم المستوطنات. ونحن نقول إن السلام والاستيطان لا يلتقيان ولا يمكن أن تُفرض على الشعب الفلسطيني حالة استسلام. نحن مع السلام العادل ولسنا مع الاستسلام. ومن جهة ثانية، إن الحكومة الإسرائيلية مغلقة، لكننا ننسق مع نشطاء السلام في إسرائيل ونحاورهم، وهم يشاركوننا في المظاهرات السلمية ضد الجدار، وقد أصدرنا بياناً قبل شهر وقع عليه ٥٠٠ مثقف إسرائيلي يؤيدون قيام دولة فلسطينية على حدود الرابع من حزيران بما فيها القدس الشرقية ويؤيدون ذهاب أبي مازن، الرئيس محمود عباس، إلى الأمم المتحدة لطلب العضوية الكاملة لدولة فلسطين، وكتبوا أن المفاوضات في المستقبل يجب أن تكون بين دولتين وليس بين دولة إسرائيل وأراضي فلسطينية متنازع عليها. فهذا هو الحوار الأساسي، أن يكون الحوار متكافئاً وجدياً وبين طرفين تتوفر فيهما جميع الشروط اللازمة للحوار. وأقترح في الختام أن يصدر عن هذا المؤتمر إعلان يقدم رؤية عن ثقافة السلام، وأن يحظى، شأنه شأن إعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي، بالاهتمام الكافي من كل دول العالم، وشكراً.

**(75) M. Yakhlef (Observateur permanent de la Palestine) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Merci. Nous sommes très contents que le thème de cette session soit la culture de la paix et le développement durable parce que la culture de la paix est une nécessité – c'est une culture de la liberté et de l'honnêteté, une culture qui reconnaît l'autre et qui considère, comme le proclame la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle, que les cultures sont toutes la propriété de l'humanité tout entière. J'ai écouté, avec beaucoup d'attention, ce qu'ont dit tous les intervenants sur la culture de la paix. Cependant, moi, Yahya Yakhlef, je vis sous occupation, d'abord en tant que ministre et chef de la délégation palestinienne – et ensuite en tant qu'écrivain et romancier connu dans le monde arabe. Je considère que nous avons besoin de la culture de la paix et que celle-ci doit se mettre du côté des cultures menacées – or, la culture palestinienne est bien menacée du fait de l'occupation. L'occupation israélienne est l'ennemi de la culture et de toutes les formes de vie. L'occupation dure maintenant depuis 44 ans. Quatre générations sont nées et ont ouvert les yeux sous l'occupation. Quelque 750 000 Palestiniens ont connu les prisons de l'occupation de 1967 à aujourd'hui. La culture de la paix, c'est la culture de la liberté. Le dialogue interculturel ne peut exister qu'entre partenaires égaux, pas entre un bourreau et sa victime ou bien entre seigneurs et esclaves ; non, il doit s'instaurer entre des partenaires égaux qui se caractérisent par l'honnêteté et la liberté. Chaque partie doit être prête à avoir une langue et des oreilles, pas seulement une seule langue. Chaque partie doit être disposée à parcourir la moitié de la distance vers l'autre. Notre expérience en Palestine est que le gouvernement Nétanyahou nous parle dans la langue d'une culture de la haine, de la hargne, du colonialisme, du mur de séparation, des balles, des dents de bulldozers quand on exproprie les gens de leurs terres pour y construire des colonies. Nous, nous disons que la paix et les colonies sont incompatibles ; on ne peut pas, non plus, imposer au peuple palestinien un état de capitulation. Nous sommes pour une paix juste, pas pour une capitulation. D'autre part, bien que le Gouvernement israélien soit fermé, nous coordonnons nos actions et nous dialoguons avec des militants pour la paix en Israël, qui participent



à nos côtés aux manifestations pacifiques contre le mur. Il y a un mois, ils ont publié un communiqué signé par 500 intellectuels israéliens qui soutiennent l'établissement d'un État palestinien dans les frontières du 4 juin, incluant Jérusalem Est, et qui soutiennent également l'idée que Abou Mazen, le Président palestinien Mahmoud Abbas, aille aux Nations Unies afin de demander que l'État de Palestine soit reconnu comme membre à part entière. Ils ont en outre estimé que les négociations devaient avoir lieu, à l'avenir, entre deux États, et non pas entre un État et des territoires palestiniens disputés. Telle est la problématique de fond : que le dialogue s'instaure entre personnes égales et responsables, entre deux parties qui détiennent toutes les conditions nécessaires au dialogue. En conclusion, je souhaite que cette conférence adopte une déclaration contenant une vision de la culture de la paix et que cette déclaration, à l'instar de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle, puisse être l'objet d'une attention suffisante de la part de tous les États du monde. Merci.

**76. The Moderator:**

*Shukran jazīlan, shukran.* The United Republic of Tanzania has asked to speak at very short notice. I will let you speak, but only for two minutes so that we can finish on time.

**77. Mr Kawambwa (United Republic of Tanzania):**

Thank you very much, Madam Moderator, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the discussion. My name is Shukuru Kawambwa, Minister for Education and Vocational Training, United Republic of Tanzania. I would like to recognize contributions by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations and other speakers who spoke before me. I would like to take a brief moment to share some reflections with regard to Tanzania's experience. Tanzania is a country of 40 million people. It has many races, about 120 ethnic groups with different cultures and languages, various religions and I would like to say that in December of this year we are celebrating our 50th year of independence. We have experienced largely peaceful coexistence over all those years, but certainly we have worked very hard all those years to ensure that we have peace in the country, social tolerance, focused on religious as well as tribal tolerance. We have used Kiswahili as a common language, which is spoken all over the country as a binding component that helps us coexist in peace. Certainly, we have gone through some troubles, but we recognize that peace cannot be taken for granted. I recognize, as His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, the President of Côte d'Ivoire, said, that we cannot take peace for granted and peace can disappear at any moment. Therefore peace should be engineered and should be built through deliberate efforts. They are efforts which start in the household, in the home, where children are raised, and in the schools and with various stakeholders including UNICEF. So what we need is peace educators and peace-builders. Actually we need peace education. At this point I would like to propose therefore that possibly UNESCO could pioneer a school curriculum for peace education which would build, in the minds of citizens and our children, attitudes of good governance, justice, social tolerance, all those ingredients that constitute a culture of peace. So society should be engineered to prioritize peace. After making those brief remarks, let me take this opportunity, therefore, to say that the players are many, I mean governments, media, political parties, religious organizations, religious leaders. The media have a big part to play. They can destroy peace in the world or they can build peace in the world. With those remarks, let me take the opportunity to commend the Director-General of UNESCO for mainstreaming the culture of peace in UNESCO's programmes. Thank you very much.

**78. The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. You have done an admirable job in summarizing most of our discussion today about the need for UNESCO to promote and advocate the values and principles of a culture of peace and integrating that into school curricula, intercultural dialogue and so on. So clearly there are some very constructive points for you there. It is nice to end on an intervention from a country that has for five decades seen the absence of conflict. To wrap up our discussions, I would like to invite to the floor, to make the concluding remarks, Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, ISESCO.

٧٩،١ السيد التويجري (المدير العام للمنظمة الإسلامية للتربية والعلوم والثقافة - إيسيسكو)

أنا عبد العزيز التويجري، المدير العام للمنظمة الإسلامية للتربية والعلوم والثقافة (الإيسيسكو)، يشرفني أن أتحدث إليكم في هذا الملتقى المهم الذي يُعقد في إطار الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو، وكما هو معروف، فإن الإيسيسكو تشترك مع اليونسكو في الكثير من الأهداف ومن ضمنها العمل على تعزيز التنمية التربوية والعلمية والثقافية في الدول الأعضاء، ونشر قيم الحوار والتسامح والتعايش بين الشعوب وضمان الأمن والسلم الدوليين. ومن هذا المنطلق، حرصت الإيسيسكو على تعزيز علاقاتها مع اليونسكو ومع المنظمات الدولية والإقليمية المتخصصة لتوسيع دوائر التعاون والتكامل في ميادين المشترك الإنساني لتحقيق التنمية الشاملة المستدامة. ومن برامج الإيسيسكو المهمة تلك التي اعتمدت بقضايا الشباب والمرأة تعليماً وتكويناً مهنيّاً من أجل الإسهام في تنمية الدول الأعضاء. كما وضعت الإيسيسكو برامج خاصة لتطوير منهاج ومؤسسات التعليم والتكوين حتى تتمكن من تخرّيج أطر قادرة على الولوج إلى سوق العمل ومؤهلة للإسهام في مشروعات التنمية المستدامة.

٧٩،٢ وتبين الكلمات التي ألقاها أصحاب الفخامة والمعالي والسعادة المتحدثين في هذا اللقاء المهم أننا نعيش في عالمٍ متعدد الثقافات والأديان واللغات والأجناس، وأن التعددية الثقافية هي حقيقة كونية لا بد من احترامها وتعزيزها. فالعالم اليوم في حاجة ماسة إلى ثقافة السلم، السلم في العقل والسلم في الفعل، وإلى ثقافة الحوار والاحترام المتبادل والتعاون المبني على تقاسم المصالح والتكامل الاقتصادي والثقافي والمعرفي لبناء التنمية الحقيقية. كما أننا في حاجة ماسة إلى احترام القانون الدولي وتفصيل مقتضياته وآلياته بشكل عادل ودائم حتى تسعد البشرية بمستقبل أكثر أمناً وحرية وعدالة وتنمية، وتطمئن الأجيال القادمة على حياتها ومصير علاقاتها وكونها أسرة إنسانية واحدة مهما تعددت ثقافتها وأديانها ولغاتها وأعراقها. فهذه هي رسالة اليونسكو التي جاء في ميثاقها التأسيسي، "لما كانت الحروب تولد في عقول البشر، ففي عقولهم يجب أن تبني حصون السلام"، وهي أيضاً رسالة الإيسيسكو التي يجب أن نعمل جميعاً على إنجاحها لتكون بذلك رسل سلام وحرية وديمقراطية وعدل لجميع شعوب العالم. ومن هذا المنبر، أدعو جميع دول العالم من خلال اليونسكو إلى تضمين منهاج التعليم في جميع الدول مقررات دراسية حول الحوار والتسامح واحترام التعددية الثقافية، وتقوية هذه المناهج من كل عبارات الدم والتقليل من قيمة الآخر، فالبشر كلهم من أصل واحد لا فرق بينهم في القيمة والكرامة الإنسانية.

٧٩٤٣ إن التعددية الثقافية التي أقرها إعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي الذي اعتمده المؤتمر العام لليونسكو والإعلان الإسلامي للتنوع الثقافي الذي اعتمده المؤتمر الإسلامي لوزراء الثقافة هي حقيقة لا بد أن تتكرس بصورة راسخة في حياتنا جميعاً. كما أنني أدعو إلى أن تستقطع من موازنات الإنفاق العسكري، الذي يُشكل أكبر إنفاق في دول العالم جميعها، نسبة لا تقل عن ٢٠ في المائة من هذا الإنفاق العسكري لتوجيهها نحو التعليم والتنمية والعناية بالشباب حتى نضمن لهم مستقبلاً آمناً كريماً وحتى لا تنشعب بينهم الحروب لا في العقول ولا في ساحات القتال. وأشكركم والسلام عليكم.

(79.1) **M. Abdulaziz Altwajri** (Directeur général de l'Organisation islamique pour l'éducation, les sciences et la culture – ISESCO) (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Je suis Abdelaziz Al-Twajri, Directeur général de l'Organisation islamique pour l'éducation, les sciences et la culture (ISESCO). J'ai l'honneur de m'adresser à vous à l'occasion de cette rencontre importante dans le cadre de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Comme vous le savez, l'ISESCO partage nombre d'objectifs avec l'UNESCO, notamment en vue de renforcer l'éducation, la science et la culture dans les pays membres, de diffuser les valeurs de dialogue, de tolérance et de coexistence entre les peuples et d'assurer la paix et la sécurité internationales. Sur cette base, l'ISESCO a veillé à renforcer ses liens avec l'UNESCO et avec les organisations internationales et régionales spécialisées afin d'élargir les sphères de coopération et d'intégration dans les champs communs de l'humanitaire en vue d'un développement global durable. Parmi les programmes importants de l'ISESCO figurent ceux relatifs à la jeunesse et aux femmes dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle en vue de contribuer au développement des États membres. L'ISESCO a également élaboré des projets de développement des programmes et des institutions d'éducation et de formation afin de produire des cadres capables de pénétrer le marché du travail qui soient qualifiés pour participer aux projets de développement durable.

(79.2) Les paroles prononcées par les différents intervenants éminents de cette rencontre importante montrent que nous vivons dans un monde multiculturel, multiconfessionnel, multilingue et multiethnique, et que le pluralisme culturel est une réalité universelle que nous nous devons de respecter et de renforcer. Le monde d'aujourd'hui a grand besoin d'une culture de la paix – la paix dans les têtes, la paix dans les actes –, et d'une culture du dialogue, du respect mutuel et de la coopération basée sur le partage des intérêts, l'intégration économique, culturelle et cognitive afin de construire un véritable développement. Nous avons également grand besoin de respecter le droit international et d'appliquer ses textes et ses mécanismes de manière juste et permanente afin que l'humanité puisse se forger un avenir plus sûr, plus libre, plus juste et plus développé, et que les générations à venir puissent s'assurer de leur vie et de leurs relations, et d'être une seule famille humaine en dépit du foisonnement de leurs cultures, de leurs religions, de leurs langues et de leurs ethnies. Tel est le message que l'UNESCO a consigné dans son Acte constitutif : « les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix ». C'est également le message de l'ISESCO, que nous devons tous tenter de mettre en œuvre afin d'être des messagers de la paix, de la liberté, de la démocratie et de la justice pour tous les peuples du monde. De cette tribune, j'en appelle à tous les pays du monde, à travers l'UNESCO, afin qu'ils intègrent dans leurs programmes éducatifs des programmes d'études consacrés au dialogue, à la tolérance et au respect du pluralisme culturel, et qu'ils rayent de ces programmes toute forme de censure ou de mépris de l'autre, car l'humanité tout entière est d'une seule origine, sans différences de valeur ou de dignité.

(79.3) Le pluralisme culturel instauré par la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, et par la Déclaration islamique sur la diversité culturelle, adoptée par la Conférence islamique des ministres de la culture, est une réalité qu'il faut concrétiser de façon solide dans notre vie à tous. Je demande également que soit prélevée sur les budgets militaires – les plus élevés dans tous les pays du monde – une part d'au moins 20% à consacrer à l'éducation, au développement et à la jeunesse, afin que nous puissions garantir à nos enfants un avenir sûr et digne et nous assurer qu'il n'y aura pas de guerres entre eux, ni dans leur tête, ni sur les champs de bataille. Je vous remercie. Que la paix soit sur vous.

#### 80. **The Moderator:**

*Shukran jazīlan*, Director-General of ISESCO, and thank you for your comments. Thank you, Madam President and thank you, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, for what I think has been a very fruitful, constructive discussion on the role of UNESCO in promoting this culture of peace and sustainable development. You have the second day of your General Conference tomorrow. I hope that will be successful too. I have very much enjoyed being part of this global conversation but I will be leaving you and I wish you all the best from me, Zeinab Badawi. Goodbye. Thank you.

#### 81. **The President:**

Thank you so much, Ms Badawi. What a wonderful day we have had today and we are very much looking forward to the continuation tomorrow. I really think that for me the beauty of today was the richness of the different thoughts and the thorough approaches to our very important topic. Thank you very much for being here. Today we had seven Heads of State and two First Ladies. Tomorrow we are welcoming the President of the Republic of Palau and the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders from Belgium. We are continuing our real interaction. I really would like, especially, to ask Ms Badawi to be here with us. I was just thinking, what a great programme it could be if it were not only the Members here in UNESCO discussing this very important topic, but really using the media, the world media, the real communication tools for talking about these ideas like the peace university and peace education throughout all kinds of programmes. So, thank you very much for being with us and I will see you tomorrow at 10 o'clock sharp.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 18 h 10*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 18.10*  
*Заседание закрывается в 18.10*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦,١٠ بعد الظهر*  
*会议于 18 时 10 分结束*

# Fifth plenary meeting

Thursday 27 October 2011 at 10.15 a.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Cinquième séance plénière

Judi 27 octobre 2011 à 10 h 15

Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Quinta sesión plenaria

Jueves 27 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.15

Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Пятое пленарное заседание

четверг 27 октября 2011 г. в 10.15

Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الخامسة

الخميس ٢٧ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً

الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第五次全体会议

2011年10月27日星期四10时15分

主席：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）

**Leaders' Forum** (continued)  
**Forum des dirigeants** (suite)  
**Foro de dirigentes** (continuación)  
**Форум руководителей** (продолжение)  
منتدى القادة (تابع)  
领导人论坛 (续)

1. **The President:**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to welcome you here again. This is our fifth plenary meeting. We have a very interesting theme for our Leaders' Forum and I think the beauty of our exchange is that it has been thorough, very open and honest. We have heard interesting voices and messages from different parts of the world and have had very good and interactive reactions to them. This is what we are hoping to see again today. UNESCO is really a unique place, and I am most gratified to see so many great poets and writers among the delegates and ambassadors here. The Romanian Ambassador, whom I welcome, is a very famous writer. We have the Ambassador of Portugal, who is a very famous poet. We encounter all these creative minds and artists here at this General Conference. As I said in my acceptance speech, the General Conference is an occasion for seeing each other and celebrating each other. Yesterday, as you will remember, I said in my introductory speech that it was a special day: Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Furthermore, the Indian Ambassador is himself a poet. We were talking about culture diplomacy as the poetry of diplomacy. At night before I went to sleep I was reading his book and I found a beautiful poem and would like to dedicate this poem to the theme that we are continuing today. It is called "*The Mantra for Peace*", written by Mr Kapil Sibal. "*For survival in this violent world the system needs reform; We must embrace non-violence in all its different forms; Our violence with nature has brought negative returns; Spectre of global warming adding to our concerns; Terrorism is on the rise, founded on cults and hate; To deal with it effectively, we need to cogitate; Violent means breed violence, leave wounds and open scars; A route we have adopted will not take us too far; We need an open dialogue, allay unfounded fears; Harp on universal values all religions hold so dear.*" And there is more in the same vein. I thought this poem would be a beautiful way to start our session. Mr Sibal is the Minister of Human Resources of India, and he is the head of the delegation here at the General Conference. I wish to dedicate this poem to our theme today. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have the great honour to welcome His Excellency Mr Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau and His Excellency Mr Kris Peeters, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Belgium, who are here with us today. Yesterday we already used this interesting format, inviting professional presenters to our debate. So first I would like to introduce and give the floor to Mr Stephen Cole, Senior Presenter, Al-Jazeera English in Doha and London. He will be our moderator and presenter. It is a great honour to welcome you here, having seen you everywhere in the world. You have said yourself that it is important for the world media too. So, thank you very much. Stephen, please take the floor.

2. **The Moderator** (Stephen Cole, Senior Presenter, Al Jazeera English):

Thank you very much, Madam President, Katalin, and it is wonderful to see you again, a great friend, after so long. I also thank Zeinab for yesterday. I was not here to see her as moderator, but I understand that she did extremely well and that does not surprise me. Allow me to say a few words. Yesterday, you talked about peace; you talked about education, science, youth, gender equality, sports and supporting democratic processes. That is an awful lot to achieve, and the only way, in my experience, that you achieve any of this is through leadership. I would like to repeat David Cameron's description of leadership, which affects you all in this room. He says that so much of his leadership – and I am sure that Katalin would say the same, and Irina as well – is about unleashing *your* leadership; giving everyone who wants to seize it the opportunity, the support and, above all, the freedom to get things done; giving everyone who wants to believe it the confidence that working hard and perhaps most importantly taking responsibility will be rewarded, not punished. This is what leadership is about. We have so many leaders here and are just about to meet one of them, who will recognize that definition as a process of social influence in which one person – one person – can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task. That, as far as I am concerned, is really what UNESCO is all about. Now, having said that, it is a great honour for me to introduce the President of Palau. Mr Johnson Toribiong holds a Jurist Doctor degree and a Master of Laws degree from the School of Law at the University of Washington. Upon his return to Palau, he started a career as a public servant, becoming a defence lawyer and later a part-time judge. He is a former Ambassador of Palau to the Taiwan Province of China. He became President in 2009, the second time that he ran for office. As President, his noted actions include the decision to accept former Guantanamo detainees in Palau, a brave decision then and now, and to declare the islands of Palau a "shark sanctuary" – so expect a speech with a lot of bite. Please welcome the President of the Republic of Palau, Mr Johnson Toribiong.

3.1 **Mr Toribiong** (President of Palau):

Thank you for your kind introduction. Good morning and greetings from the people of the Republic of Palau and the Pacific small island developing States.

3.2 Madam President of the 36th session of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply humbled by the honour of having been invited by Director-General Irina Bokova of UNESCO to address this eminent Leaders' Forum and the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO on behalf of the Republic of Palau and the Pacific small island developing States known as "PSIDS". I am truly most grateful to avail myself of this historic opportunity to be the voice of the Pacific small island developing States in this international forum to address the important question before us: "How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development?"

3.3 Culture is shaped and evolved through people's interactions with other people and their own environment. As a son of the Pacific islands, my views on peace and sustainable development are fashioned and coloured by the culture I grew up in and influenced by my education and experience. Historically, the cultures which evolved in the Pacific island societies were shaped by the limited land areas they lived on, the seemingly endless expanse of ocean surrounding them, and their relative isolation. But today, as is happening everywhere, our island cultures are being impacted by pop cultures of industrialized nations. Indeed we now live in a global village, and cultures all over the world are undergoing a transformation with the impact of modern technologies which facilitate constant interactions between peoples across the globe through modern means of transportation and instant telecommunications. These technologies have brought about an explosion of information. We now live in an age of instant dissemination of information. As a result, our diverse cultures are becoming more similar in some basic ways. It is in this age of instant dissemination of information that the theme of this Conference should be considered.

3.4 The pursuit of world peace has been the goal of world leaders, no less today than in the past. But peace has been an elusive goal. Building a culture of peace is a daunting task in view of the continuous eruptions of conflicts, violence and war in today's world and throughout history, in spite of efforts by political, religious and other leaders to keep and promote peace in the world. This fact should not discourage us; it should challenge us to constantly consider how UNESCO, an international organization, may find more effective ways to contribute in some way to building a culture of peace. UNESCO stands for international collaboration dedicated to supporting the cause of peace and harmony through the promotion of educational, scientific and cultural activities around the world. UNESCO should utilize modern means of communication technologies to build an international culture of peace. In this world of diversity and conflict, the higher moral value of tolerance is one of the most critical components of the culture of peace. UNESCO should launch a campaign against all forms of discrimination, such as racial, ethnic and religious discrimination, in its programmes and activities at the regional and international levels.

3.5 Ladies and gentlemen, good governance is another critical component of building a culture of peace. Where political leadership is repressive, tyrannical or corrupt, a culture of peace cannot flourish. Without good governance, the seeds of the culture of peace cannot take root. We know that good governance is based upon respect for human rights and freedom, the rule of law and the democratic principle that government derives its powers from the consent of the governed. UNESCO and its Member States must promote these values and principles of good governance as a prerequisite to building a culture of peace. Disputes within a country or between countries inevitably arise. But when they are not resolved peacefully, peace gives way to violence and war. Peaceful dispute resolution founded upon the rule of law that is just and fair must be recognized and promoted by UNESCO and its Member States as another important component of building a culture of peace. At the same time, the culture of peace cannot be sustained where there is poverty, disease, inequality and illiteracy. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate or reduce poverty and hunger, diseases, illiteracy and gender inequality, among other things, are in line with UNESCO's effort to contribute to building an international culture of peace and sustainable development.

3.6 The role of UNESCO as the United Nations agency responsible for coordinating the Education for All (EFA) Action Plan, a programme launched at the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2000, should be to place emphasis on the fact that education of our youth is where the building of the culture of peace should begin. The UNESCO motto is "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". With this in mind, the culture of peace should be cultivated through educational, scientific and cultural programmes, projects and activities of UNESCO at regional and international levels. It is through education that the right values can be cultivated in the minds of men, especially the young. From our experience in the Pacific, for example, we have promoted mutual understanding and cooperation, tolerance and appreciation for our diversity through our regional organizations and activities, such as the Pacific Island Forum, regional fisheries organizations, Pacific Festival of Arts, Pacific Games and other subregional organizations, which have engendered a culture of harmony and peace in our region. We must move beyond our present horizon to strengthen our traditional and historic relationships and develop new plans and strategies to effectively activate cooperation and partnerships between UNESCO and its Member States to promote the culture of peace.

3.7 Ladies and gentlemen, besides cultivating the culture of peace, how may we contribute to sustainable development? Peace and sustainable development are intertwined and interdependent. They have a symbiotic relationship; development is never sustainable where there is no peace. Besides the critical importance of peace to sustainable development, a more pressing issue of great concern to the Pacific small island developing States is climate change, especially the threat of the rising sea level caused by global warming. The ocean, which has been our generous source of livelihood, is now rising in rage to threaten our security and survival. Some low-lying islands in the Pacific are faced with the real possibility of being swallowed up by the rising sea level. The rising sea level is a tsunami of biblical magnitude in slow motion. Climate change is caused by the high volume of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, for which the small island developing States are the least responsible and yet are among the most threatened. Today we are disappointed by the United Nations' recent report that the current effort to mitigate climate change falls short of reaching the vital goal of keeping global warming below two degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels. In the debate at the United Nations General Assembly last September, I raised the legal issue of transboundary harm under international law as to whether those nations which have contributed most to climate change should be held responsible. My country and others similarly situated are now in the process of preparing a resolution to be introduced in the United Nations General Assembly to request the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on the applicability of the doctrine of transboundary harm in the case of climate change. Regardless of the outcome of this legal approach and the debate regarding the causes and consequences of climate change, we ask UNESCO to use its scientific resources and influence to address the threats of climate change.

3.8 Ladies and gentlemen, furthermore, development cannot be sustainable when it is based upon unrestrained exploitation of resources. We urge UNESCO and its Member States to cultivate a culture of conservation. Our oceans and land resources must be protected from unrestrained exploitation. We must all be good stewards of our environment. Exploitation of resources must be balanced by the culture of conservation. Mahatma Gandhi said it well when he said: "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed". The capacity of our planet Earth to provide enough to satisfy every man's need has been stretched to the limit. The world population this year will top seven billion. UNESCO must lead the way forward to encourage the use of science and technology to improve production and conservation of the food and water supply for our people. This is critical to ensuring sustainable development and the survival of humanity.

3.9 Ladies and gentlemen, another component of sustainable development is the use of green energy. Green energy and green industry must continue to be encouraged. Transition from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy is a win-win policy. It mitigates climate change and promotes the use of an infinite supply of renewable energy. UNESCO and its Member States should utilize their resources, including modern technologies, through educational, scientific and cultural programmes and activities to contribute to building a culture of peace and sustainable development. We in Palau and the Pacific small island developing States are committed to building a culture of peace and sustainable development in our small ways. In Palau we have the following initiatives in place. We have introduced the Micronesian Challenge, a regional environmental conservation initiative to conserve 30% of our reefs and 20% of our land to keep them in their natural state. We have established the world's first shark sanctuary to help preserve the health of our oceans in keeping with our tradition of conservation, known in our language as *bul*. We have a protected area network, known as "PAN", with an environmental programme to protect our fragile environment from over-exploitation by collecting "green fees" from tourists to fund the protection of these areas. We have adopted the 1972 World Heritage Convention safeguarding tangible cultural heritage and are seeking to nominate sites to the World Heritage List. We have a UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Reserve in 2005, the Ngarmeduu Bay, which shows that people and nature can coexist in harmony and peace. We have supported a programme known as "the Micronesian Voyaging Society" through the Palau Community College to preserve the practice of traditional navigation from the knowledge passed on from the late renowned grand master navigator, Pius Mau Pialug from the Micronesian island of Satawal, using stars, winds and ocean currents to make transoceanic voyages. This grand master navigator commanded the epic voyage of the internationally famed Hawaiian canoe, known as *Hokulea*, from Hawaii to Tahiti, retracing the migration of ancient Polynesians from Tahiti to Hawaii. He passed this knowledge on to his son who has been hired to teach this ancient traditional art of navigation at the Palau Community College.

3.10 In October of this year, Palau ratified UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Palau is a member of a regional organization of the Pacific under the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, known as PNA, to regulate the harvesting and conservation of our tuna resource to ensure its sustainable development. Palau is an active advocate of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Finally, the Pacific supports the Universal Declaration on Archives.

3.11 Ladies and gentlemen, since this is the first appearance of a representative from the Pacific to address this session of the General Conference of UNESCO, please bear with me a few more minutes.

3.12 Excellencies, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I strongly recommend that UNESCO recognizes the need for Pacific small island developing States to interact with the rest of the world in all areas of human and national development, especially within the framework of UNESCO. By increasing the role and participation of the Pacific small island developing States in UNESCO, these States will not only realize their full potential as responsible members of the international community, they will make UNESCO truly representative of the views of its Members.

3.13 May this Leaders' Forum and the General Conference of UNESCO be remembered in history as the first to give important roles in key organs of UNESCO to Pacific small island developing States. In this regard, I would make at this time a formal request for your full support for the candidature of Papua New Guinea to UNESCO's Executive Board. I thank you for your favourable consideration of this request. Moreover, the Republic of Palau is a candidate for a seat on the World Heritage Committee at the 18th General Assembly of the State Parties to the Convention from 7 to 9 November of this year. My country, Palau, is a member of the Pacific small island developing States, a key priority group in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2008-2013. Thus I am also requesting your full support for Palau's candidature of Ms Faustina Rehuher-Marugg, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Palau, to this post. I thank you for your support. Madam President, Excellencies, honourable delegates, I thank you for your patience, understanding and kind consideration.

#### 4. **The Moderator:**

Mr President, thank you very much indeed for that wonderful opening speech and for setting a marvellous tone for the day. There are parallels, I think, and I do not want to put words in the President's mouth, with the Maldives and some of the initiatives that they have tried. I like the idea of your "PAN", the protected area network which is paid for by tourists, a sort of "green tax", which should work well. I was fortunate enough to scuba dive with the President of the Maldives at his famous underwater cabinet meeting, which raised the profile of climate change rather well. Mr President, if you are considering doing something similar, I am quite prepared to dive with you as well! Now, we are only going to have two speakers addressing you from the podium; I would like the other interventions for the rest of the morning to come from the floor. We agreed yesterday that the world is in turmoil and – a wonderful expression – there is an "acute peace deficit". Please welcome now Mr Kris Peeters. In 2004, after a career as a lawyer and a fiscal counsellor, Mr Peeters was called upon to take a seat in the Flemish Government, as Minister of Public Works, Energy, Environment and Nature. Since 2006, Mr Peeters has been a Municipal Councillor in his home town of Puurs. In 2007, he was appointed Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister of Institutional Reform, Administrative Affairs, Foreign Policy, Media, Tourism, Ports, Agriculture, Sea Fisheries and Rural Policy, which is one of the biggest

briefs I have ever seen for one man! In 2009, he was appointed Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Economy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture and Rural Policy. So please welcome, Mr Kris Peeters, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Belgium.

**5.1 Mr Peeters** (Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Belgium):

Thank you. Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I feel honoured to be able to participate in this first-ever Leaders' Forum. I would like to commend UNESCO for the choice of the two central themes. A culture of peace and sustainable development are essential preconditions for safeguarding the future of our planet. Moreover, they demand a global approach by the international community. UNESCO is the right organization to address these issues because of its broad cultural, scientific and educational experience and expertise, and because of its mission: to build peace in the minds of men and women.

**5.2** In the 66 years since UNESCO was founded, the world has changed dramatically. Technological progress has turned our planet into a global village. However, technology cannot solve everything. Technology cannot bring about peace. Peace has to be man-made. To put it in the words of Martin Luther King: "We've learned to fly the air like birds, we've learned to swim the sea like fish. Yet, we haven't learned how to walk the earth like brothers and sisters". In the face of ongoing conflicts and in the light of people's aspirations for freedom, human rights and true democracy, the promotion of a culture of peace is of the utmost importance. Belgium wants to join forces with UNESCO, in particular through our presidency of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research in 2012. We are also starting preparations for the 2014-2018 Great War Commemoration project, through which we want to send a universal message of peace around the world. The "Great War" was the first-ever international conflict on a truly world scale. UNESCO can seize the opportunity of this commemoration to put the message of "No more war" in the international spotlights. On the occasion of the Great War Commemoration, we intend to subscribe to the Flanders Fields Declaration in 2012, together with like-minded partners. This declaration, ladies and gentlemen, will emphasize that conflict and suffering have not yet been eradicated and that respect for international law and human rights, cooperation between people, disarmament and integration remain key elements in our pursuit of a better future for all humanity.

**5.3** History has clearly shown that democracy and freedom are not eternal achievements. They require continuous diligence and vigilance from everyone. Therefore it is imperative to make remembrance education a priority. Belgium fully supports UNESCO's activities related to education for peace. The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), which will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2013, is a fundamental instrument for building sustainable peace. Together with the Flemish National Commission for UNESCO, we strongly support this network and have recently given it a new dimension.

**5.4** Ladies and gentlemen, climate change, deforestation, the loss of biodiversity and increasing desertification constitute an extremely worrisome threat to our existence and to world peace. The two themes of this Leaders' Forum are consequently inseparably interconnected. Sustainable development presupposes that we strike a proper balance among ecological, economic and social interests. Technology and science can help us in finding concrete solutions. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this is demonstrated by the current exhibition around the UNESCO building, financed by Flanders and made possible through Belgian, German and European Union satellite technology. By means of this technology, the consequences of climate change for World Heritage sites are demonstrated. This fascinating link between cultural, educational and scientific dimensions truly shows the added value of UNESCO.

**5.5** Ladies and gentlemen, the Ambassador of the Alliance of Civilizations and former Vice-President of the World Bank already predicted in 1995 that "if the wars of this century were fought over oil, the wars of the next century will be fought over water". However, to this he added the important side note: "unless we change our approach to managing this precious and vital resource". Consequently, we believe that UNESCO has to undertake a prominent role in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

**5.6** Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, we need to do even more to ensure the protection of natural resources, capacity-building and solidly based and integrated coastal management. The International Hydrological Programme (IHP) can play an important role, as can the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). In the future, we would like to see an increase in the IOC budget up to 2% of the total UNESCO budget. Since 2005, we have offered support to the UNESCO/IOC Project Office for International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange in Ostend. This centre is making a significant contribution to the development of international oceanography and to the promotion of the sustainable use and development of coastal areas.

**5.7** Another crucial issue is the battle against desertification. Special attention to UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme with regard to drylands is therefore fundamental. The countries and the people suffering most severely from desertification are often the ones with the least effective defences available to them. The Project on Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands (SUMAMAD) tries to provide an answer by promoting research and capacity-building in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and Latin America. The international community has to help the poorest and most exposed people and communities to adapt to the consequences of climate change. We are also making our development aid more responsive to these concerns. There is a clear need for a global governance structure. It has to bridge the gaps in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. And it has to accelerate global action towards a greener and more sustainable economy.

**5.8** Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, we encourage UNESCO to explore partnerships with the private sector, which has a key role to play in delivering green growth through trade, investments, research and development, innovation and resource efficiency. Education for sustainable development has to remain a high priority, because it is able to change people's minds.

5.9 Ladies and gentlemen, I will conclude. In tackling the challenges we are discussing today, UNESCO has to reach out to all its allies: youth organizations, the UNESCO National Commissions, the private sector and, last but not least, other international organizations dealing with peace issues and sustainable development. UNESCO has immense expertise, but needs to apply that knowledge even more actively in the field itself. For that reason, choices need to be made. A new global balance is taking shape. UNESCO can assume an important role when focusing on a number of clearly defined themes in which the Organization can take the lead. I truly hope that the outcome of this Forum will contribute to the future strategic direction of a reformed UNESCO, a UNESCO that is more focused, more efficient and aptly reinforced. Thank you for your attention.

6. **The Moderator:**

Thank you, the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Kris Peeters. And also thank you to Flanders for your exceptional support to many of UNESCO's peace initiatives, a valued contributor. Now let us start a debate.

7. **The President:**

First there will be a brief interruption. I would very much have liked the President of Palau to stay here with us, but he is now going to have a meeting with our Director-General. Thank you very much for coming, Mr President.

*The meeting is suspended briefly while the President and the Director-General take leave of the President of Palau and the Minister-President of Flanders, Belgium*

8.1 **The Moderator:**

Thank you, Madam President. Basically, what I want to do is try and create a marketplace of ideas this morning. I want to be proactive, with almost zero contribution from this panel up here and total contribution from you down there, because, as far as I can work out, what UNESCO is trying to do with this Leaders' Forum is give the Forum to the floor to get your ideas, to find out what you want from UNESCO – what sort of organization you want UNESCO to be, say, over the next 10 years. The areas I want to hear you talk about this morning are: peace, sustainable development, building green societies and what your expectations are on those subjects. I also like Mr Peeters' idea of exploring more partnerships with the private sector. I would like to give you a very good example, possibly involving Samsung, which I pick at random, but which is certainly trying a very definite economic shift from flat-screen television to sustainable products.

8.2 Just before turning to the floor, I would just like to quote the words of the Director-General, Irina Bokova, which are so relevant now. She talked on International Youth Day about the "youthquakes" – as she described them – that have struck across the Arab world and shown the ability of young people to drive change. This is what you can do in this room: drive change. Ms Bokova said that "the struggle for democratic participation has shaken regimes seemingly impervious to pressure. These movements have shown the power of aspirations for human rights and fundamental freedoms". In other words, the power of change. I have covered the events of the Arab Spring for the past eight or nine months, and I defy anybody in this room to have forecast, just a year ago, where we would be now. Nobody could have done so. That shows the power of people to change. I hope that is what will come from the floor today: ideas for change.

8.3 Let us hear first from the floor, limiting speaking time to about three minutes please, because we have a lot of people who wish to contribute, I am very glad to say. We will take contributions from people in the normal way, showing your name-plate, and I would also ask you please to identify yourselves when you take the floor. We are going to start with the Minister of Education of Afghanistan.

9.1 **Mr Wardak (Afghanistan):**

*Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm.* Excellencies, honourable panellists and my fellow global citizens, *as-salāmu 'alaikum.* I am Farooq Wardak, Minister of Education of Afghanistan.

9.2 First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your highly professional conduct, facilitation and moderation of this session. I would like to make three pragmatic suggestions on the subjects at hand, based on our experience in Afghanistan. All three of them are interlinked and promote the concept that, while peace is a prerequisite for sustainable development of any nature, instead of waiting for peace to come through a political settlement or any other means, investing in education will contribute to building a durable culture of peace and sustainable development because we believe that development is about people much more than about infrastructure. The key themes in my intervention are: (1) community ownership of education; (2) peace education through school; and (3) sustainability through improving capacity-development policies and practices.

9.3 First, empowering communities so that they can take ownership of education at the local level and move to the forefront of expanding, defending and protecting schools: this lies at the heart of our strategies. These strategies have led to the reopening of 500 schools, which were closed because of insecurity, and have allowed insurgents to make peace with education, enabling us to reach the most disadvantaged children in hard-to-reach and insecure areas.

9.4 Second, incorporating messages of peace and non-violence into the content of school curricula and textbooks. This has resulted in a considerable reduction in schoolyard violence and a change of attitudes and perceptions among students and teachers, making education free of politics and ideological battles, even among the insurgents. We are convinced that expanding peace education to schools at the national level will bring peace to the minds and hearts of millions of children and their families.

9.5 Third, making capacity development more effective by increasing clarity between needs, investment and results. This is possible by developing standards and benchmarks against which capacity building can be measured at three levels: personnel capabilities, organizational performance and system-wide impact. It is my belief that support from UNESCO to Member States for improving capacity-building results will contribute to the sustainability of development in education. I hope UNESCO will consider assisting particularly the war-affected and developing countries in order to



develop community ownership of education, to expand the promotion of a culture of peace through schools, and to support capacity development in education to become more results-oriented. I thank you.

10. **The Moderator:**

I thank you. That was brief, clear and to the point, and outlined three very important points. Long may the schools stay open in Afghanistan. Thank you very much, Minister of Education. Let us now hear from Kenya.

11.1 **Mr Onger** (Kenya):

Thank you, Mr Moderator. I am Professor Sam Onger, Ambassador and Minister of Education of Kenya. We are aware that UNESCO has been instrumental in enhancing the culture of peace through all its areas of competence. Kenya therefore wishes to thank UNESCO for its continuous support in all these areas.

11.2 We consider the following areas critical in nurturing the development of a culture of peace: (1) Enhancing equity and equality in crucial areas, such as in the distribution of resources, services, including education and health, employment and political representation. This has the effect of reducing marginalization and fostering social inclusion. (2) Youth empowerment through the development of critical skills for innovation and employment. In Kenya, increasing resources have been invested in education at all levels, which fosters community ownership. In particular, there has been a renewed emphasis on technical and vocational education and higher education. (3) We are convinced that enhancing knowledge and the appreciation of other people's culture is a sure way of reducing intolerance and prejudice and indeed we have been able to move swiftly to create additional national schools where there is cross-fertilization of cultures and people with different ethnic backgrounds attending national schools in various parts of the country. (4) Mainstreaming cultural diversity and peace education in the curriculum at all levels in Kenya. During the post-election violence of 2007-2008, one of the surest ways we were able to come back to normalcy was by being able to embrace peace education and return to classrooms as fast as we could. This had a normalization effect. (5) Encouraging a culture of dialogue and consensus as a conflict prevention and resolution measure. Naturally, there is the element of strengthening democracy and good governance, which in turn leads to accelerated economic growth.

11.3 Mr Moderator, enhancing capacity building, for example, is an important way in which UNESCO can assist most of the African countries that have almost achieved their EFA goals and therefore need increased investments for capacity building for higher education. Resources are also needed to monitor and review any innovative programmes, to improve efficiency and replicate success stories such as Kenya's mobile schools and second-chance schools – what we now popularly refer to as non-formal education. Furthermore, strengthening free and fair media ensures that acts of impunity and corruption are squarely exposed, but there is a need to have effective policies to ensure that the media are not used to incite violence, but rather as vehicles for the promotion of peace.

11.4 Mr Moderator, we know that UNESCO has a much broader agenda within the United Nations system. Kenya therefore calls upon development partners to increase their extrabudgetary contributions. There is added urgency in this regard in view of UNESCO's zero budget growth. I thank you for your attention.

12. **The Moderator:**

Thank you, Professor. Is that basically a call for more funding?

13. **Mr Onger** (Kenya):

Precisely so.

14. **The Moderator:**

Let us now hear from Nigeria.

15.1 **Ms Ahmed Rufai** (Nigeria):

I am Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufai. I am the Minister of Education of the Republic of Nigeria and Head of the Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to UNESCO. Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, unfortunately, owing to unavoidable circumstances, it has not been possible for my President, His Excellency Mr Jonathan Goodluck Ebele, to be with you personally today as he had hoped. However, he has asked me to assure you that he will be very much with you in spirit, as you face your great responsibilities during the next two and a half weeks. We did not need to re-write UNESCO's Constitution to see that there is indeed a clear coincidence between the declaration of intention made by the founders of UNESCO, especially as articulated in the Organization's Constitution, and the questions raised by the subjects of our Forum. UNESCO was created for the purpose of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of humankind.

15.2 So, how does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development? Well, the short answer is by performing its constitutional duties in favour of peace and development in collaboration with other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in close cooperation with Member States and in collaboration with the widest international funding sources. In so doing, Member States, their needs, their aspirations, as well as their challenges, must be in the forefront of UNESCO's plans and works.

15.3 Please allow me to suggest that perhaps this 36th session of the General Conference is of particular importance. We, at the level of this Member States' summit, should seize this opportunity and go beyond mere identification of how UNESCO contributes to peace-building and to sustainable development and give serious consideration to how UNESCO can better equip itself in the performance of its duties of contributing to peace-building and to sustainable development along with its other responsibilities. This session of the General Conference offers a welcome opportunity as we have before us for consideration several problem questions ranging from the final reports on the Programme and Budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, through the examination of the Programme and Budget for the year 2012-2013, right up to the presentation of recommendations for the preparation of the Organization's Medium-Term

Strategy for the period 2014 to 2019. This covers a period of 11 years spreading from 2009 to 2019. My plea is that, as we deliberate at all these different levels of our Conference, we should set our minds on putting forward proposals, recommendations and other important guidelines on how UNESCO can better fulfil its responsibilities – all its responsibilities, among them of course that of contributing to the building of a culture of peace and to sustainable development.

15.4 For more than ever before, UNESCO now fully occupies its rightful place in the community of international intergovernmental organizations. Its competence is recognized and respected, as witnessed by the several responsibilities it has been required to assume on behalf of the international community in its fields of competence. I must end this rapidly in order to draw attention to the international ramifications of the action we will take here in UNESCO as they, more than ever, are certain to affect international action far beyond UNESCO, ascending to the larger global action of the international community. A UNESCO that is enabled to better perform its duties and to better serve the cause of peace and sustainable development will be undeniably an asset, not just to its Member States, but also to cohesive international action in general.

15.5 We in Nigeria have great confidence in the capacity and capability of our Conference and our Organization for success as we face these challenges. That faith and the inspiration we draw from it has been the hallmark of our relationship with the Organization. We have broadened and recently deepened our partnership and we are proud to have initiated with UNESCO one of the Organization's largest funds-in-trust programmes in education. That is the measure of our faith in UNESCO. If we can, at the end of this session of the General Conference, identify several proposals and suggestions for better and more efficient performance by UNESCO, not only for the period under consideration at the moment, but in fact far beyond, we will have set UNESCO on the path of the future, ever more secure and more efficient in the service of its Member States and the international community in general. This is my hope and I wish you great success at this Forum and at the rest of the 36th session of the General Conference. I thank you very much.

16. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. And thank you for the praise for UNESCO. Before you finish, just tell me in 10 or 15 seconds how you think UNESCO could become better and more efficient in terms of performance.

17. **Ms Ahmed Rufai (Nigeria):**

Yes, Mr Moderator, UNESCO can perform better by having more funds in terms of collaboration with Member States, as my counterpart from Kenya has just proposed. UNESCO needs to ensure that it has more funds for the larger communities, for other countries, for all the Member States. In Nigeria we propose a funds-in-trust arrangement, but we also expect that there should be some means of funding with UNESCO actually contributing to that fund. Nigeria has raised money, but we believe that UNESCO could also help by putting in some money, and I believe that other countries will expect the same.

18. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. I got your message very clearly indeed: again, the call for more funding, I think this is going to be commonplace. Now let us hear what Romania has to say about education, peace and sustainability.

19.1 **Mr Funeriu (Romania):**

Thank you very much. Honourable Director-General, Honourable President of the General Conference, Your Excellencies, I am Daniel Funeriu, Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports in the Romanian Government. Let me start by telling you that I welcome your introduction, the more so as it becomes clear that no matter how good laws and regulations are, nothing will ever replace a good school principal who cares daily about each and every child in his or her school.

19.2 Now, it is a matter of fact that many of our countries are undergoing far-reaching educational reforms, and so is Romania. Since the beginning of 2010, we have had a new education law that is on the way to succeeding in bringing education much closer to society and in making school work for the community. Therefore, both formal and non-formal education components have been restructured so as to converge towards the development of the students' system of quality and values, observable especially beyond the classroom. We have to make it very clear that beyond content, school offers and shares values. In this respect, we have acted on restructuring educational outcomes so that skills prevail over the reproduction of knowledge, and promoting social equity in order to eliminate disparities between advantaged and disadvantaged categories of students and social exclusion owing to illiteracy, drop-out or ethnic reasons. In Romania there are schools where children from more than three ethnicities study together. Through this cohabitation in our schooling, we ensure a multicultural educational environment that fosters a culture of peace and democracy. Romania has 18 recognized minorities. We believe that this is a major source of diversity and progress for our country. We promote cultural diversity by enhancing the minorities' right to education in their native language - and I stress here, education of minorities in their native language, at all levels - and by providing support for immigrant children to continue their studies with a view to their insertion into mainstream education.

19.3 Another important point for us is enhancing access to education and raising the quality of education by initiating several innovative measures. I will only mention one such programme, which is the setting of a legal framework for the second-chance programme designed to facilitate school re-integration of all those who have dropped out of school. We are also working very hard on improving knowledge about different cultures and people and reinforcing intercultural dialogue. The Romanian education system has taken important steps towards promoting knowledge about different cultures and people and towards reinforcing intercultural dialogue. An example of good practice is a ministerial order, dating back to 2007, regarding the development of diversity throughout the national curriculum. In this respect, intercultural education is integrated into the civic education module that is studied compulsorily in the third, fourth, seventh and eighth grades. In parallel, we have introduced elective subjects relating to intercultural dialogue, the syllabi for which have been approved by our Ministry. An important focus for us is also the empowering of youth as agents of

social change and actors for peace. So, within the framework of several strategic documents, such as the National Strategy for Preventing and Eliminating Violence, and the National Strategy of Community Action, our Ministry, together with the Students' National Council, has established in the Romanian education system modes of action towards youth empowerment on the basis of several main lines of action, among which I would mention the promotion of student associative structures and of students' voices in the consultative and decision-making process on matters related to school issues.

19.4 Entrepreneurship is also an important point for us and therefore we encourage the promotion and expansion of entrepreneurship projects, such as "practice" companies. Another matter of concern to us is the involvement of students in the implementation of local and regional plans of action in education.

*(The speaker continues in French)*

19.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, au-delà de ces actions concrètes, il existe une ligne directrice que suivent notre ministère et notre gouvernement. Pendant très longtemps en Roumanie, et pas seulement en Roumanie, les ressources, surtout les ressources humaines, sont allées là où se trouvait le savoir. Dans le nouveau cadre que nous mettons en place actuellement, nous avons comme souci permanent de faire en sorte que le savoir aille là où se trouvent les ressources, en particulier les ressources humaines. Nous pourrions peut-être réfléchir ensemble à ce principe et partager au sein de l'UNESCO nos expériences à ce sujet.

*(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)*

19.6 In ending, I would like to share a thought that has been with me for quite some time now. For many years, in the world, we have talked the talk. The time has come for us to walk the walk. I thank you very much for your attention.

20. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. How do you think can we walk the walk?

21. **Mr Funeriu (Romania):**

This is for us to define.

22. **The Moderator:**

Would you like to have a go at defining what you mean?

23. **Mr Funeriu (Romania):**

What I mean is putting into action the great principles that all of us, or most of us, adhere to; putting action and resources into the principles that most of us agree on.

24. **The Moderator:**

Yes, I must say you have some great ideas and a lot of them are relevant not just to Romania, but certainly to many schools in Europe and I suspect elsewhere in the world, especially balancing the diversity of many different minorities in schools. It is a problem that teachers talk about a great deal; trying to teach children of mixed abilities, mixed cultures and mixed nationalities is extremely difficult. I do not know how UNESCO can follow up on that, but we have here some ideas from Romania about walking the walk. It would be interesting to hear if others might like to support that line. Let us now hear from Norway.

25.1 **Ms Halvorsen (Norway):**

Good morning. My name is Kristin Halvorsen. I am the Minister of Education of Norway. Madam President, Excellencies, Director-General, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO's peace mission feels more urgent and relevant after this summer. Norway suffered a devastating terror attack causing the deaths of 77 innocent people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the international community for its condolences and acts of solidarity towards Norway afterwards, even from countries that have suffered from more severe disasters or violence. The entire world may feel less safe when a small and peaceful nation such as Norway is harmed by such evil. The empathy and support from the rest of the world has helped us through difficult times. For the Norwegian people, it has been important not to face this horrid act with hatred and fear. Instead, we have been devoted to democratic principles and values. The terrorist wanted to destroy democracy and a multi-religious society. Our response was to call for more democracy, more openness, more freedom, and time will show if we succeed. But I am convinced that a culture of peace and democracy must be introduced and maintained in the school system. That is as true for Norway as it is for the rest of the UNESCO Member States. UNESCO should therefore continue to provide strong leadership for education for all. Progress has been made in the field when it comes to enrolment, and now we need to focus on quality and teachers to ensure that education contributes to development.

25.2 Madam President, this year across the Middle East and North Africa, millions of people have called for democracy and human rights and especially freedom of expression. I recently met one of this year's Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Tawakkul Karman, from Yemen. She is an impressive person fighting both for women's participation and for freedom of expression. Despite the recent trends in these regions, however, we are still concerned about the lack of press freedom and safety for journalists in many places. We encourage further work by UNESCO in this area. Thank you.

26. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. I, too, extend my sympathies to the friends and families of those 77 children and teachers who died on that island on that terrible morning and evening and from the bomb explosion before the shootings. It was just awful, and I could not believe the news as it came in. I anchored that for about six hours and it was horrific. Thank

you for that intervention. I understand you to have said that you want a culture of peace and democracy introduced in schools.

27. **Ms Halvorsen** (Norway):

Yes, that is, I think, a very important point. Many people remarked on the way Norwegians reacted to this terror attack and that is very closely connected to how we underline that values should be discussed in the education system. We must bring values to children and young people and emphasize how important it is for each and every child and grown-up to participate in a democratic society and to enjoy freedom of speech. That is an important part of how we have reacted to this terror attack so far. Now we have to increase this work, because we have to succeed even more in the future.

28. **The Moderator:**

Tell me, how do you introduce that practically in the classroom?

29. **Ms Halvorsen** (Norway):

Well, we invite our students to reflect, to discuss, to be aware of and not tolerate racism or anti-Semitism, and to know the history of the Holocaust, slavery and Martin Luther King. Both knowledge and our values, as well as the way we reflect, are a very important part of the education system.

30. **The Moderator:**

Kris Peeters, if you remember, talked about what he called "remembrance education". Is that what you mean?

31. **Ms Halvorsen** (Norway):

Yes, exactly.

32. **The Moderator:**

Well, thank you for that. Let us now hear from South Africa.

33.1 **Ms Motshekga** (South Africa):

Thank you very much, Mr Moderator. My name is Angie Motshekga. I am the Minister of Basic Education of South Africa. Mr Moderator, let me start off by saying that we would like to make our contribution on how we think we can build the values and principles of a culture of peace and integrate them into our societies. You all will recall that as South Africans we have emerged from a centuries-old bitter conflict that pitted people against one another on the basis of race, culture and language. As a country we continue to carry the scars of that conflict and have by no means resolved all our tensions and conflicts.

33.2 However, through our Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we started to try to deal with our painful past. Our view is that, as a society, it is important to speak openly about these tensions and conflicts, engage constantly, both in government and civil society, on questions of how to overcome the divisions and build a culture of peace and social harmony. We also believe that as countries we have to celebrate our diversities and place dialogue and intercultural understanding in the interests of peace at the centre of the understanding of ourselves. For instance, if in South Africa identities were defined in the past by racial hierarchies, in the present our identity is built around a commitment to peace, dialogue and discussion. This finds expression as much in our school curricula as in our continental and regional political approaches.

33.3 Education at all levels, both in school and beyond the classroom, has been a cornerstone of our efforts to build a society based on recognition and realization of rights, social justice and equality for all. We have built the values and principles of peace into our curricula through an emphasis on inclusion. Our starting point has been our Constitution and Bill of Rights. For instance, we have integrated all our 11 languages into the school curricula, giving access to the global language of English, and we have established different commissions to protect and promote the rights of different cultural and language groups. We want to salute UNESCO in its unwavering commitment to the cause of peace and sustainable development – goals and values that we share. We also want to take this opportunity to thank UNESCO for the invaluable support it continues to give us as a country and for that we are humbled. Thank you very much, Mr Moderator.

34. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Please tell me, what is the biggest challenge you face in education in South Africa, in the schools?

35. **Ms Motshekga** (South Africa):

Redress. We must settle the differences that we have inherited from the past. We still have not been able to bridge the gap between the different racial groups. The majority of people still have no basic infrastructure. The provisions in our systems are very unequal and are simply what we have inherited from the past. That is the biggest challenge. The second challenge is to improve the quality of our outcomes, because although we have opened access for all children to schools, that has not been meshed with a full ability to manage quality with great access. So I think quality and redress are the major outstanding issues.

36. **The Moderator:**

South Africa showed the world the way, did it not, with truth and reconciliation. Do you also think something similar could happen in education to help meet that challenge?

37. **Ms Motshekga** (South Africa):

Yes, we have the means to promote open dialogue and honesty so that we can always bring into the open our differences and encourage each one of us to respect our differences, accept them and appreciate them. That is why we have different commissions, and language commissions, to allow people to express themselves freely and respect the rights of others to be different from them.

38. **The Moderator:**

That is great. Thank you for that. Let us hear from the Czech Republic.

39.1 **Mr Galuška** (Czech Republic):

Thank you for the floor. My name is Vladimír Galuška. I am the Deputy Foreign Minister and head of delegation. Mr Moderator, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, the current conflicts have in many cases an ethnic, racial or religious context. They are often triggered by intolerance and misunderstanding. It is necessary to know the roots of these conflicts, and UNESCO's competencies in disciplines such as human sciences should play a vital role in addressing them and especially in preventing future potential conflicts.

39.2 In our view, UNESCO should, in the education of children from an early age, put major emphasis on inter-ethnic, racial and religious tolerance and try to achieve mutual tolerance of different cultures in education. In our opinion, spreading awareness of the values of other cultures is an integral part of such training and therefore we consider the exchange of cultural values extremely important at various levels – from meetings of experts to large events, where visitors have the opportunity to become acquainted with the values of other cultures and nations. We believe that UNESCO is irreplaceable in this domain. It has a great deal of work to do, for example in preparing new school curricula or in popularizing and explaining cultural traditions of individual nations.

39.3 UNESCO can do a lot of work in discussing and formulating national policies in education and culture. The development of multilateral international cooperation in education, science and culture can undoubtedly be a major contribution to the achievement of lasting peace. I am convinced that this goal can be reached by the democratization of education, including promotion of gender equality, through the long-term programme on education for all. To reach the strategic goal of full literacy we need to make a strong and sustained effort.

39.4 I am happy to report that the Czech Republic, in the field of education, is engaged in several projects aiming at a deeper understanding among nations. I welcome the fact that education is an important topic of the current 36th session of the General Conference and that these negotiations may bring new impetus to a universal culture of peace. Thank you for your attention.

40. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much, Czech Republic. While I always thought John Lennon was a bit ambitious with "Give peace a chance", I think probably "give tolerance a chance" is what you are talking about, is it not? So how can you teach tolerance or create an atmosphere of tolerance in education? How can UNESCO help you achieve that, if you think that is the way to go?

41. **Mr Galuška** (Czech Republic):

I think that you can create an atmosphere of tolerance by getting to know each other better. Mostly people are intolerant to things that are alien to them and that they do not understand and know in detail.

42. **The Moderator:**

That is an extremely valid point, because people are frightened of what they do not know. So how can UNESCO help to create that?

43. **Mr Galuška** (Czech Republic):

As UNESCO is a universal organization, I think it is the best place to create a network of contacts and perhaps even such a thing as a universal curriculum, because there are values that are universal and that should be included in the school curricula of every nation and through such channels this could be achieved. Thank you.

44. **The Moderator:**

A universal syllabus.

45. **Mr Galuška** (Czech Republic):

A universal syllabus, yes.

46. **The Moderator:**

Well, that is a great idea. So, if anybody can put together a universal syllabus, it would be a most interesting project. Thank you. Let us hear from Bahrain next.

٤٧،١ السيد النعيمي (البحرين):

شكراً، سيدي رئيس الجلسة. أنا ماجد علي النعيمي وزير التربية والتعليم في مملكة البحرين. أولاً أحب أن أشكر المنظمين على مثل هذا الحوار الذي أتاح لنا الاستمتاع بالأمس واليوم بأمر مهم جداً تصب في عمل اليونسكو وكذلك أهدافها.

٤٧،٢ سيدي رئيس الجلسة، عندما نتحدث عن التنمية المستدامة فنحن نتحدث عن مفهوم ديناميكي متطور ذي أبعاد متداخلة يعكس رؤى الثقافة في العالم. وتعني التنمية تلبية احتياجات الحاضر دون الإضرار بقدرة الأجيال القادمة على تلبية احتياجاتها. وبالعودة إلى قرارات الجمعية العامة، يلاحظ أنه تم في ديسمبر ٢٠٠٢ إطلاق عقد الأمم المتحدة للتعليم من أجل التنمية المستدامة، كل هذا سيلقي على اليونسكو دوراً كبيراً، وأنت، سيدي رئيس الجلسة، قد أشرت إلى ما هو المطلوب من اليونسكو، فسوف أركز في مداخلتي هذه على الدور المطلوب منها في المرحلة القادمة، خصوصاً أن هناك ارتباطاً وثيقاً جداً بين مفهوم التعليم ومفهوم التنمية المستدامة، سواء في استراتيجيات التعليم، وبالتالي ربط التعليم كمناهج وكتقافة بالتنمية المستدامة أمر حيوي جداً، سيدي الرئيس، فأولويات التنمية تعني البيئة، وحماية البيئة، وحقوق الإنسان، والسلام العالمي، والتنوع الثقافي وغير ذلك؛ كل هذه الأبعاد لها علاقة مباشرة بالتعليم. وبالتالي، التعليم والتنمية أمران لا يمكن فصلهما فضلاً عن كونهما، ومن ثم ينبغي تنظيم السلوك أيضاً، وهنا يأتي دور اليونسكو. والمطلوب منها من وجهة نظري كممثل لإحدى الدول الأعضاء في المنظمة هو التالي: أولاً، أعتقد أن على اليونسكو دوراً كبيراً في بناء القدرات الوطنية التي تستطيع أن تربط بشكل كبير بين التعليم لكل الفئات العمرية ومفاهيم التنمية المستدامة. ما هي الوسيلة؟ أعتقد أن من ضمن الوسائل مثل هذا اللقاء، وكذلك الإكثار من ورش العمل التي يمكن أن تنظمها اليونسكو، وبالتالي تستطيع المنظمة أن تبني القدرات الوطنية، ومن ثم هناك حاجة إلى تكثيف هذا الدور. أعتقد أن على اليونسكو أداء دور مهم جداً في بناء

الشراكة بين كل الجهات المعنية، سواء في القطاع العام أو القطاع الخاص، في مجال بناء هذه المفاهيم وتعزيز التواصل بين المجتمع المدني ودوره في هذه الأولويات والمبادرات الدولية.

٤٧،٣ بما أن اليونسكو هي الوكالة الرائدة لعقد الأمم المتحدة للتعليم من أجل التنمية المستدامة الذي بدأ في عام ٢٠٠٥، فيإمكان المنظمة أن تقوم بدور فعال فيما يتصل بالتعليم وربطه بالتنمية المستدامة كما يمكن أن تعمل اليونسكو، بوصفها جهة تخرص على التنمية، أن تؤكد نقاط مهمة الإصلاح في التعليم وتنسيق الأنشطة بين الدول الأعضاء وأن تُبقي المؤسسات التعليمية والمدارس بعيدة جداً عن استخدامها لأغراض سياسية تؤدي بالتالي إلى التأثير على الأجيال، وبناء الفكر الذي يكره الرأي الآخر أو الكراهية بين الشعوب، وهذا أمر خطير جداً في موضوع التنمية وتأثيرها على التعليم، وبالتالي ينعكس التعليم أيضاً على التنمية. وأخيراً، سيدي الرئيس، أعتقد أن على اليونسكو أن تُفعل أكثر المكاتب الإقليمية لمنظمة اليونسكو، وذلك بتنظيم المزيد من ورش العمل من أجل التدريب، وتقديم الدعم للدول في بناء القدرات الوطنية في مجال ربط التعليم بالتنمية المستدامة حتى نستطيع أن نبنى الأهداف الأساسية. شكراً، سيدي الرئيس.

(47.1) **Mr Al-Noaimi (Bahrain) (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you, Mr Moderator. My name is Majid Ali Al-Noaimi and I am the Minister of Education in the Kingdom of Bahrain. First, I would like to thank the organizers for enabling us to have this dialogue yesterday and today about the very important work and objectives of UNESCO.

(47.2) Mr Moderator, when we speak about sustainable development, we are speaking about a sophisticated, dynamic concept with overlapping dimensions, reflecting the vision of culture in the world. Development means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Returning to the General Assembly resolutions, it is noted that the proclamation, in December 2002, of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development will give UNESCO a major role and you, Mr Moderator, have pointed out what is required of UNESCO. I will focus my presentation on the role required of the Organization in the next phase, especially since there is a very close link between the concepts of education and sustainable development. In education strategies, linking curricula and a culture of sustainable development is vital, Mr Moderator; because development priorities imply the protection of the environment, human rights, world peace, cultural diversity and so forth, as all of these dimensions are directly related to education. Thus, education and development are inseparable and concern the regulation of ethics, which is the role of UNESCO. What is required, from my point of view as a representative of one of Member States of the Organization, is the following: first, I believe that UNESCO has a major role in building national capacities that can help to link education for all age groups with concepts of sustainable development. By what means? I think that one of the means is for UNESCO to organize workshops and meetings to build national capacities, and it is necessary to strengthen this role. I believe that UNESCO has a very important part to play in building partnerships between all stakeholders concerned, in both the public and private sectors, in the field of building such concepts and enhancing the link between civil society and its role in these international priorities and initiatives.

(47.3) As UNESCO is the lead agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which began in 2005, it plays an effective role linking education and sustainable development. As an agency promoting development, UNESCO could emphasize education reform and coordinate activities between Member States. It could continue to prevent education institutions and schools from being used for political purposes, which subsequently influences future generations, and from encouraging hatred of other opinions or other peoples, which is very dangerous for development and its impact on education and, therefore, the impact of education on development, too. Finally, Mr Moderator, I believe that UNESCO's regional offices should do more by organizing more training workshops, providing support to countries in building national capacities in the area of linking education to sustainable development so that we can build fundamental goals. Thank you, Mr Moderator.

48. **The Moderator:**

Excellent. Yes, there are some good ideas there and good advice from the Minister of Education of Bahrain. Sustainable development is a complex term, so perhaps we should find a more "child-friendly" term. A close link between education and sustainable development creating partnerships with stakeholders is a very interesting idea. You spoke of a reform of education, but I am not quite sure what reform you were referring to. If you would like to clarify that, you are welcome to do so. And more regional meetings is a request that I can well understand. UNESCO is a big and truly global organization, so perhaps more regional meetings might work. Would Bahrain like to add anything in response to what I said?

٤٨ السيد النعيمي (البحرين):

نعم، أنا اتفق معك، سيدي الرئيس، في موضوع هذه الفكرة وفي النقاط ولكن يجب أن نخرج بتوصية فيما يتعلق بتفعيل هذه الأفكار من خلال وسيلة، ويكون عندنا مهام محددة، أو أي شيء يعطينا دوراً كبيراً في تنظيم هذه اللقاءات. أنا أعتقد أن دور اليونسكو الآن هو أن تضع لهذه المفاهيم جدولاً زمنياً أو خطة عمل واضحة لتفعيل المكاتب الإقليمية المنتشرة في العالم، لأنه لا يمكن أن نناقش الموضوع في هذه القاعة وبعد فترة ينسى. يجب أن نتفق أو نصل إلى توصية، سيدي الرئيس، بحيث أن نفعل الدور في بناء القدرات الوطنية بحيث يكون لها دور كبير جداً في قضية ربط التعليم بالتنمية، شكراً، سيدي الرئيس.

(48) **Mr Al-Noaimi (Bahrain) (translation from the Arabic):**

Yes, Mr Moderator, I agree with you on the subject of this subject with regard to the points made, but we must formulate a recommendation so that we may put our ideas into action by specifying tasks and other matters that give us a major role in organizing these meetings. I think that UNESCO's role now is to put these concepts into a timetable and a clear action plan to galvanize the regional offices throughout the world, because we cannot discuss the subject in this room and then, after a while, just forget. We must reach an agreement or a recommendation, Mr Moderator, so that we can carry out our role in building national capacities so that they can play a large part in linking education with development. Thank you, Mr Moderator.

50. **The Moderator:**

*Shukran.* More dynamic, some terms of reference, specific goals and adoption of a recommendation. That is what you were saying, Bahrain, and all have been duly noted. May we hear from Uruguay next, please?

51.1 **Sr. Ehrlich (Uruguay):**

Señora Presidenta, excelencias: quisiera hacer algunos comentarios sobre la construcción de la cultura de paz y el desarrollo sostenible, tal como estamos enfocándolos nosotros. Entendemos que están muy vinculados a los esfuerzos y las políticas de construcción de cohesión social, entendiendo que el seguimiento de la construcción de la cohesión social debe hacerse con una multiplicidad de indicadores y muy frecuentemente los distintos indicadores

sociales no siguen el proceso de construcción de cohesión social con la misma velocidad. Me refiero muy particularmente a lo que tiene que ver con la educación, que mientras se construye la cohesión social se reducen niveles de pobreza, la indigencia en nuestros países; los indicadores de mejora de la calidad de la educación frecuentemente tienen un tiempo de latencia muy importante. Se trata de la construcción de la cohesión social y en primer lugar del trabajo para la construcción del contexto de fortalecimiento de la convivencia en nuestras sociedades, las políticas de desarrollo de capacidades a todo nivel de la población, el desarrollo de contextos de construcción de calidad de vida en forma democrática y fundamentalmente el fortalecimiento de lo que es el sentido de pertenencia, del arraigo, el descubrimiento del lugar en el mundo, del encontrar el lugar en el mundo que debe ser el proyecto de vida. Estos aspectos se tienen que desarrollar con mucha fuerza desde la educación y desde la cultura sin ninguna duda y permítanme hacer una contribución subrayando algunos aspectos desde la cultura, entendiendo que la cultura es uno de los grandes espacios de encuentro de una sociedad. Construir el encuentro, la sincronización de una sociedad, el encuentro de una sociedad consigo misma y con su tiempo, es tal vez uno de los factores que más contribuye a la convivencia y la creación de contextos que permitan la paz al tiempo que fortalecen a la sociedad y le dan fuerza constructora.

51.2 Ese encuentro de una sociedad consigo misma y con su tiempo requiere el desarrollo de espacios muy particulares. La cultura es uno de esos grandes espacios de encuentro en la sociedad al lado del rol que juega el territorio y el espacio normativo de una comunidad, de una nación. En ese sentido entendemos centrar las propuestas culturales que reposan sobre los conceptos de ciudadanía cultural, el derecho a la cultura, el acceso democrático a los bienes culturales y a la creación cultural. En esa dirección hemos desarrollado experiencias -que han sido importantes- de apertura de espacios de encuentro de la sociedad a través de la cultura. Los espacios para las artes escénicas en su diversidad son grandes espacios de encuentro de una sociedad, de fortalecimiento de vínculos en el seno de una sociedad. Al mismo tiempo, el desarrollo de experiencias, sobre todo en los contextos de mayor vulnerabilidad social, de centros que permitan el desarrollo de la creación cultural a todo nivel nos ha resultado una herramienta tremendamente fuerte, poderosa, al mismo tiempo que el desarrollo de políticas que lleven a implementar propuestas de industrias culturales, industrias creativas. En ese sentido estamos desarrollando un proyecto muy particular en el marco del programa "Unidos en la acción" de las Naciones Unidas, con el liderazgo de la UNESCO, que nos ha llevado a establecer en el conjunto del territorio nacional centros de edición audiovisual y de música que implican la enseñanza y la producción, y que han permitido acercar a poblaciones de jóvenes y no tan jóvenes a estas actividades, así como el desarrollo de actividades de industrias culturales, industrias creativas en torno a conocimientos y saberes populares. Esto ha tenido un particular impacto y ha contribuido a transformar la cultura en un gran espacio de encuentro de la sociedad, de la nación.

51.3 Finalmente quería enfatizar lo que son los referentes centrales para la creación, la construcción de la convivencia en una sociedad, el fortalecimiento de los vínculos de convivencia. En primer lugar, sin ninguna duda, se trata de los programas educativos y culturales, pero que se centran en un acompañamiento de las nuevas generaciones de adolescentes y jóvenes en los espacios de educación tanto formal como no formal. En segundo lugar, se trata de los programas de promoción de los derechos humanos con el protagonismo de los jóvenes, y en este caso también en los espacios de educación formal y no formal. En tercer lugar, se trata del estímulo y la promoción de la participación ciudadana a todos los niveles en las distintas actividades y responsabilidades de la sociedad. Y finalmente, en cuarto lugar, se trata de las distintas iniciativas de desarrollo de promoción de la visualización y valoración de la diversidad en la sociedad en todos los aspectos. La promoción y la visualización de la diversidad tal vez sea uno de los factores que más contribuya a la creación de convivencia y a preparar las mentes para una cultura de paz. Muchas gracias.

(51.1) **Mr Ehrlich** (Uruguay):

Madam President, Excellencies, I would like to make a few comments about the development of a culture of peace and of sustainable development, which is our point of focus. We understand that these are closely linked to the efforts and policies for the development of social cohesion, and that monitoring the development of social cohesion should take into account a great number of indicators. However, social indicators do not follow the social cohesion process at the same speed. I am referring especially to education, as while social cohesion is being built, levels of poverty are falling in our countries; and indicators of quality education improvement often lag considerably behind. This is about developing social cohesion, especially the effort of developing a context where coexistence in our societies is enhanced, as are policies for capacity building for all groups in a population, democratic development of living standards, and most of all, the feeling of belonging, having roots, discovering one's place in the world; a discovery which should be the goal for every one of us. These main ideas must be developed with great conviction within the framework of education and culture. Allow me to share with you some aspects of culture which I will emphasize, because culture is a veritable meeting point for a society. Building this meeting point, developing synchrony within a society in terms of its self-image and the time period in which it exists is perhaps one of the major contributing factors to coexistence and to developing a context of peace while also strengthening a society and making it more constructive.

(51.2) This point at which society comes face to face with itself and with its time requires the development of very precise spaces. Culture is one example of a major meeting space in society, on the same level as territory and normative spaces in a community or nation. In this sense, we wish to group the suggestions for culture based on cultural citizenship, the right to culture, democratic access to cultural goods and cultural creativity. We have thus developed experience – which has been significant - in opening up meeting spaces for the society through culture. Spaces for the diverse types of performing arts are major meeting spaces in a society, within which society's bonds are strengthened. At the same time, experiences with centres for cultural development on all levels, especially where society is most vulnerable, have proved to be a very powerful tool, as have been political measures to implement proposals from the creative and cultural industries. To this effect we are rolling out a very special project in line with the United Nation's 'Delivering as One' approach, headed by UNESCO. This project has allowed us to create audiovisual production and music centres countrywide, promoting learning and production and allowing the young and the not-so-young to discover these activities. These centres have also stimulated the growth of cultural and creative industries structured around knowledge and traditional know-how. This has been particularly powerful, playing a role in changing culture into a major meeting space for society, for the nation.

(51.3) And finally, I would like to clearly define the main references for the creation and development of coexistence in a society, and the consolidation of links for coexistence. The first, without a doubt, are the educational and cultural programmes that focus on guiding the new generation of adolescents and young people in formal and non-formal education. The second are the programmes which promote human rights with the active participation of young people, again in formal and non-formal educational contexts. And the third is the stimulation and encouragement of all citizens to participate in different activities and at different levels of social responsibility. And lastly, and fourthly, are the various development initiatives to promote and prioritize the visualization and enhancement of all kinds of social diversity. This last point may well be the most important factor for furthering coexistence and for preparing the collective consciousness for a culture of peace. Thank you.

**52. The Moderator:**

Yes, you are right on every single point and this builds on what the Czech Republic talked about earlier. People are very, very proud of their culture, and rightly so. So how much do you teach about your own culture and how much do you teach about other cultures to make people culturally aware? You have to learn about other people's lives because if you learn about them you are not going to be frightened of them and this is a way of creating tolerance, by teaching culture. Cultural citizenship is taught in some countries via citizenship classes. In my experience they are not taken very seriously, certainly not in the United Kingdom, for example, but they are probably taken more seriously elsewhere. Again, it depends, I suppose, on the quality of the teaching, like any subject, and citizenship is a new subject. Thank you, Uruguay, for an interesting set of ideas. Now let us turn to Angola.

**53.1 M. Mpinda Simão (Angola) :**

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, je suis Mpinda Simão, Ministre de l'éducation de l'Angola. Plusieurs interventions que nous avons entendues hier et aujourd'hui, et en particulier celle du Président de la Côte d'Ivoire, le Président Ouattara, se référaient à la paix, qui n'est pas un bien permanent, éternel : on peut l'avoir aujourd'hui et la perdre demain. C'est pourquoi je pense que les différentes initiatives à entreprendre en vue de créer des compétences au sein des communautés doivent prévoir des mesures en cas de perte de ce bien, qui est précieux pour tout le monde. Les compétences que l'on doit transmettre aux élèves à l'école et aux communautés doivent les préparer à savoir créer les conditions de la reconstruction de la paix : savoir négocier, savoir dialoguer et acquérir des aptitudes pour pouvoir, en cas de perte de cette paix, en cas de surgissement de conflits, reconstituer la paix. Les belligérants eux-mêmes doivent, je pense, être les acteurs principaux de ce processus. À l'école, pourquoi ne pas intégrer aux activités scolaires et extrascolaires la préparation des jeunes élèves pour leur permettre de débattre des problèmes et de chercher à les résoudre, chaque fois qu'ils en rencontreront ?

53.2 Un autre aspect que je voudrais souligner réside dans le fait que la communication sociale peut être un espace favorisant la paix comme le conflit. Les parties prenantes de la communication sociale doivent être préparées et sensibilisées à jouer le rôle de garant complémentaire de l'école pour assurer la permanence de la paix. On peut y recourir en matière de prévention comme en cas de perte de la paix, pour sa reconstruction. La paix – et l'Angola en a l'expérience – exige des conditions préalables. Pour qu'il y ait la paix, il faut qu'il y ait tolérance, patience, sincérité, honnêteté. C'est seulement dans ces conditions que l'on pourra, je crois, être crédible auprès de l'autre pour pouvoir le convaincre de passer à des sentiments favorables. Tant que l'on n'aura pas inculqué ces valeurs-là aux jeunes et aux communautés, il sera difficile de construire la paix et de la maintenir. Finalement, dans un contexte de suprématie de cultures, de relations hiérarchiques, de plus forts et de plus faibles, tant que les mentalités n'évolueront pas pour considérer les différences entre les personnes comme un apport complémentaire et un enrichissement, nous éprouverons des difficultés à instaurer la paix. C'est pourquoi les mentalités doivent évoluer pour que le monde puisse bénéficier de ce bien fondamental. Merci.

**54. The Moderator:**

You are right. Angola has a lot of experience with that. Thank you for that intervention. I have worked out that some 40 countries have experienced armed conflict in the last 15 years. So, what action could UNESCO take to head off any more of those conflicts in the next 15 years, I wonder? Let us hear from Pakistan next.

**55.1 Ms Wazir Ali (Pakistan):**

Thank you, Mr Cole. It is a pleasure to see you here at UNESCO. Listening to the panoramic views of the Presidents and the Prime Ministers and other world leaders at this Forum reinforces Pakistan's view that this has been a very, very effective initiative. We certainly hope that it can continue with every General Conference, because we do indeed need to have a world agenda. In a sense we are setting the world agenda through both the contributions of the world leaders and the Youth Forum for achieving a durable peace. Certainly we all recognize that peace is not just the absence of war and conflict, but UNESCO and the global community is defining peace here as an environment where fundamental human rights and human potential can be maximized.

55.2 Now Pakistan has confronted various challenges recently. First of all I will come to climate change because that connects also with a very important area of work of UNESCO. Pakistan has suffered floods, catastrophic floods, which have affected 20 million people. We are in the wake of an enormous glacial melt, rising sea level threatening coastlines, desertification and an earthquake that occurred some time ago. Clearly we realize that we need to use the intersectorality of science, technology, education and communication systems and, I would add, media as a very, very powerful agent of information to educate, to build preparedness and to adopt risk mitigation and disaster management strategies. We feel that the importance of bringing all the stakeholders into UNESCO's dialogue cannot be under-emphasized. We strongly support what the President of Palau has also talked about, concerning the various threats of environmental degradation and bringing all the intellectual and financial resources to bear on an ethical approach.

55.3 Also, we strongly believe that the private sector and youth must be engaged. With the rising aspirations that we have seen in the Arab World and also reflected and resonating across the world, Pakistan feels that we should, UNESCO, accelerate and strengthen our approaches for multiculturalism, promotion of plurality, diversity in the curriculum, in particular to counter extremism and exclusion. I come from a country where Benazir Bhutto spoke of



democracy and reconciliation as the building blocks for peace. We do feel that building the stakes of the young generation, which is the demographic pulse of the world today - building their stakes in a democratic constitutional system - is absolutely vital. UNESCO, in setting out its work for the biennium, in particular its programmes and through its budgets, needs to support an education system which responds to the particular needs and challenges that the young generation is faced with today. So I would once again reiterate the importance of intersectorality, of using science and technological innovation, buttressed by culture, education and media, to address what we see as major environmental and climate change challenges, and the need for inclusive societies. Thank you.

56. **The Moderator:**

Excellent, thank you for that. Very briefly, what is at the top of your list of priorities that you would like to see from UNESCO?

57. **Ms Wazir Ali (Pakistan):**

I would like, once again, to say that education is at the heart of it, because education is the pivot, the transformational system. Support to the education sector needs to be strengthened in order to focus on several things that I have reiterated. I advocate a focus on curriculum that addresses the current and contemporary challenges that our young people are facing and that the markets of the world are also demanding. UNESCO needs to connect much more effectively with the rest of the world. Thank you.

58. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. You also mentioned that the private sector should be more engaged and I wonder if this is a resource that is not being fully utilized. I mentioned Samsung in my opening remarks. I have no connection whatsoever with this company, I hasten to add. It started making batteries at one stage and then ten years later sold more than any other company. Then it started building flat-screen televisions and within four years was a market leader. Next, it invested in flash memory, the technology delivered to iPhones and iPads, and made Samsung Apple's biggest supplier and now biggest hardware company. Now it is going to move away from all these things to spend \$20 billion over 10 years on solar panels, LEDs, electric vehicle batteries, medical devices and bio-tech drugs. So this is a seismic shift in what it sees is important for the next decade. I am sure that UNESCO could harness some of these private-sector partnerships, because if a company like Samsung is doing work like this and seeing the way is clear for these kinds of sustainable devices, far more sustainable than televisions and cars, it is really going greener. The company believes green technology and healthcare is central to the twenty-first century. So there are some shared goals there, which I find quite interesting. Thank you for that. And I also like Pakistan's description of young people being the democratic pulse. Let us hear from Viet Nam now.

59.1 **M. Duong (Viet Nam) :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente, merci, Monsieur le Modérateur. Au nom de la délégation du Viet Nam à la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, je voudrais partager un certain nombre de réflexions sur le thème de ce Forum des dirigeants. Je trouve le choix de ce thème très judicieux parce qu'il évoque à la fois le lien entre la paix et le développement et qu'il est exprimé sous forme de question : « Comment l'UNESCO contribue-t-elle à l'édification d'une culture de la paix et au développement durable ? » Nous pensons qu'il regroupe deux thématiques ou deux notions à clarifier : la paix et le développement. Selon nous, la paix est indissociable du développement parce que dans le monde, dans tous les pays, il ne peut y avoir de développement sans paix. La paix est donc la condition *sine qua non* du développement. Au sens large du terme, la paix signifie la stabilité politique et sociale dans un pays. Or, jusqu'à présent, si l'on regarde l'histoire du développement de l'humanité, il n'y a pas de stabilité politique et sociale lorsqu'il s'agit de réellement assurer le développement. C'est pour cela que nous partageons tout à fait la volonté de construire ou d'édifier une, ou la, culture de la paix. L'autre question à se poser est l'utilisation de l'expression « la culture de la paix », ou « une culture de la paix ». Nous pensons que nous pouvons très bien utiliser l'article défini en français, c'est-à-dire « la culture de la paix ». La culture de la paix devrait être liée au développement durable.

59.2 J'en arrive à ma deuxième idée, le lien entre l'éducation et le développement durable justement. La Directrice générale, dans son discours d'ouverture, a dit que plus de la moitié de l'humanité était actuellement âgée de moins de 25 ans. Donc, la question de l'éducation se pose à deux niveaux : au niveau des connaissances pour l'humanité, pour les jeunes, ainsi qu'au niveau de la culture. L'éducation comprend tout d'abord les connaissances. Les individus, surtout les jeunes, ont besoin de connaissances pour vivre et pour travailler. Mais en même temps, l'éducation ou les manuels scolaires doivent aussi enseigner aux jeunes comment se comporter dans la vie, c'est-à-dire la culture du vivre-ensemble, la culture du partage, tout ce qui est commun à l'humanité. C'est pour cela que l'éducation est la clé du succès du développement. Dans le même temps, nous devons ici évoquer la question du développement durable, qui se traduit en deux termes. D'abord, en termes de croissance économique, c'est-à-dire de développement matériel, qui est bien entendu nécessaire, mais également en termes de ressources naturelles, parce que la génération actuelle ne peut pas assumer ce développement et oblige la génération future à en payer le prix. Je partage tout à fait l'avis des pays qui ont abordé la question du changement climatique. Je crois que le Viet Nam en est l'une des premières victimes. C'est pour cela, à mon avis personnel, qu'il faut vraiment réfléchir et affiner nos idées sur le développement durable.

59.3 La troisième idée que je voudrais évoquer est que le Viet Nam est tout à fait disposé à partager ses expériences. Bien entendu, celles-ci ne sont pas très riches, mais nous en avons cependant acquises dans notre développement depuis une vingtaine d'années. Nous sommes tout à fait prêts à partager avec les autres pays nos expériences en matière de développement durable. Ma dernière observation portera à nouveau sur le thème de notre Forum, exprimé sous forme de question. Nous pensons que la réponse à celle-ci pourrait être formulée dans un document ou une résolution de l'UNESCO sur le lien entre la culture de la paix et le développement. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

60. **The Moderator:**

Culture and peace through development, I like that very much. Thank you very much, Viet Nam. Let us now hear from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

61.1 **Mr Saeidabadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Mr Moderator. I am Mohammad Reza Saeidabadi, Professor of Social Science at Tehran University and Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO. There are a few conceptual points regarding the culture of peace that I wish to share with my colleagues.

61.2 Ladies and gentlemen, the road to light from darkness and to peace and sustainable development from hostility and conflict is paved by empathy. Rumi, the renowned poet of the heart, stated this point thus – at times two individuals from two different countries can be of one language and at times two individuals from one place may be as strangers who are not able to understand each other. Language is of course a means for understanding, but empathy works far better in the land of understanding than sharing a common language. It is under such conditions that strangers are turned into familiars and thorns into flowers and it is under such conditions that a hand of love and affection is held out in peace and friendliness.

61.3 An approach based on xenophobia and tyranny towards other cultures may well plant the seeds of discord and hatred, while an approach based on respect for cultural diversity permeates the fertile soil and will lay the seed of a culture of peace. Whenever and wherever an ethnic or a culture group feels it has been deprived of an appropriate and logical share in society and the world, it has generated tension and civil unrest by resorting to culture as a tool and this is an obstacle to the culture of peace. To promote the culture of peace as a prerequisite for a better world, we must resort to wisdom. Unfortunately, what is known as wisdom in our modern world is nothing more than providing the means for achieving power and serving personal interests. We should counteract theories that prescribe deconstruction and reconstruction as the sole means for survival from crises, those who believe in inequality among peoples and cultures, recommend the clash of civilizations and are of the belief that the most powerful is the end winner. Development does not take place through a single unified and linear route. Such thinking inevitably destroys the culture of peace. When a culture is isolated or encircled, the process of politicization of culture occurs, which is an obstacle to the construction and promotion of the culture of peace.

61.4 Finally, to promote the culture of peace, we should counteract the notion and concept of a self-centred and exceptionalist approach to culture, which are in conflict with the principle of the culture of peace. I thank you very much.

62. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed. Great words promoting the culture of peace. Is there anyone in particular towards whom you would like to hold out your hand in peace?

63. **Mr Saeidabadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran):

For sure, UNESCO is the best place for that: under the umbrella of UNESCO, every country can have a chance for their culture, values and traditions to be seen and heard. I am sure that UNESCO, through different mechanisms and different programmes, can expand that umbrella so that every country, everybody and every culture extend their hands and their friendship to other cultures and other people of the world.

64. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. Let us now hear from Malawi.

65.1 **Mr Chaponda** (Malawi):

Thank you, Mr Moderator. My name is George Chaponda, Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Malawi. Mr Moderator, it is clear from all the presentations, and even from speakers' open interventions, that our school curricula should promote the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to bring about behavioural changes deemed necessary in building the culture of peace, a culture that will enable children, youth and adults not to condone hatred, conflict and violence, a culture that will push them to resort to dialogue and to show tolerance when entangled in a wave of differences, a culture that builds conditions conducive to sustainable peace.

65.2 I have a question though, Mr Moderator. How do we ensure that curricula are all-inclusive? I have no answer, but this is where the element of cultural diversity needs to be carefully considered. I believe there is need to establish the best practices from the varied cultures and education systems that could be used as a reference for the review of the curricula. These best practices could also be used to generate an understanding of cultural diversity, for people to appreciate the importance of coexistence in pursuit of common goals and objectives such as ours in UNESCO. We should also note that we have to build a culture of peace from the current situation where, in some cases, young people are being used as the perpetrators of violence. We should therefore expect to encounter obstacles in the course of building a culture of peace. We therefore have to prepare mechanisms for dealing with such obstacles as they occur, in the spirit of peace. My country, for instance, has set up a dialogue group comprising members of civil society, the government and the general public, which is playing a very significant role in resolving conflict.

65.3 Mr Moderator, Malawi is using food security as a tool to achieve a culture of peace and sustainable development. As the saying goes, "a hungry man is an angry man". In this context, we are implementing school feeding programmes to encourage children who are less privileged and cannot afford education, not because they do not have school fees, but because of hunger, so that they can enrol and stay until completion of primary school education. Currently 1.2 million learners in 1,029 schools are benefiting from this programme. It is the wish of the government to generate adequate resources to reach out to all children. This is one of the paths that we need to realize, a culture of peace and sustainable development through education. In secondary schools we are building special facilities for girls, such as girls' hostels and sanitary facilities, to encourage girls to remain in school. These are some of the interventions that we need to scale up.

65.4 Mr Moderator, technical and vocational education and training, which has been supported by UNESCO, has played a central role in imparting employable skills to our youth. However, while we should be striving to train all young people, it should also be realized that unless we generate employment, or engage them in activities that will use their skills to fend for their needs, they will remain susceptible to violence and hatred. The Malawi Government, through the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme, has been conducting skills training and providing loans to engage the trainees in small related enterprises.

65.5 Mr Moderator, a trained and skilled young person who is idle is like a live mine that will accidentally explode on innocent people. We need to defuse it by keeping youth not only trained, but engaged. This is where we need more UNESCO. This is where I concur with my colleagues from Kenya and Nigeria that UNESCO needs more funding. Thank you very much for your attention.

66. **The Moderator:**

Thank you, Minister, for that excellent intervention. I am conscious of your remarks and the fact that they had such synergy, as you say, with Kenya and other speakers this morning. Let us go to Cambodia.

67.1 **M. Im (Cambodge) :**

Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis Sethy Im, Ministre de l'éducation, de la jeunesse et des sports du Royaume du Cambodge. Je me réjouis de l'occasion qui m'est donnée de participer à ce Forum sur le thème de l'édification d'une culture de la paix et du développement durable. Vous savez que ces deux notions sont bien différentes, mais qu'elles sont étroitement liées, parce qu'il n'y a pas de développement sans paix. Comme vous le savez, le Cambodge a mis trois décennies pour retrouver la paix. Le pays a traversé des périodes difficiles de génocide et de destruction, au cours desquelles 3 millions d'habitants ont été massacrés. À l'issue du régime des Khmers rouges, il ne restait que 20 % d'enseignants survivants et tous les bâtiments et infrastructures scolaires étaient presque complètement détruits. Cela veut dire que nous avons dû repartir de zéro. Beaucoup a été fait jusqu'à présent pour réussir à prendre en charge la population scolaire, qui représente à peu près 3,5 millions d'élèves, soit un quart de la population. Cela témoigne des importants efforts que nous avons entrepris pour développer le pays, en considérant l'éducation comme une priorité et un facteur clé en la matière.

67.2 Nous sommes très conscients de la valeur de la paix. Comme vous le savez, retrouver cette paix n'est pas du tout facile : cela prend du temps, cela fait couler du sang, mais la paix est finalement revenue. Notre tâche est de la préserver et nous avons estimé que pour instaurer une paix durable, il fallait se consacrer à l'éducation de nos jeunes. Notre tâche consiste donc à faire accéder à l'école tous les jeunes en âge d'être scolarisés. À présent, le taux de scolarisation s'élève à 95 % malgré les difficultés rencontrées et aux prix d'efforts considérables. Tout récemment, nous avons été frappés par des inondations, qui ont affecté plus de 1 300 écoles. Mais nous gardons espoir, car le seul moyen de développer le pays passe par l'éducation. C'est pourquoi nous essayons de faire bouger les choses en améliorant les conditions de travail des enseignants, en harmonisant et surtout en préparant nos programmes d'enseignement. À cette fin, nous avons introduit les disciplines nécessaires y compris l'enseignement relatif aux droits, notamment les droits de l'homme, et l'initiation des jeunes à la compréhension de la loi anticorruption. En effet, une bonne gestion est nécessaire, il faut être juste devant les autres. Nous sommes très attachés aux principes de l'UNESCO, en particulier les quatre piliers de l'éducation – apprendre à être, à connaître, à faire, et à vivre ensemble – que nous avons introduits dans notre système.

67.3 Bien que l'on ait rencontré des difficultés économiques, 5 000 enseignants par an ont été recrutés durant ces cinq dernières années. Notre tâche est de répondre aux besoins en tenant compte du nombre d'enfants scolarisés, qui s'élève à 3,5 millions, ce qui est un grand nombre sur une population de 14 millions. Les autres sous-secteurs, par exemple la jeunesse, ne doivent pas être négligés car dans notre système, le Ministre de l'éducation s'occupe également de la jeunesse et du sport et les jeunes âgés de 15 à 25 ans représentent 30 % de la population totale. Nous sommes une population jeune et c'est pourquoi nous avons pensé que pour aider à consolider cette paix et à jouir d'une paix durable, il fallait accorder de l'importance à la jeunesse. Il faut surtout aider à développer le système d'enseignement pour répondre aux besoins de ce secteur et c'est pourquoi de notre côté, nous considérons que le rôle de l'UNESCO est très important et comptons sur son soutien pour aider le Cambodge à l'avenir. Je vous remercie.

68. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed, Minister. I cut you short because you were running over and we have a number of countries yet to speak. I will have to curtail the number of interventions after a while. We have about six or seven more to get through. But your point is well made about losing so many teachers to the Khmer Rouge and building up education as a driver for peace, and then your words about protecting peace at all costs. Thank you. Nepal now has the floor.

69.1 **Mr Pandey (Nepal):**

Thank you, Mr Cole. Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for giving me the floor. I am Shankar Prasad Pandey, Secretary in the Ministry of Education and head of the delegation. I bring to you our warmest greetings and best wishes from the land of Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world at 8,848 metres and the birthplace of Lord Buddha. I feel it a great honour for me to share with you some thoughts on the topic of the culture of peace for sustainable development which indeed is a matter of topical importance today. I would also like to pay our deep respects to all of the heads of State and government, as well as to the First Ladies whose well-put ideas and experiences have enriched our deliberations and given us guidance for a future course of action.

69.2 Situated in South Asia, Nepal is a unique country with its great Himalayas, rich culture, arts and artefacts, and evident natural resources. There are 103 ethnic groups of people speaking 92 dialects. Nepal is a living museum with all its historical monuments, palaces, temples and monasteries. Given this wide diversity in socio-economic background, the hallmark of the people is that they live in peace and tranquillity, maintaining harmonious coexistence. Our cultural variations have remained a source of peace and there have been no conflicts arising from differences in cultures and

religions. Nepal greatly values the importance of peace for development. Socio-economic development is inconceivable when there is a lack of peace, so peace and development are sine qua non. We consider that the culture of peace must emanate from the inner heart of the people. Dialogue among stakeholders engenders a culture of peace which ultimately forms the basis for sustainable development in any country.

69.3 Nepal affords a good example of how an internal armed conflict can be perfectly managed through dialogue, negotiation and reconciliation processes. After the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006, Nepal's decade-long armed conflict came to a complete halt. This paved the way for our people to embark on the socio-economic development of the country. The Nepalese people are now fully engaged in the process of making a new Nepal, whose basic foundation is the economic well-being of the people. We are in the process of writing a new and inclusive constitution in which the interests of the 26 million Nepalese people will be safeguarded and promoted. Education is the basis for the overall development of any human being. Cultural empowerment greatly affects socio-economic transformation and an enriched culture saves the psyche of the people of any country. So my delegation considers that the culture of peace is very important for ensuring the concept of sustainable development. A congenial socio-economic environment indeed promotes the culture of peace. We highly laud the role being played by UNESCO in this regard. Thank you for your kind attention.

70. **The Moderator:**

And thank you very much. A wonderful bastion of culture, Nepal. A lovely country. Reconciling internal dialogue and building the culture of peace are vital. Algeria, please, and again remember, three minutes.

71.1 **M. Sbih (Algérie) :**

Mesdames et Messieurs, ma parole ici sera substitutive de celle du professeur Benbouzid, Ministre algérien de l'éducation nationale. Je me contenterai donc d'en énoncer la substance. Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Mesdames et Messieurs, de remercier l'UNESCO d'avoir rendu possible cet espace inédit d'échange d'idées et de représentations quant à l'avenir du monde. Si l'on tient compte du déroulement général de nos débats d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, n'avait-il donc pas raison cet historien de talent qui aimait à répéter que l'avenir ne se prévoit pas, mais que bien au contraire, il se prépare. Posons-nous alors la question : quel pourrait être l'avenir du genre humain si, inconscients des nombreux périls qui menacent aujourd'hui notre monde, nous décidions par manque de volonté politique ou tout simplement par paresse intellectuelle d'en ignorer la gravité, en faisant comme si ces menaces n'étaient rien d'autre qu'une vue de l'esprit, comme si les dangers qui pèsent sur notre environnement étaient sans effet quant à l'avenir des générations futures et de l'écosystème mondial, ou même comme si la paix du monde pouvait se concevoir sans des rapports politiques et économiques plus justes et mieux équilibrés entre le Nord et le Sud ? On devine donc, à travers ce simple cas de figure, l'importance de ce Forum des dirigeants, dont l'une des grandes vertus est de permettre à la parole de l'autre de s'énoncer et, s'il se peut, d'être entendue.

71.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, la volonté commune de travailler ensemble à la construction de la paix et de la fraternité dans le monde implique pour chacun d'entre nous un surcroît d'efforts afin de garantir l'éducation du plus grand nombre aux valeurs de la paix et de la convivialité interculturelle, car en ces temps troubles marqués par divers conflits dans un univers de plus en plus convulsif, l'égotisme dévastateur des hommes gagnerait à s'estomper pour laisser place à un esprit de plus grande tolérance, de générosité et de convivialité entre les cultures et les civilisations humaines. La paix du monde étant impérativement à ce prix, je vous invite alors à garder à l'esprit cette belle formule des Écoles associées de l'UNESCO selon laquelle, je cite : « les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des adultes, c'est dans l'esprit des enfants que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix ». Faisons donc ensemble ce pari magnifique d'œuvrer sans relâche à promouvoir partout une culture de paix et du progrès, de réfléchir ensemble aux conditions d'un partage plus équitable des richesses mondiales et, en matière culturelle, accordons-nous au moins sur l'idée d'instituer en ce lieu emblématique qu'est l'UNESCO, une décennie pour l'éducation au patrimoine mondial, patrimoine dont nous partageons en commun le splendide héritage. Je vous remercie, Mesdames et Messieurs, d'avoir bien voulu me prêter votre attention.

72. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much. A decade of common heritage, I like that very much, and this building towards a culture of peace, too. Thank you, Algeria. Can we go to Austria, please?

73.1 **Mr Waldner (Austria):**

Thank you, Mr Cole. I am Wolfgang Waldner, State Secretary at the Ministry for European and International Affairs in Vienna. I would also like to raise three short points in response to your initial question as to what we expect from UNESCO in the future and what we can or did already contribute.

73.2 My first point is that sustainable development and a culture of peace are based on education. Education should therefore lay the groundwork for independent and critical thinking and respect and solidarity for others. As we know, education for all is already one of UNESCO's main priorities. It is indeed education for all that leads to respecting diversity in all its expressions. In a nutshell, education for all means peace and Austria traditionally has attached great importance to the quality of education. We already have in Austria 74 UNESCO schools, mostly at the secondary school level, which are committed to the basic principles and the mandate of UNESCO and which integrate those in their curricula. The students are actively involved in all of UNESCO's activities and projects.

73.3 My second point is that freedom of opinion and free access to electronic media are, in our view, crucial for the sustainable development of a society, as we could, and still can, witness in the context of the Arab Spring events. Let me use a very simple comparison with the traditional transport of goods and people. Countries need roads and railway systems to guarantee supplies. Governments of course have to provide this infrastructure. Now when it comes to knowledge and information transfer, governments in the future must also provide the necessary virtual highways worldwide, of course, and UNESCO can certainly help to achieve and to promote this aim.

73.4 Thirdly, I would also like to refer to the background document of today's Leaders' Forum, which calls for reinforcing intercultural dialogue. The dialogue of cultures is indeed crucial for peace and cooperation between States, societies and religions. This has been referred to by several previous speakers today. Austria has always been committed to serving as a platform for global dialogue for cooperation and peace and has a long tradition of intercultural cooperation and respect for religious pluralism. Vienna was, for instance, the venue for the first Arab European Young Leaders' Forum 2010 in cooperation with the League of Arab States, which resulted in the creation of a network of young people in leading positions in the Arab world and Europe. The next forum, by the way, is planned in Cairo, Egypt, in 2012. Only two weeks ago, Austria, Spain and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish a Centre for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue in Vienna. In addition, and lastly, I would like to announce that we will host the fifth annual Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in 2013 in Vienna; we are delighted that there is cooperation between UNESCO and the Alliance of Civilizations on the basis of a memorandum of understanding and we are looking forward to strengthening this cooperation. Thank you very much.

74. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. Excellent, great intervention. I love the very simple notion that education means peace. I look forward to that forum in Cairo, as well, next year. Let us go to Timor Leste, and I will ask Timor Leste to speak very briefly, because you did speak yesterday.

75. **Mr CÂNCIO FREITAS** (Timor Leste):

Thank you, Mr Moderator. My name is João CÂNCIO FREITAS, Minister of Education of Timor Leste. I just want to recall Morocco's statement delivered yesterday and also those given by Malawi and many other speakers, in terms of scaling up and subsequently employing youth as a critical part of promoting peace in many of our countries. I come from a country where 60% of the population is made up of young people aged 14 to 24. That is the biggest challenge for us. Therefore, we are currently promoting and building the knowledge base for improving literacy programmes, implementing nine years of compulsory education, and also subsequently establishing technical and vocational education (TVET) throughout the country, for which we would like to request the support of UNESCO. On top of all of this, expanding the pool of qualified teachers and also working conditions is quite challenging for us, particularly in view of quality education. We have created a national qualification framework, whereby all training needs are to be provided within those parameters. But again, the challenge is so big, not only with regard to resourcing those technical schools, but also in terms of training the teachers. In all of these priority areas, emphasis will be placed on promoting quality and equity, including gender equity, in our country. Thank you.

76. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. These are important points. You face a big challenge because the demographic is so young. This is the main problem across the Arab countries, and one spillover from the Arab Spring will be job creation. You have to find and create a lot more jobs following education, or at the same time, perhaps. Anyway, that is a personal observation. Let us hear from Congo, and I would make the same remark to Congo as to Timor Leste: you spoke yesterday so please keep it brief.

77.1 **M. MAKOSSO** (Congo) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente, merci, Monsieur le Modérateur, pour le privilège que vous nous accordez une fois de plus en nous permettant de prendre la parole ce jour, à l'occasion de cette grande réunion qui permet aux membres de l'UNESCO de pouvoir échanger sur un thème aussi important que celui qui a été si bien choisi par notre institution : « Comment l'UNESCO contribue-t-elle à l'édification d'une culture de la paix et au développement durable ? ». Mesdames et Messieurs, s'agissant des interventions que nous avons suivies hier et aujourd'hui, le Congo partage tout ce qui a été dit par les orateurs précédents. Cependant, nous voulons ajouter notre contribution à ce thème si important. Comment faire pour que les membres de l'UNESCO et notre Organisation puissent apporter des solutions durables à cette question cruciale au regard des défis qui se présentent aujourd'hui à l'humanité entière ? Lorsque nous parlons de paix, Madame la Présidente, nous avons l'impression que la perception de cette notion n'est pas la même en Occident et dans les pays en développement, parce que nous constatons qu'un déficit en matière de démocratie entraîne souvent une mauvaise interprétation ou une mauvaise application de ce concept. C'est pourquoi il ne s'agit pas simplement de parler du besoin d'éducation des jeunes, mais aussi du fait que les jeunes doivent suivre le modèle des adultes. Voilà pourquoi il est important que l'UNESCO aide les États à élaborer des stratégies régies par le droit.

77.2 Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Modérateur, permettez-moi de citer un exemple. Notre pays, le Congo, a connu des événements très tristes en 1997. Que s'est-il passé ? Tout simplement, l'interprétation du droit, notamment de l'Acte fondamental, qui était la Constitution de notre pays, n'a pas été la même pour tous. Malgré l'intervention de l'UNESCO à l'époque, par l'intermédiaire son ancien Directeur général, M. Federico Mayor, la guerre a malheureusement éclaté en raison de la mauvaise interprétation de notre Acte fondamental. Il est donc essentiel que l'UNESCO aide les pays à mettre en place, dans la mesure du possible, ces instruments juridiques très importants pour assurer le respect de la loi fondamentale par ceux qui dirigent. Si la guerre est arrivée chez nous, dans notre pays, c'est parce que ceux qui le dirigeaient n'ont pas respecté cette loi fondamentale devant laquelle ils avaient prêté serment. Et les jeunes aujourd'hui, qui ont besoin d'être formés pour ne pas être manipulés par les adultes, ont besoin de cette culture de la paix. Mais savoir comment y parvenir est justement la grande question, la quête qui nous préoccupe aujourd'hui.

78. **The Moderator:**

That is exactly the question: how do we build that culture of peace? I am going to stop you there, because we have gone over four minutes. That is a wonderful intervention on the question at hand.

79. **M. Makosso** (Congo) :

Je terminerai en soutenant ce qui a été dit précédemment et en rappelant que nous avons un problème en ce qui concerne les jeunes qui sont formés mais ne trouvent pas d'emploi, et deviennent alors un terreau favorable pour la violence, la drogue, etc. Voilà pourquoi nous sommes favorables au fait que l'UNESCO soutienne et accompagne les États dans cet effort en faveur d'un développement durable pour la paix, car sans développement, on ne peut pas parler de paix.

80. **The Moderator:**

Thank you. That is what I asked for at the beginning, advice to UNESCO, what sort of action you want from UNESCO, so thank you. Let us hear from Tajikistan. Again, please be brief, as we are running out of time rapidly.

81. **Mr Tursunov** (Tajikistan):

Thank you. Because of the time limit, let me say a few words about one issue that seems to me to be a fundamental one: building the culture of peace. UNESCO's document is eloquent. The current challenges to global peace call for new approaches and models. The culture of peace is a spiritual foundation of global peace, so challenges to the culture of peace are critical and as such must be addressed very seriously. Today we are faced with a fundamental contradiction between two main tendencies. On the general theoretical level, we have two main well-founded UNESCO theories. First, sustainable development must take into account both types of diversity – biological and cultural. Second, cultural diversity is a factor of development. But, looking at culture in the modern world, we are faced with globalization, mass cultural products aimed at the unification of the norms and ideas of all cultures, be they ethnic, national or regional. We in Central Asia are very sensitive to the products of post-modern mass culture because for us, mass cultural products, such as the famous movie named *Borat*, are not just commercial entertainment. Such kinds of product are compiled with, or packaged with, ideological propaganda. Culture as such, I mean higher or elite culture, cannot be a source of conflict, especially inter-civilizational conflict. But mass culture can be. So culture as a culture of peace needs to be defended as well. However, we understand also that globalization is not the solution. What remains is systematic and quality education; unfortunately, in an area of such important social activity we have a lot of practical and even theoretical problems, problems that cannot be solved without UNESCO's help. Thank you.

82. **The Moderator:**

Thank you very much indeed for that. Without further ado, let us move to our last speaker from the floor, Sweden. Again, very briefly, Sweden, for the three minutes please.

83.1 **Ms Ohlsson** (Sweden):

Absolutely. Thank you so much. I am Birgitta Ohlsson, the Swedish Minister for Democracy and European Union Affairs Issues. Sustainable development has many components and I would like to highlight two of them – democracy and gender equality. First, democracy. I think it is important to be steadfast and say that there is only one political system that is worthy for free citizens and that is democracy. The right to vote, the right to express oneself with a free voice and respecting minorities is of course fundamental and key. I believe that UNESCO has a very special role in this area and I applaud the work of Irina Bokova, working especially with issues concerning freedom of expression and freedom of the press. It is key in this area.

83.2 Second, gender equality. I also believe here that UNESCO has a really important role to play as a watchdog for human rights for women and girls, because this is crucial to global sustainable development. We know that women are the main providers in society of food, health and education for their children and this has dramatic effects on the future of societies. Women have had an important role to play in the Arab Spring and we need to ensure that the women also in this region are getting greater empowerment for the future.

83.3 The right to education is a universal human right, but we know that still millions of children are not attending schools and sadly most of them are girls, and that is a shame. The majority of the world's 1,775 million illiterate adults are women today and this needs more emphasis in the debate right now. Without increasing the investment in education for girls and women, the Millennium Development Goals will not be met at all and here Sweden congratulates UNESCO for this important work, also for sex education. The right to your own body is fundamental to respect for quality and reproductive health. I would just like to end by underlining that not investing in human rights for women and girls has a very high price for every single country in the world.

84. **The Moderator:**

Nobody would argue with that. Thank you, Minister. This deserves applause, because this is the first time we have heard that this morning. That is very good. Rather than spending hours summing up, I am going to basically give just one or two headlines from this morning. Good governance is a prerequisite for peace. Education is a building block of the culture of peace. It is all about education and all about peace linked to education. I cannot say any more than that, really. Technology cannot bring peace. Peace has to be man-made. Another good observation. I like remembrance education as a priority. Just by way of further summary, we have, over the last two days, heard 36 speakers yesterday and 22 speakers today – a wide variety of voices. I want to apologize very sincerely to those not called today. Many of you had a chance to speak. Some of those who were called did speak yesterday as well, but apologies if you did not get a chance this morning. I thought the debate and the interventions were of very high quality, well prepared and very articulate. So, my thanks to all of you for taking part. Let us hear, finally, from Katalin Bogayay, President of the 36th session of the General Conference. Katalin.

85. **The President:**

Thank you very much, and thank you, Stephen Cole, a dear friend and former colleague. It is so wonderful that you were here today and I think that it was a very, very fruitful and interesting morning. So, Madam Director-General, it was a very good idea of yours to table this topic, for all of us, because it was one that everyone was thinking about. All

the speakers from the podium and from the floor have enriched our ideas and our experiences about peace and sustainable development. Madam Director-General, the floor is yours.

**86.1 La Directrice générale :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de dire : quelle diversité, quelle énergie, et quelle passion pendant ces deux jours ! Et quelle conscience également, aiguë parce que vécue, de la fragilité de la paix – comme l'a souligné le Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, M. Ouattara – et du lien indissociable qui unit la paix et le développement durable. Pas de paix durable sans réduction de la pauvreté. Sans culture de la paix, pas de développement durable non plus. Ce sont les deux faces d'une même pièce de monnaie, pour reprendre l'expression du Premier Ministre du Kenya, M. Raila Odinga – des jumeaux indissociables, pour M. Koupaki, Premier Ministre du Bénin. Montaigne, Mesdames et Messieurs, écrit dans ses *Essais* que « l'homme est malmené non pas tant par les événements que, surtout, par ce qu'il pense des événements ». C'est pourquoi il est bon de réfléchir ensemble.

86.2 Ce Forum nous a donné le témoignage de dirigeants, de *leaders*, mais surtout d'hommes et de femmes prêts à engager le dialogue, un dialogue qui n'exclut pas la confrontation, mais qui est déjà un pont jeté entre les peuples et les cultures, comme l'a souligné le Président Tadić, citant Thomas Mann : le dialogue nous réunit toujours, « c'est le silence qui isole ». Et je retiens au moins une idée forte, c'est la nécessité de développer une intelligence de la relation – la seule qui convienne à notre époque de dissémination, comme l'avait souligné M. Johnson Toribiong – c'est-à-dire de penser ensemble des dimensions trop souvent traitées séparément. Nécessité de concilier le passé et l'avenir aussi. Nul ne peut être moderne sans garder un lien avec l'histoire. Les traditions nous donnent des savoir-faire pour traiter le réchauffement climatique ou apaiser les conflits, comme ces tribunaux traditionnels utilisés au Rwanda pour résoudre les tensions. À nous de les mobiliser, de les partager, de les diffuser. Nécessité également de faire vivre ensemble la diversité des cultures. Et la parole publique joue ici un rôle majeur, car nous pouvons choisir de faire de la diversité une source de solution ou un prétexte de division. J'ai vu beaucoup d'hommes et de femmes décidés à faire le bon choix. Nécessité, enfin, de concilier les aspects matériels et les valeurs, car la crise économique est aussi une crise morale et le développement durable, pas seulement une question de ressources naturelles. Je retiens cette métaphore de l'équilibre du sportif, l'équilibre entre le corps et l'esprit, évoqué par M. Pál Schmitt, Président de Hongrie.

86.3 Permettez-moi de remercier tous les dirigeants pour toutes leurs interventions. Je regrette l'absence de certains dirigeants, comme celle de M. Jonathan Goodluck, Président du Nigéria, un pays qui a été soumis à des extrémismes, à plusieurs formes de terrorisme et à une attaque contre le multilatéralisme. Je pense que vos interventions renforcent notre mobilisation autour d'un cap. Lorsque nous sommes engagés dans la mise en œuvre quotidienne des programmes, nous avons besoin de cette vision d'ensemble, comme le dessin d'une tapisserie sur laquelle on travaille et qui apparaît dans toute sa clarté lorsqu'on s'éloigne de quelques pas.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

86.4 Ladies and gentlemen, Minister-President Kris Peeters reminded us of our conviction that peace needs the sustainable use of our resources. Prime Minister Tillman Thomas underlined our vulnerability in the face of climate change and natural disasters. Many of you Ministers intervening during this Leaders' Forum underlined different aspects of our commitment to peace and sustainable development and the links emphasizing the very different areas of our action. Let me just remind you of a few of them, starting with the Minister of Democracy and European Affairs of Sweden, who underlined a very strong link between democracy, human rights and development and peace, and also education of women, gender equality, involvement of women, empowering women to participate in all the various aspects of our life.

86.5 I would like to remind you also of the words of the Minister of Education of Afghanistan, calling for UNESCO's support for community empowerment, building on a culture of peace through schools and supporting capacity development and achieving concrete results. I think this is very important. The Minister of Education of Romania spoke of the importance of educating minorities in their national languages. And then, of course, the Minister of Education of Norway reminded us of the fragility of this world and we know how much also Norway is committed to cultural diversity. We all feel deep sympathy in the wake of the terrorist attack. Let me remind you of her words, that a culture of peace and democracy must be introduced in schools. And this is UNESCO's mandate. Teaching history remembrance is crucial. I know that very many of you also evoked UNESCO's role in Holocaust education. I believe this is also one of our strong responsibilities. We have to have the lessons of history involved and to teach the generations - the current generation, our youth – about these lessons of history. I know, mentioning this, how much South Africa contributes also from its own personal experience and let me remind you of the words of the Minister of Basic Education when she was talking about the open dialogue for peace and reconciliation and the experience in overcoming the legacy of apartheid. It is so important nowadays for very many societies and very many countries. I know that a lot of you focused also on developing the concrete tools for peaceful coexistence, of introducing this diversity and differences in school and understanding them, like the Minister of Uruguay. Let me also remind you of what the distinguished Minister of Pakistan also mentioned about the transformative power of an education system. I think this is extremely important.

86.6 All these messages, all your interventions – I cannot enumerate all this synergy and the different ideas that were expressed during this Leaders' Forum. I think it has not painted the world in the colours of despair. I would say it is quite the contrary. We come away from this discussion encouraged strongly by the will that exists to look head-on at challenges. I think this is very important. Not everything that was said here in this room during the last day and a half was politically correct, perhaps, but we have tried to innovate. We aimed to have a very open, sincere discussion of the problems. A strong sense of resolution underpinned this debate – resolution that positive change can and must happen. This resolution stems from a consensus on the levers that build peace and sustainable development.

86.7 Like the Minister of Pakistan, I believe education comes first, because education is the way to develop respect for human rights and tolerance. It is also an extremely powerful accelerator which is vital for the achievement of the

Millennium Development Goals, and what we want to achieve, sustainability and the development and building of new “green” societies and economies. Science, of course, comes second, but not in priority. I would say it is the next lever. Science holds many answers to the questions we face today, starting from poverty alleviation to climate change adaptation. It is the foundation for knowledge societies, and must be developed for the benefit of all. It is extremely important to democratize the achievements of science and to use them for the sustainability of development. And, of course, we all know that young people are at the front of our minds. As the First Lady of the Dominican Republic said, meeting their expectations is essential to peace and sustainable development in the century ahead. This century is the century of youth, because we all know that half of the population, of the seven billion people in the world, are under the age of 25 and we must tackle this challenge.

86.8 Let me say also something very important and very dear to my heart: that the golden thread woven through all of our discussion was that of values. Peace and sustainable development are not abstract concepts, ladies and gentlemen. We cannot decree that they succeed, because they concern individuals. They concern women and men, they concern communities, they concern societies and they concern real people, and the dignity of these real people, these men and women, their rights, their capacity to empower themselves to make the right choices must be the moral compass guiding all our national and international action. As the First Lady of Azerbaijan said, the human mind has no limits. Everyone must have the right to imagine a better future and the tools to shape this reality. These are, I believe, the stakes of peace and sustainable development, which is UNESCO’s mission.

86.9 So, let me thank all speakers, especially the Heads of State and Government, Ministers, all of you, for your participation in this Forum. I believe that the ideas we have shared confirm also the importance of UNESCO today. They show also strong support for the reform of the Organization and also for our mandate in these areas of the culture of peace and sustainable development. I hope that all of you present here at this Leaders’ Forum will pass on a strong message of support for UNESCO’s commitment to the culture of peace and sustainable development, and especially take the culture of peace message to New York, to the General Assembly of the United Nations, where at this very moment, this week, the debate about the adoption of a resolution on a culture of peace is being held, and I cannot imagine a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations without mentioning the strong commitment and engagement of UNESCO in support all of these activities and these ideas.

86.10 The dialogue that we have launched is important and useful, but now comes the time to act. We have important opportunities to take these ideas forward, from the General Conference to Rio+20 next year. We have also a lot of other important venues, and we must act at the global level, as called for by President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon.

86.11 Finally, peace, ladies and gentlemen, must be built every day, by each of us. I think that practically every speaker spoke about sharing and about human solidarity. In the words of the great Polish-born English novelist Joseph Conrad, the “subtle but invincible conviction of solidarity in dreams, in joy, in sorrow, in aspirations, in hope, which binds together all humanity – the dead to the living and the living to the unborn”. This “invincible solidarity”, I believe, is the beating heart of a culture of peace and the foundation for sustainable development. Thank you very much for your attention.

(Applause)

87.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General, and thank you very much to everybody attending this very unique Leaders’ Forum. One speaker said yesterday that we are talking about the culture of peace, but we are also talking about the peace among cultures, and this is what we should think about. This morning, I read a mantra, a mantra for peace, for all of us, by Mr Kapil Sibal, an Indian Minister. I would like to finish this Leaders’ Forum with another poem of his:

**Scripted Consciousness**

*Misanthropic thoughts  
breed hatred for the world  
and in the process  
fall prey to miseries untold.  
If we choose to look within  
and script our consciousness,  
the world around would cease to  
cause the misanthrope distress.  
Within all pervasive  
humankind where open secrets lie,  
the story of life itself  
escapes the misanthropic eye.*

87.2 Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, peace should be built first in ourselves. I will see you in the afternoon at three o'clock. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.  
La séance est levée à 13 h 10  
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.10  
Заседание закрывается в 13.10  
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٠, ١ بعد الظهر  
会议于 13 时 10 分结束*



# Sixth plenary meeting

Thursday 27 October 2011 at 3.10 p.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Sixième séance plénière

Jeudi 27 octobre 2011 à 15 h 10

Présidente: **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Sexta sesión plenaria

Jueves 27 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.10

Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Шестое пленарное заседание

четверг 27 октября 2011 г. в 15.10

Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة السادسة

الخميس ٢٧ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣,١٠ بعد الظهر

الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第六次全体会议

2011年10月27日星期四 15时10分

主席：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）

## Announcements

Annonces

Anuncios

Сообщения

إعلانات

通知

## Report of the General Committee

Rapport du Bureau de la Conférence

Informe de la Mesa de la Conferencia

Доклад Президиума

تقرير مكتب المؤتمر العام

总务委员会的报告

### 1. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the sixth plenary meeting of the 36th session of the General Conference. So far we have had a very inspiring Leaders' Forum, very interesting interactions from the floor and from the podium. I hope that we are all in the mood to continue our work. Before launching the national statements, I would like to inform you that the General Committee of the General Conference had its first meeting yesterday, 26 October. In order not to disturb the proceedings of the Leaders' Forum, particularly in the presence of the distinguished guests that have honoured us with their visit, it was agreed by the General Committee that I would report on the first meeting of the General Committee before the national statements. Ladies and gentlemen, the General Committee received a request for the inclusion of a new item under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure and decided to study the proposal and come back to it at its second meeting. We decided yesterday that the members would all read the proposal and discuss it the following day.

### Item 1.6: Organization of the work of the session

Point 1.6 : Organisation des travaux de la session

Punto 1.6: Organización de los trabajos de la reunión

Пункт 1.6: Организация работы сессии

البند ١,٦ : تنظيم أعمال الدورة

项目 1.6 : 届会的工作安排

### 2. The President:

The Committee then addressed item 1.6 of our agenda on the organization of the work of the session, as recommended by the Executive Board in document 36 C/2 Prov. Rev. and Corr. and introduced by Her Excellency Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, Chair of the Executive Board, and decided to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the proposals contained in this document without any changes. This, then, is the document before you on the organization of the work of the session. Therefore, I now present these recommendations to the General Conference for approval. These recommendations came from the General Committee. Are there any comments from the floor? I see none. It is so **decided**. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Under Rule 42 of our Rules of Procedure, the General Committee shall fix the hour, the date and the agenda of the plenary meetings of the General Conference. It is in this context that I consulted the Committee on the most appropriate moment during this session for the examination of item 9.1, "Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO". Following a very brief exchange, the Committee decided to reflect on this issue and to come back to it at its second meeting, which means that we are going to discuss it tomorrow in our next General Committee meeting. I take the opportunity to remind the members of the General Committee that this meeting will take place tomorrow at 9 a.m., so please be there punctually in Room X, so that we can proceed with the national statements at 10 a.m. sharp.

## General policy debate

Débat de politique générale

Debate de política general

Обсуждение вопросов общей политики

مناقشة السياسة العامة

总政策辩论

### 3.1 The President:

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, ministers, this is always a very important moment in our lives, when we deliver our national statements. We have been working and working in our countries for two years, and now have a great opportunity for everyone to share what we have achieved, the comments we have to make and the experiences we have to report. These statements will start right now, this afternoon, and continue all day tomorrow and Saturday, before finishing on Monday morning. The Director-General and her staff will listen closely to all remarks and questions that delegates may raise. The Director-General will then deliver her reply to the general policy debate on Monday afternoon. Now, before we start our debate, please allow me to remind you of the absolute necessity of good timekeeping. We have

180 speakers down on the list of speakers and, as agreed concerning the organization of our work, each delegation will have six minutes to address the plenary. I am fully aware that many of you ministers would and could speak for many hours about your wonderful experiences and work, but, please, we have to honour each other and give each other the possibility to speak. You can of course distribute your full speeches afterwards, but please deliver your main messages in six minutes. If you have prepared a longer speech, the head of delegation may request publication of the text *in extenso* as an annex to the report of the plenary session. For my part, I shall make an effort to encourage speakers to respect the time limit. As President of the General Conference, I am empowered to interrupt any speaker exceeding the recommended time limit. I do not want to do that, so I request your cooperation. We have also put in place a visual and sound system to guide interventions, as was the practice during previous sessions. Different pieces of music of the world will indicate to the speaker that he or she is exceeding the allowed time. Normally the music is dance music of sorts, so the longer you go on, the more festive our gathering will sound. Let me point out that a brief musical signal will indicate the end of the fifth minute, and after the sixth minute music will start and rise in crescendo if the speech continues. Although as you know I am a music lover, I hope that I will not be hearing a lot of it until Monday and then we will hear another kind of music whose real beauty we will all experience.

3.2 Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is really a great honour and pleasure for me to proceed to the next stage in our General Conference and I have in front of me the list of speakers. I would like to thank you for your collaboration. We are very much looking forward to the interesting interactions coming from so many parts of the world. Our first speaker today is the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Belgium, His Excellency Mr Kris Peeters. Sir, the floor is yours.

4.1 **Mr Peeters (Belgium):**

Thank you. Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour of addressing the General Conference for the second time today, at such an important moment for the Organization and its Member States. This morning, ladies and gentlemen, we talked about how to create a culture of peace, as is your ambition, Madam Director-General. In this regard, Belgium encourages UNESCO to join forces in the international remembrance of the 1914-1918 Great War. Commemorations will offer an excellent opportunity to send a universal message of peace and tolerance. In this context we are working on a Flanders Fields Declaration which calls for human rights, respect for international law, cooperation between people, disarmament and multicultural integration, in order to secure a better future. These are crucial times for the Organization. A reform process is being undertaken. Belgium and its regions and communities wish to reiterate their full support for this reform. We are, however, very aware of the challenges that remain. When confronted with the request to present an alternative budget proposal, reflecting zero nominal growth, you have shown leadership and wisdom, Madam Director-General, by keeping the focus on programmes and programme delivery. UNESCO's capacity to deliver is crucial to its success in the future. And this capacity relies on strengthening its governance, its presence in the field, the capacities of its staff, its networks and partnerships and its outreach to other organizations. Ladies and gentlemen, we encourage UNESCO to build on existing expertise, both in the Organization and in the Member States, and to strengthen its current instruments. UNESCO's wealth goes beyond budgetary resources. It is to be found in its networks, in the National Commissions, in the many non-profit organizations that provide day-to-day support. We urge UNESCO to put these networks to best use, to build on their commitment. The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, the Creative Cities Network and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) all provide direct links with civil society, schools and universities. Their potential could and should be further developed.

*(The speaker continues in French)*

4.2 **M. Peeters (Belgique) :**

Mesdames, Messieurs, un autre défi pour l'avenir consiste à préserver la pertinence et la crédibilité des conventions de l'UNESCO. Dans ce cadre, nous nous engageons à participer activement au processus de réflexion relatif à ces instruments. Par ailleurs, nous examinons avec d'autres États membres la possibilité de renforcer la gouvernance de la Convention du patrimoine mondial. En ce qui concerne la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, que les communautés et régions de la Belgique soutiennent depuis de longues années, nous sommes confiants qu'elle sera ratifiée dans les plus brefs délais.

*(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)*

4.3 Ladies and gentlemen, education for all remains at the heart of UNESCO's priorities in the education sector. But we would also like to highlight the importance of education for sustainable development. During the Belgian European Union Presidency in 2010, we developed Council conclusions on this issue, in order to realize a more sustainable society.

4.4 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, UNESCO's strength lies at the crossroads of its competences, beyond sectoral boundaries. This Organization, our Organization, has to contribute to the public good. Our shared governance has to be to the benefit of all mankind. This is why eradicating poverty should be one of our priorities. Poverty is not a fate, but ignorance can be its precondition. Let us fully engage ourselves in promoting emancipation, freedom of expression and many other things. This is the first step on the road to development. These are indeed crucial times. It is up to us, Member States, to continue in the consensual spirit that has guided us in the past and bring our vision of a new UNESCO into action. I call upon all of you, dear colleagues, to support this Organization's new impetus, hand it your trust and support, and give it its rightful place in the world. Thank you very much for your attention.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders. Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to welcome the Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Burundi, His Excellency Mr Julien Nimubona. The floor is yours.

6.1 **M. Nimubona (Burundi) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs les Délégués, c'est pour moi un plaisir et un honneur de m'adresser à cette auguste Assemblée à l'occasion de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais tout d'abord présenter, au nom de la délégation de la République du Burundi que je conduis, mes vives félicitations à Madame la Présidente pour son élection à la tête de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO et lui souhaiter plein succès dans ses fonctions. Madame la Présidente, la présente session se tient au moment où mon pays est résolument engagé dans la mise en œuvre d'un vaste programme qui s'inscrit dans le cadre des objectifs de l'UNESCO et qui vise à contribuer au retour définitif de la paix et de la sécurité et à reconstruire et développer les secteurs clés de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture. Tous les objectifs que le gouvernement s'était fixés sont en train d'être réalisés et nous voudrions profiter de cette occasion pour remercier, encore une fois, tous les partenaires qui nous ont appuyés, et plus particulièrement l'UNESCO, qui a été une des premières organisations des Nations Unies à nous aider à briser la méfiance et à initier le rapprochement des communautés en conflit.

6.2 En soutenant le processus de négociation qui a abouti à l'Accord de paix et de réconciliation d'Arusha pour le Burundi, dont l'esprit et les principes régissent les institutions et la vie politique actuelles, la communauté internationale en général et l'UNESCO en particulier ont posé les grandes bases de ce cadre permanent de dialogue basé sur la tolérance, la reconnaissance mutuelle et l'intégration. Tout au long de ce processus, depuis le début de la crise en 1993 jusqu'à ce jour, l'UNESCO a été à nos côtés à travers des cadres de dialogue national, des projets de renforcement des capacités des structures nationales de résolution pacifique des conflits telles que l'institution des *bashingantahe*, telles que la Chaire UNESCO de l'Université du Burundi d'éducation à la paix et de résolution pacifique des conflits, pour la promotion des droits de l'homme et des mécanismes, traditionnels comme modernes, de résolution des conflits, ainsi que d'autres projets. Cependant, Mesdames et Messieurs, la recherche de la paix est une quête permanente qui n'est jamais totalement acquise, surtout pour un pays, comme le Burundi, qui sort d'un conflit violent et profond. C'est pourquoi nous sollicitons encore une fois la communauté internationale en général, et l'UNESCO en particulier, afin qu'elles continuent de soutenir le Burundi.

6.3 Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, revenant sur le Projet de programme et de budget de l'UNESCO pour 2010-2011, nous sommes heureux de constater que, dans son ensemble, ce programme rencontre les attentes de notre pays. En effet, nous soutenons les activités prévues dans le cadre du grand programme I relatif à l'éducation, particulièrement tout ce qui vise à assurer une éducation de qualité pour tous comme facteur favorisant la promotion du développement durable et la consolidation d'une culture de la paix. C'est dans ce cadre que le Gouvernement du Burundi a décidé, en 2005, de généraliser l'enseignement de base gratuit pour tous les enfants d'âge scolaire. Depuis lors, les effectifs des élèves ont plus que doublé dans toutes les régions du pays, et même les enfants vulnérables et défavorisés ont été pris en compte. Le programme de lutte contre l'analphabétisme a également bénéficié d'un appui ; à cet égard, mon pays a d'ailleurs reçu un prix d'encouragement. Pour concrétiser cette volonté, le Gouvernement du Burundi construit plusieurs écoles primaires et secondaires en comptant sur la forte participation des parents et des collectivités territoriales locales.

6.4 Les autres degrés d'enseignement bénéficieront de la même dynamique, l'accent étant mis en particulier sur l'enseignement professionnel et technique, afin de préparer l'entrée des jeunes dans la vie active. L'enseignement supérieur retient également l'attention du gouvernement ; de grands chantiers sont engagés en matière de refonte des programmes, de développement de l'assurance qualité, de développement des sciences et technologies, de recherche appliquée et de professionnalisation. Madame la Directrice générale, le Gouvernement du Burundi souhaite que l'UNESCO appuie ces initiatives, ainsi que celles lancées par beaucoup d'autres États membres en matière de réforme des programmes d'enseignement et de recherche de l'assurance qualité, notamment en développant une expertise au service d'une coopération scientifique dans le domaine des normes de formation et de recherche.

6.5 Madame la Présidente, s'agissant des programmes relatifs aux sciences exactes et naturelles, d'une part, et sociales et humaines, d'autre part, les activités de renforcement des capacités nationales prévues rejoignent les préoccupations de notre pays. C'est dans ce cadre que je formule le vœu ardent que l'UNESCO aide davantage les pays les moins avancés à lancer les grands chantiers du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle en termes de développement des sciences et technologies en tant qu'outils de développement endogène durable mais aussi de dialogue des savoirs technologiques et scientifiques et des cultures au niveau mondial. Conscient des défis énormes à relever dans ce secteur, le Burundi, avec l'appui de l'UNESCO et du Nouveau Partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD), vient de lancer un vaste programme qui a commencé par l'élaboration d'une politique nationale des sciences et technologies.

6.6 Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, distingués participants, je souhaite, pour conclure mon propos, que l'UNESCO concentre l'appui qu'elle nous apporte sur le développement de notre patrimoine culturel immatériel. Je souhaite également réaffirmer l'attachement de mon gouvernement aux idéaux de notre Organisation et aux idéaux de défense et de promotion des droits de l'homme, de tolérance et de promotion des sciences et technologies. L'action de l'UNESCO renforcera, à n'en pas douter, cette communauté de conscience mondiale, ce « vivre ensemble » au-delà des différences, grâce à ce que, nous, humains, avons la chance de posséder : la raison, qui nous permet d'exprimer et de revendiquer des droits, des libertés, une éducation, la science et la culture – en un mot tout ce à quoi l'UNESCO œuvre. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

7. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Ministre.* Now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Hosseini. The floor is yours.

8.1 **Mr Hosseini** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

*(Statement delivered in Persian; interpretation into English):*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, in the name of the Lord, of both soul and mind to nothing sublime can thought be applied. President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General of UNESCO, heads of delegations of Member States, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me, Ms Katalin Bogyay, at the outset, to extend my congratulations to you on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference. I would also like to express heartfelt congratulations on my own part and on that of my nation on the great victories attained by the people of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, which have taken place in the light of the Islamic awakening. And I hope that the peoples of these countries will take firm steps towards establishing a new pattern of democracy on the basis of their beliefs and free from the intervention of external powers. Coming from the ancient cultural land of Iran, I am honoured to be here at this pleasant gathering among you, my esteemed friends and colleagues. In this short while, I would like to draw your attention to a few points of importance. UNESCO was expected to act as a platform for the strengthening of collaboration and establishing and facilitating coordination among diverse traditions and cultures, because it has been a place for the promotion of empathy and sympathy between nations, owing all this to its elevated culture-oriented approach, leading the Organization to significant achievements on the path to promoting humanity. With the passage of over six decades from its inception, the time is now ripe for a reconsideration of its points of weakness and strength in order to improve the means for strengthening and further enhancing the attributes of this highly significant international organization. Culture may serve as a platform for transforming evil, hatred and separation into beauty, purity and harmony. Drawing on their several thousand-year-old culture and the divinely inspired teachings, Iranians have always attached priority to culture and wisdom, the outcome of which is well reflected in their relations with the various western and eastern civilizations. In this third millennium, the human mind and body, weary of war and deceit, reach out to the holy temple of culture for peace and prosperity. We are deeply of the belief that culture cannot be enchained by unilateral and self-centred readings of it. We strongly believe that a world of cultural beauty, diversity and plurality is a better place for our children to live and to thrive in. In this perspective, I sincerely ask UNESCO, the lead organization for establishing a culture of peace and promoting sustainable development in our world, to avoid a single reading or a single voicing of culture and to prevent the dominance of a single culture over others, by means of its valuable programmes, and to stand up to any invasion of the world of culture by politics, while providing the means for the promotion of justice and avoiding any ignorance of this important request for the preservation of all cultures.

8.2 Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, education is accepted and considered by all as the key to the prosperity of humanity and the progress of societies, as well as a valuable asset for the realization of peace, social justice and human development. This all is brought about through the free flow of knowledge, devoid of all discrimination, enabling equal access by the international community to the scientific and educational material of the world in order to attain higher levels of knowledge and development. In this regard, while expressing my sincere support for UNESCO's activities in promoting education for all, I hereby announce that I will support any effective measure that may prove successful in preventing scientific discrimination and apartheid in accessing science in all its forms. Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, we are all well aware that the increasing problem of instability of identities in our contemporary world, accompanied by a semantic and spiritual vacuum, are intertwined with human life, moving humankind toward severe confusion and depression caused by the pushing aside of divine religions and religious beliefs. The outcome of such severe storms is manifested in ethical complexities in an era in which humanity has become a rare and widely sought-after commodity. The poisonous claws of irreligious beliefs and ignorance of spirituality have thus inflicted irreparable damage on the mind and the soul of modern man. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran resorted to the valuable teachings of Islam and adhered to the directions of the wise leader of the Islamic Revolution, the late Ayatollah Khomeini, who sowed the seeds of this global awakening decades ago, as a result of which we are now witness to the blossoming of those seeds in the world of Islam and other regions of our globe. What is most significant in this trend is the political awakening of nations and their confrontation with domineering systems and policies. This trend of Muslim awakening is rapidly and undeniably moving from North Africa and West Asia towards Europe and the United States.

8.3 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, I am now addressing you in your capacities as the wise and well-informed promoters of world culture. Since nations have high expectations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, we should be vigilant to maintain this sense of respect and to avoid any act that may distort this view, which is mainly from the standpoint and the perspective of culture. To conclude, I express my wish for the structural changes in UNESCO, whether at Headquarters or at the Organization's related offices, to be in line with the elevated objectives of the Organization, further facilitating the achievement of UNESCO's goals and ideals. I hope that through the blessings of Almighty God, the elevated ideals and the prosperity of humanity may be realized. And finally a word from Hafiz, the renowned Iranian poet: "Achieving that elevated goal is not possible unless you lend us a hand in pure sincerity." Thank you for your attention.

9. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now, I would like to ask the Minister of Communications of Colombia, His Excellency Mr Diego Molano Vega, to give his speech. Excellency.

10.1 **Sr. Diego Molano Vega** (Colombia):

Muchas gracias señora Presidente, señores asistentes, ministros, jefes de delegación, embajadores. Deseo empezar por destacar el rol que la UNESCO desempeña como aliado importante en el trabajo conjunto de aquellas iniciativas que los gobiernos y la sociedad civil vienen implementando para avanzar en la superación de la pobreza. Y

este justamente es el principal objetivo del Gobierno de Colombia: reducir la pobreza. Y para enfrentar este reto, el Gobierno colombiano viene implementando estrategias en la política educativa nacional, que tienen como propósito mejorar la calidad de la educación. Todo ello se hace a fin de lograr los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, donde Colombia se destaca con éxito en la aplicación de las políticas para el aumento de la cobertura tanto en la salud pública como en la educación. También resaltamos con éxito los avances en la mejora de la alimentación de los niños, la reducción de la mortalidad infantil y la mejora en las oportunidades para la población más vulnerable.

10.2 La cultura, uno de los pilares de la UNESCO, la valoramos como factor de paz y de desarrollo humano sostenible. El Estado colombiano, cada día más comprometido con la salvaguardia de su patrimonio, incorporó dos manifestaciones tradicionales a la Lista de Patrimonio Inmaterial. La primera tiene que ver con una figura institucional de una de las tribus indígenas más importantes de Colombia, la tribu wayú. El palabrero es una figura que hace de gestor de paz, que hace de juez, que hace de buen componedor, y que ahora es patrimonio colombiano y va a más porque las otras culturas colombianas estamos aprendiendo de esa figura. La segunda tiene que ver con la música de la marimba y los cantos del Pacífico Sur colombiano, que representa a nuestra población afrodescendiente que representa a más del 10% de los colombianos. A esas dos se suman también la inclusión del paisaje cultural cafetero de Colombia, que representa más de 500.000 familias colombianas que producen ese café que todos disfrutamos alrededor del mundo.

10.3 Señoras y señores, Colombia aspira a convertirse en miembro del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial en las próximas elecciones. Estamos convencidos de que una eventual participación en este Comité nos permitirá aportar nuestro conocimiento, compartir las experiencias de nuestros expertos nacionales en materia de conservación del patrimonio natural y cultural, al igual que cooperar con otros Estados Miembros para el desarrollo de capacidades. Creemos y reivindicamos la importancia del Comité como espacio para propiciar el desarrollo sostenible desde la perspectiva del turismo y la educación. El empoderamiento y apropiación de nuestras culturas es uno de los más importantes principios sobre los cuales Colombia orientará sus trabajos como miembro del Comité. El respaldo de la UNESCO se refleja además en la iniciativa de la que somos país piloto, el proyecto *Batería de Indicadores en Cultura para el Desarrollo*, que estudia, mediante indicadores económicos, la importancia de la cultura como eje del desarrollo social y económico de los pueblos. Fuimos escogidos para esta iniciativa porque en Colombia se ha implementado con gran éxito desde hace más de 10 años.

10.4 Por otra parte, Colombia ha dado pasos importantes hacia el fortalecimiento de la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación, no solo en cuanto al incremento de su participación en el PIB, sino también en cuanto al logro de su articulación con la solución efectiva de los problemas sociales, contribuyendo así al cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Para Colombia, para el Gobierno colombiano la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación son fundamentales, y por eso el presente Gobierno ha hecho una propuesta de cambio constitucional y hoy en día el 10% de todos los recursos de las materias primas (*commodities*) que exportamos se invierte en ciencia y tecnología. Esto va a garantizar un fortalecimiento de la sostenibilidad de nuestra economía.

10.5 Asimismo, en materia de tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones, estamos avanzando grandemente porque sabemos que las TIC son una herramienta maravillosa para reducir la pobreza. Existe una correlación muy fuerte entre esas tecnologías y la reducción de la pobreza porque las TIC generan oportunidades. Más Internet significa más oportunidades para todos. Para enfrentar estos retos no solo debemos llevar tecnología sino también los contenidos apropiados y la apropiación tecnológica adecuada.

10.6 Para concluir, señoras y señores, permitanme reiterar, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, la convicción que tenemos sobre la relevancia que la UNESCO tiene en el actual contexto de desafíos sociales, económicos y culturales, en un mundo que continúa transformándose a un ritmo vertiginoso y que necesita de una respuesta inmediata y eficaz por parte del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Esperamos que los trabajos de esta Conferencia General, complementados con la gestión que ha venido desempeñando la señora Irina Bokova, permitan dotar a la UNESCO de aquellos instrumentos que requiere para reafirmar su vigencia en el ámbito de la construcción de la paz. Muchas gracias.

(10.1) **M. Diego Molano Vega** (Colombie) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants, ministres, chefs de délégation, ambassadeurs, je souhaite tout d'abord souligner le rôle d'allié essentiel que l'UNESCO joue dans l'action conjointe que mènent les gouvernements et la société civile pour faire progresser la lutte contre la pauvreté. Tel est précisément l'objectif principal du Gouvernement colombien : réduire la pauvreté. Et pour relever ce défi, le Gouvernement colombien met en œuvre, dans le cadre de la politique éducative nationale, des stratégies visant à améliorer la qualité de l'éducation, le but étant d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. À cet égard, la Colombie se distingue par ses succès pour ce qui est de l'application de politiques visant à augmenter la couverture, tant en termes de santé publique que d'éducation. Nous nous distinguons aussi par les progrès accomplis concernant l'alimentation des enfants, la réduction de la mortalité infantile et les possibilités offertes aux populations les plus vulnérables.

(10.2) Nous sommes très attachés à la culture, un des piliers de l'UNESCO, en tant que facteur de paix et de développement humain durable. L'État colombien, toujours plus engagé pour la sauvegarde de son patrimoine, a œuvré pour l'inscription de deux manifestations traditionnelles sur la Liste du patrimoine culturel immatériel. La première a trait à une figure institutionnelle de l'une des tribus autochtones les plus importantes de Colombie, la tribu Wayuu. Le « *palabrero* » est un personnage qui fait office d'agent pour la paix, de juge et d'amiable compositeur, et qui fait désormais partie du patrimoine colombien, et bien plus encore, car les autres cultures colombiennes apprennent de cette figure. La seconde a trait à la musique Marimba et aux chants traditionnels de la région sud du Pacifique colombien, qui représentent notre population d'ascendance africaine, soit plus de 10 % de la population colombienne. À l'inscription de ces deux éléments s'ajoute l'inclusion du paysage culturel du café de la Colombie, qui concerne plus de 500 000 familles colombiennes productrices de ce café que nous apprécions tous à travers le monde.

(10.3) Mesdames et Messieurs, la Colombie aspire à devenir membre du Comité du patrimoine mondial lors des prochaines élections. Nous sommes convaincus qu'une éventuelle participation à ce comité nous permettrait de partager nos connaissances et l'expérience de nos spécialistes nationaux en matière de conservation du patrimoine naturel et culturel, ainsi que de coopérer avec d'autres États membres pour le développement des capacités. Nous croyons fermement à l'importance de ce Comité comme moyen de favoriser le développement durable du point de vue du tourisme et de l'éducation. L'autonomisation et l'appropriation de nos cultures font partie des principes les plus importants sur lesquels la Colombie axera son action en tant que membre de ce Comité. En outre, l'appui de l'UNESCO se reflète dans l'initiative dont nous sommes pays pilote, le projet *Batterie d'indicateurs de la culture pour le développement*, qui étudie, au moyen d'indicateurs économiques, l'importance de la culture comme axe de développement socioéconomique des peuples. Nous avons été choisis pour cette initiative parce que la Colombie la met en œuvre avec beaucoup de succès depuis plus de dix ans.

(10.4) Par ailleurs, la Colombie a pris des mesures importantes pour renforcer la science, la technologie et l'innovation, non seulement pour ce qui est d'accroître leur apport au PIB, mais aussi en ce qui concerne leur participation à la résolution efficace des problèmes sociaux, contribuant ainsi à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Pour la Colombie, comme pour le Gouvernement colombien, la science, la technologie et l'innovation sont essentielles ; c'est pourquoi l'actuel Gouvernement a proposé un changement constitutionnel et, aujourd'hui, 10 % de l'ensemble des recettes provenant des matières premières que nous exportons sont investis dans la science et la technologie, ce qui va permettre de renforcer la durabilité de notre économie.

(10.5) De même, en matière de technologies de l'information et de la communication, nous progressons énormément parce que nous savons que les TIC sont un outil fantastique pour réduire la pauvreté. Il existe une corrélation très forte entre ces technologies et la réduction de la pauvreté car les TIC créent des possibilités. Un accès élargi à l'Internet signifie davantage de possibilités pour tous. Pour relever ces défis, nous devons disposer non seulement de la technologie mais aussi des contenus adéquats, que nous devons nous approprier.

(10.6) Pour conclure, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi, au nom du Gouvernement de la Colombie, de réaffirmer que nous sommes convaincus de la pertinence de l'UNESCO dans le contexte actuel, marqué par des défis sociaux, économiques et culturels, dans un monde qui continue d'évoluer à un rythme effréné et qui appelle une réponse immédiate et efficace de la part du système des Nations Unies. Nous espérons que les travaux de la présente Conférence générale, conjugués à la direction exercée par Mme Bokova, permettront de doter l'UNESCO des instruments dont elle a besoin pour revigorer son action en matière d'édification de la paix. Je vous remercie.

## 11. The President:

*Muchas gracias, señor ministro.* Now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to ask the Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus, His Excellency Mr George Demosthenous, to take the floor. Excellency, the floor is yours.

### 12.1 Mr Demosthenous (Cyprus):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, allow me to begin my address by congratulating the new President of the General Conference, Ambassador Ms Bogyay, and also by praising the outgoing President, Ambassador Mr Hepburn, for his successful mandate. Madam President, in today's rapidly changing world, considering the crises and contemporary challenges, UNESCO's vision and the need for international cooperation are more pertinent than ever. Cyprus has been a deeply committed Member State of the Organization since 1961 and has worked hard to promote the Organization's scope and strategy throughout the years. Our dedication to UNESCO's vision is expressed in the other governing bodies of which Cyprus is also an active member. The forthcoming Cyprus presidency of the European Union (in 2012) is a challenge for us and an opportunity to further promote, *inter alia*, intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and diversity, which are key elements in building peace in the minds of men and women. In the field of education, Cyprus shares UNESCO's vision of education as a vehicle for social, economic and sustainable development. According to UNESCO's *Education for All Global Monitoring Report* for 2011, as with the previous ones, Cyprus figures among the countries which have achieved most of the goals of the Dakar Framework of Action. The ongoing educational reform is an effort to achieve a comprehensive introduction of changes and innovations at all levels and in all aspects of the education system. The main objective of this effort is to create a democratic and student-focused education system, which offers high quality education to all students, thus assisting them to maximize their potential and acquire skills and knowledge which will enable them to become active and democratic citizens. Cyprus has also made important steps in higher education, as it currently supports three public and four private universities, thus increasing the opportunities for studies in the country and further development of research and innovation. These opportunities have also been enhanced following the establishment in 2010 of a UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the University of Cyprus.

12.2 In the field of culture, Cyprus has concentrated its efforts on the promotion of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which we consider to be an invaluable tool for the preservation of our cultural identity. As further indication of our commitment to the promotion of intangible cultural heritage, we are a member of the Intergovernmental Committee that promotes the objectives of the Convention. Cyprus has also inscribed since 2008 an element on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the "Lefkara laces" and has submitted another nomination, the "Tsiattista poetic duelling". Special mention should also be made of the project "Training Workshops on Preparing Nomination Files to the Lists of the 2003 Convention", which was fully funded by the Cyprus Government and executed by UNESCO in seven African countries: Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project has been a contribution of Cyprus to enhance cooperation with developing countries, respecting UNESCO's overarching priorities – Africa and gender equality. Furthermore, the government continues its efforts to protect and preserve our island's tangible heritage, and especially the archaeological sites and monuments that feature on the World Heritage List. Cyprus has been a dedicated member of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and was among the first two States which managed to be granted enhanced protection for its world heritage monuments, according to the provisions of the Second Protocol to the above-mentioned Convention. Cyprus is now a candidate for the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, with the

intention to contribute to its effective implementation. These two Conventions are of particular importance to Cyprus. I wish to underline that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus is committed to the preservation and protection of archaeological sites and monuments on an island-wide basis. The implementation of this commitment is challenged, however, for those sites and monuments that are located in the occupied area, many of which are in dire need of conservation. Please allow me to conclude by reaffirming my country's profound commitment to UNESCO's mission of peace-building through education, culture and science. Thank you very much.

13. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now it is a great honour for me to ask His Excellency Mr Alexander Avdeev, the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, to come to the floor. The floor is yours, Mr Minister.

14.1 **Г-н Авдеев** (Российская Федерация):

Уважаемая госпожа Председатель Генеральной конференции, уважаемая госпожа Председатель Исполнительного совета, уважаемая госпожа Генеральный директор, Ваши Превосходительства, дамы и господа,

14.2 От имени России рад приветствовать участников 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции. Современный мир сталкивается с серьезными проблемами, ставящими под сомнение достижение согласованных на высшем уровне целей тысячелетия в области развития. Теперь, когда для решения актуальных вопросов требуется гораздо больше усилий, многое зависит от умения государств совместно и эффективно управлять глобальными процессами. Это в полной мере относится и к ЮНЕСКО. Мы высоко ценим энергичные усилия нашей Организации. Каждая новая долгосрочная программа под эгидой ЮНЕСКО работает на достижение важнейшей цели обеспечения стабильности, прогресса, благосостояния людей через созидательное гуманитарное партнерство.

14.3 При этом приоритет следует отдавать образованию, поскольку оно лежит в основе устойчивого развития. Исходя из этого, мы провели совместно с ЮНЕСКО в сентябре 2010 г. первую в истории Всемирную конференцию по воспитанию и образованию детей младшего возраста. И я хотел бы призвать все страны-члены к выполнению положений ее итогового документа – Московских рамок действий. Наша страна готова, со своей стороны, предоставить ЮНЕСКО российские государственные стипендии для обучения иностранных граждан в российских образовательных учреждениях высшего и среднего профессионального звена. Мы готовы оказать помощь в подготовке кадров для стран Африки, в частности по таким специальностям, как дошкольный воспитатель, учитель начальной и средней школы, преподаватель учреждения начального, среднего, профессионального обучения, научный работник в сфере педагогики.

14.4 К числу важнейших направлений, которые могут содействовать устойчивому развитию, относится наука инноваций. В этой связи хотел бы вернуться к юбилею одного из важнейших событий в недавней истории человечества, отмечающемуся в этом году, – пятидесятилетию полета Юрия Гагарина в космос. Многие изменилось с тех пор, и сегодня в ЮНЕСКО мы уже говорим как о само собой разумеющемся об использовании космических полетов для сохранения биоразнообразия, о реализации различных проектов в области гидрологии, океанографии, об охране объектов всемирного наследия и о многом другом. С выводом на орбиту уже в этом году научно-образовательного спутника ЮНЕСКО мы еще на шаг приблизились к решению практических задач освоения космоса.

14.5 Дамы и господа, мировая культура, ее наследие – вот еще один значительный стратегический ресурс для будущих поколений. К успехам ЮНЕСКО можно отнести и то, что наша Организация была первой, кто поднял тему взаимосвязи культуры и развития на глобальный уровень. В нашей стране мы рассматриваем культуру не просто как приоритетный национальный проект, но и как важнейшее средство обеспечения устойчивого развития.

14.6 Дамы и господа, без информационных технологий сегодня немыслим мир. При этом очевидна также необходимость широкого международного обсуждения вопросов, связанных с выработкой политических принципов управления, решений и этических норм в сфере обеспечения свободного доступа к информации и преодоления цифрового разрыва. Должен сказать, что в контексте подготовки к намеченной на 2012 год в Москве Международной конференции ЮНЕСКО по вопросам сохранения цифровых данных мы провели Международную конференцию на тему «Сохранение цифровой информации в информационном обществе».

14.7 В заключение хотел бы сообщить всем присутствующим, что завтра 28 октября в Москве состоится торжественное событие: после длительной реконструкции вновь открывается знаменитый Большой театр. С этой высокой трибуны я хотел бы поблагодарить ЮНЕСКО и страны-члены за содействие в реализации этого проекта. Желаю всем участникам Генеральной конференции, делегатам, руководству, коллегам министрам успешной работы, ярких идей, смелых и мудрых решений. Благодарю за внимание. Я сэконоил почти полторы минуты, это время я передаю следующему выступающему.

(14.1) **M. Avdeev** (Fédération de Russie) (*traduit du russe*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

(14.2) Au nom de la Russie j'ai le plaisir de saluer les participants à la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Le monde actuel est confronté à de graves problèmes qui remettent en cause la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement convenus au plus haut niveau. Aujourd'hui, la résolution des problèmes urgents exige des efforts beaucoup plus grands et dépend dans une large mesure de la capacité des États à gérer ensemble et efficacement des processus mondiaux. L'UNESCO est pleinement concernée et nous nous félicitons des efforts énergiques qu'a déployés notre Organisation. Chaque nouveau programme à long terme mené sous l'égide de l'UNESCO contribue à atteindre les objectifs



les plus ambitieux de stabilité, de progrès et de bien-être des populations dans le cadre d'un partenariat humanitaire constructif.

(14.3) En outre, la priorité doit être donnée à l'éducation, parce qu'elle est à la base du développement durable. Sur ce constat, en septembre 2010, nous avons organisé avec l'UNESCO la première Conférence mondiale sur l'éducation et la protection de la petite enfance (WCECCE). Je souhaiterais appeler tous les États membres à mettre en œuvre les dispositions de son document final – le Cadre d'action de Moscou. De son côté, notre pays est prêt à accorder à l'UNESCO des bourses d'État pour permettre à des citoyens étrangers d'étudier dans des établissements russes d'enseignement professionnel aux niveaux secondaire et supérieur. Nous souhaitons contribuer à la formation du personnel pour les pays d'Afrique, en particulier dans des domaines spécialisés comme l'enseignement préprimaire, primaire et secondaire, l'enseignement professionnel primaire et secondaire et la pédagogie.

(14.4) La science de l'innovation est l'un des principaux axes d'action capables de contribuer au développement durable. À ce propos, j'aimerais revenir sur la commémoration, cette année, de l'un des plus grands événements de l'histoire récente de l'humanité. Je veux parler du 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du vol de Youri Gagarine dans l'espace. Le monde a beaucoup changé depuis lors et aujourd'hui à l'UNESCO nous parlons d'utiliser des vols spatiaux pour la conservation de la biosphère, de réaliser divers projets dans les domaines de l'hydrologie et de l'océanographie, de préserver les biens du patrimoine mondial et de beaucoup d'autres choses encore, comme si cela allait de soi. Avec la mise sur orbite cette année d'un satellite scientifique et pédagogique porteur du logo de l'UNESCO, nous nous sommes encore rapprochés de la résolution de certains problèmes pratiques liés à la conquête de l'espace.

(14.5) Mesdames et Messieurs, la culture mondiale et son patrimoine constituent eux aussi une ressource stratégique importante pour les générations futures. Entre autres réussites, notre Organisation a été la première à soulever la question des rapports entre culture et développement au niveau mondial. Pour la Russie, la culture est certes une priorité nationale, mais elle est surtout le principal moyen de parvenir au développement durable.

(14.6) Mesdames et Messieurs, sans les technologies de l'information le monde serait aujourd'hui impensable. Il est évident par ailleurs qu'un vaste débat international doit être engagé sur la définition de politiques pour la gestion, la résolution et l'élaboration de normes éthiques dans le domaine de la promotion du libre accès à l'information et de la réduction de la fracture numérique. Dans le contexte de la préparation de la conférence internationale de l'UNESCO sur la préservation des données numériques qui doit se tenir à Moscou en 2012, nous avons organisé la conférence internationale « Préservation de l'information numérique dans la société de l'information ».

(14.7) En conclusion, je souhaiterais informer toutes les personnes présentes que demain, 28 octobre, aura lieu à Moscou un événement solennel, puisque, après de longs travaux de restauration le célèbre théâtre Bolchoï rouvrira ses portes. De cette tribune, j'aimerais féliciter l'UNESCO et ses États membres pour leur contribution à ce projet. Je souhaite à tous les participants à la Conférence générale, aux délégués, aux membres de la direction, ainsi qu'à nos collègues ministres des travaux fructueux, des idées lumineuses, des décisions audacieuses et sages. Je vous remercie de votre attention. J'ai gagné près d'une minute et demie sur mon temps de parole que j'offre au prochain orateur.

## 15. **The President:**

*Spasibo bol'shoye.* Congratulations. Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to ask the Permanent Secretary for Education of Thailand, Her Excellency Ms Sasithara Pichaichannarong, to take the floor. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

### 16.1 **Ms Pichaichannarong (Thailand):**

Madam President, on behalf of my government and of the Ministry of Education, I am very grateful for the concern of UNESCO over the present situation in Thailand as reflected on the UNESCO website under the heading: "Thailand's worst flooding in decades impacts on education and cultural heritage". Currently the scale of flooding is unprecedented in the history of the country. Lives have been lost, properties, businesses and livelihoods destroyed, schools affected and cultural heritage sites threatened. Over 300 people have lost their lives and more than 2.8 million people have been affected, around a quarter of whom are children. At this point in time, it is hard to imagine that in the next few months among other problems will be the drought. The Minister of Education is therefore obliged to stay in our country to monitor the rescue plan. He requested me to express his apologies for being unable to attend this august conference in Paris. An initial assessment of damage to infrastructure and learning equipment was estimated at the cost of \$80 million, a figure that is expected to increase. A need for extensive reconstruction, repairs and replacement of school infrastructure and learning materials is foreseen. Additional funds have already been allocated for schools and educational institutions providing assistance to flood victims. Special soft loans for academic personnel are on our agenda with the Ministry of Finance during the period of recovery. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to many countries for having provided us with assistance and to UNESCO for having implemented emergency measures for the safeguarding of the Ayutthaya world heritage site. I also invite herewith volunteers from all over the world to join us in helping Thailand with the recovery plan, a humanitarian act to help reconstruct schools and reproduce learning materials.

*(The speaker continues in French)*

16.2 Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, cette année, le peuple thaï célèbre le 84<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Roi, dont la sagesse continue de guider le développement du pays. J'ajouterai que les éléments clés de la philosophie d'économie d'autosuffisance de Sa Majesté ont aussi été reconnus et mis en pratique dans certains pays d'Afrique dans l'esprit de la coopération Sud-Sud. Conformément à cette philosophie, le nouveau Gouvernement thaïlandais, à la tête duquel se trouve, pour la première fois, une femme, s'est engagé à mettre en œuvre une économie forte et équilibrée et à créer une société plus égalitaire et plus juste. L'éducation au service de l'emploi est un moyen de diminuer l'écart de richesse entre les divers groupes de population et d'assurer la distribution des revenus de façon plus équitable. À cet égard, le gouvernement a récemment annoncé une nouvelle stratégie visant à relier l'éducation au monde du travail afin que la première contribue au développement national. Pendant les deux prochaines années, nous aspirons à focaliser à nouveau l'éducation sur le développement durable des cinq principaux actifs du pays, à savoir les

ressources naturelles, l'industrie, le commerce, l'économie créative et la spécialisation. De cette façon, nous pourrions construire une économie intellectuelle pour assurer la sécurité énergétique et alimentaire, renforcer les partenariats avec le secteur privé et avec les cinq régions du monde. La crise que connaissent actuellement nos pays tend à nous faire adopter une administration océanique, côtière et insulaire, comme le souligne l'UNESCO dans son Agenda pour la science, et pousse les États membres à des discussions sur ce sujet.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

16.3 Madam President, to end my statement, Thailand was very honoured to host the education for all (EFA) meeting in Jomtien at the beginning of this year, and we were very pleased to welcome the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, on that occasion. We welcome the meeting of Asia and the Pacific Ministers of Education focusing on education and information and communication technology (ICT) next year in our capital. We would like to reaffirm our commitment and support to the work of UNESCO, in particular to strengthen the relationship with the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, which is one of the United Nations regional offices in Asia and the Pacific contributing to the development of our region. We appreciate its excellent integration of work in education, science, culture and communication, although the science section is not based in Bangkok, aiming to achieve the main pillars of the Organization. Once again, Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, please accept our appreciation of your support for the resilience of Thailand. I thank you for your kind attention. *Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.*

#### 17. The President:

Thank you, Madam Minister, and once again our sincere and wholehearted sympathy for the very trying conditions your country is experiencing. Thank you very much for your intervention. Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour to welcome a former Ambassador of UNESCO here who is now the Minister of Education of Oman, Her Excellency Ms Madiha Al-Shaibani. The floor is yours.

١٨،١ السيدة الشيبان (عُمان):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، سعادة رئيسة المؤتمر العام لليونسكو، سعادة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، معالي المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، أيها الحضور الكريم، تحية طيبة وبعد، بداية يسرني أن أتقدم بالشكر الجزيل إلى منظمة اليونسكو وإلى معالي المديرية العامة والعاملين معها على جهودهم الرائدة التي جعلت من اليونسكو شريكاً فاعلاً في مسيرة التنمية العالمية بمختلف جوانبها، متمنية لمعاليتها التوفيق في إدارتها الحالية لهذه المنظمة العريقة. كما يسرني أن أتقدم بالتهنئة إلى سعادة كتالين بوغياي، المندوبة الدائمة للمجر، على انتخابها رئيسة للمؤتمر العام للعامين القادمين متمنية لها النجاح والتوفيق.

١٨،٢ سعادة الرئيسة، إن إعلان اليونسكو عام ٢٠٠٠ سنة دولية للثقافة والسلام ومن قبله اعتمادها للقرار باعتبار العقد الأول من القرن الجديد هو العقد الدولي للثقافة والسلام واللاعنف من أجل أطفال العالم، وإعلانها تخصيص يوم عالمي للسلام جاء من أجل بناء السلام والقضاء على الفقر وتحقيق التنمية المستدامة وإقامة حوار بين الثقافات من خلال التربية والعلم والثقافة والاتصال. وعليه فقد عملت الحكومة العُمانية على بناء وتوطيد العلاقات السلمية مع مختلف دول العالم وغرس مفهوم السلام والتعايش بين الثقافات، كما أسهم جلالة السلطان المعظم في غرس هذه الثقافة من خلال الكراسي العلمية والأدبية والفكرية المنتشرة باسمه في العديد من بقاع العالم، مما حدا بعدد من المراكز الدولية منح جوائز السلام لجلالته تقديراً منها لهذه الإسهامات. كما تناولت المناهج العُمانية موضوع السلام من كل نواحيه مشجعة الطلبة على نشر هذا المفهوم وتطبيقه. وفي هذا الصدد، فإننا نؤكد على أهمية مواصلة اليونسكو جهودها للحض على نشر هذه الثقافة، وذلك بابتكار سبل خلاقة يمكن إدراجها في المناهج التعليمية بأساليب جديدة ومشوقة، فقد قمنا في سلطنة عمان بمبادرات عديدة في هذا المجال مثلما هو كائن في ملتقى مسقط السنوي للشباب، وكذلك رحلات تواصل الثقافات، التي بدأت منذ عام ٢٠٠٧. والحديث عن الشباب يقودنا إلى الإشارة إلى التحديات التي يواجهونها، مما يؤكد على ضرورة الاهتمام بهذه الفئة والأخذ برأيها عند بناء السياسات المختلفة. ولقد وفقت المنظمة في اختيارها عنوان "الشباب والتغيير" أساساً للملتقى الشبابي الذي عقد قبل أيام، أملين بلورة رؤاهم وتطلعاتهم السلمية القابلة للتنفيذ إلى واقع ملموس.

١٨،٣ أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، إننا إذ ندرك أهمية إيلاء التراث العالمي بشقيه المادي وغير المادي أهمية خاصة والاعتناء به عناية فائقة، لنشيد حقيقة بما تظلع به اليونسكو في مجال صون هذا التراث الإنساني والعمل على تسجيله في قوائم فريدة تسهم في متابعة المعالم والفنون التراثية والثقافية أولاً بأول، وتبادل الخبرات بين الدول الأعضاء في مجال الحفاظ عليها. ونسجل هنا اعتزازنا بوجود عدد من المواقع العُمانية ضمن قائمة التراث العالمي، ونفتخر بإدراج فن البرعة كأحد فنون عُمان التراثية، في قائمة التراث العالمي غير المادي، وهو تأكيد على ما تزخر به السلطنة من فنون ثقافية وفولكلورية عدة وعلى حرص الحكومة وقيادتها على تأصيل هذه الفنون في نفوس أبنائها. ولعلكم سمعتم عن افتتاح دار الأوبرا السلطانية في الرابع عشر من شهر تشرين الأول/أكتوبر الجاري، الذي يقف إلى جانب مركز عُمان للموسيقى التقليدية شاهداً على الذوق الفني الراقي الذي تزخر به السلطنة وعلى إيمانها بأهمية التواصل الثقافي والحضاري. وفي مجال الحديث عن التراث وصونه، لا يفوتني هنا التأكيد على وجوب قيام اليونسكو باتخاذ التدابير اللازمة لحماية المسجد الأقصى ومتابعة تنفيذ القرارات المتعلقة بحماية الممتلكات الثقافية والتعليمية في فلسطين. كما نؤكد على دعمنا للتوصية التي قدمها المجلس التنفيذي بشأن انضمام فلسطين إلى عضوية المنظمة.

١٨،٤ سعادة الرئيسة، من منطلق التزام السلطنة بالعمل في إطار الشراكة الدولية واستجابة للجهود الدولية، من خلال عقد الأمم المتحدة للتربية من أجل التنمية المستدامة، قد نظمت وزارة التربية والتعليم، في أوائل هذا العام، مؤتمراً علمياً للتربية من أجل التنمية المستدامة لدعم التنوع الثقافي والبيولوجي، شارك فيه العديد من الخبراء والأكاديميين على مستوى العالم وحظي بتشريف المديرية العامة لليونسكو له بالحضور. وقد ساهم هذا المؤتمر في إبراز جهود السلطنة واستراتيجيتها المتعلقة بدعم التنمية المستدامة والتنوع الثقافي.

١٨،٥ أيها الحضور الكريم، لقد أصبحت المشكلات الطبيعية التي تحدث اليوم كالاختباس الحراري والتلوث البيئي والكوارث الطبيعية وشح الموارد المائية والتغير المناخي، من أهم المشكلات التي تعاني منها جميع دول العالم، مما يجتم اهتمام اليونسكو بهذا الموضوع الاهتمام الأكبر بإنشاء مراكز رصد بحثية وتوفير خبراء وقواعد بيانات، إضافة إلى توحيد القوانين والتشريعات المائية في كل منطقة جغرافية من أجل التخفيف من آثار هذه الظواهر الخطيرة وإيجاد الحلول الناجعة لها. وسلطنة عُمان، شأنها شأن العديد من الدول، تسعى سعياً حثيثاً من أجل الحفاظ على بيئة متزنة بعيدة عن الأخطار، مصونة من المهددات وخالية من الملوثات، إذ إنها عملت على إنشاء وزارة مستقلة للبيئة والشؤون المناخية وتأسيس جائزة السلطان قابوس لصون البيئة، التي ترعاها اليونسكو والتي سيتم منحها للفائزين خلال الأيام القادمة بالتزامن مع احتفال اليونسكو باليوم العالمي للعلوم.

١٨،٦ سعادة الرئيسة، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، الحضور الكريم، إن الإيمان برسالة هذه المنظمة يزداد والتمسك بأهدافها مطلب أساسي، وإن الآفاق أمامنا مفتوحة لنعمل معاً من أجل التقدم والخير والسلام لأجيالنا الحالية والمستقبلية. ويسرني أن أجدد مرة أخرى باسم وفد بلادي تمسكنا بأهداف المنظمة وغاياتها النبيلة، مؤكداً حضورنا في مختلف الأصعدة التي تدعو إليها. ونعمل بروح من الانفتاح والإيجابية والحوار البناء. وفقكم الله، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(18.1) **Mme Al-Shaibani (Oman) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux, Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et messieurs les chefs et les membres de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, je vous salue cordialement. Pour commencer, j'ai l'honneur d'exprimer mes sincères remerciements à l'UNESCO et à Madame la Directrice générale et à ses collègues pour leurs efforts estimables, qui ont fait de l'UNESCO un partenaire effectif dans la marche du développement mondial sous toutes ses formes. Je souhaite à Madame la Directrice générale tout le succès possible dans la gestion de cette vénérable Organisation. J'ai également l'honneur de féliciter Madame Katalin Bogyaay, Déléguée permanente de la Hongrie, pour son élection à la présidence de la Conférence générale pour les deux ans à venir, et de lui souhaiter tout le succès possible.

(18.2) Madame la Présidente, la proclamation par l'UNESCO de l'an 2000 Année internationale de la culture de la paix, et auparavant, son adoption de la résolution proclamant la première décennie du nouveau siècle Décennie internationale de la promotion d'une culture de la paix et de la non-violence au profit des enfants du monde, ainsi que sa proclamation de la Journée internationale de la paix sont autant d'actions en faveur de la construction de la paix, de l'élimination de la pauvreté, de la réalisation du développement durable et de l'instauration du dialogue entre les cultures pour l'éducation, la science, la culture et la communication. Le Gouvernement omanais a donc œuvré pour l'établissement et la consolidation de relations pacifiques avec les différents pays du monde et pour la promotion du concept de la paix et de la coexistence entre les cultures. Sa Majesté le Sultan a veillé à implanter cette culture par le truchement de chaires scientifiques, littéraires et intellectuelles qui ont été établies en son nom dans de nombreuses parties du monde, ce qui a poussé un certain nombre de centres internationaux à attribuer des prix de la paix à Sa Majesté en récompense pour ces contributions. Les programmes scolaires omanais incluent la question de la paix sous tous ses aspects, encourageant les élèves à diffuser et à appliquer ce concept. À cet égard, nous encourageons l'UNESCO à poursuivre ses efforts pour faire essayer cette culture, en élaborant des procédés créatifs qui puissent être inclus dans les programmes scolaires grâce à des méthodes novatrices et qui suscitent l'intérêt. Au Sultanat d'Oman, nous avons lancé de nombreuses initiatives dans ce domaine, tel le Sommet de la jeunesse de Mascate ou bien les voyages organisés par l'association « Connecting Cultures » qui ont débuté en 2007. L'évocation de la jeunesse nous conduit à mentionner les défis auxquels font face les jeunes, qui attestent qu'il est nécessaire de s'intéresser à cette catégorie de population et de prendre en compte ses opinions dans l'élaboration des politiques. L'Organisation a choisi judicieusement le thème du Forum des jeunes, qui s'est tenu il y a quelques jours (« Comment les jeunes conduisent le changement »), avec l'espoir qu'il suscite des vocations et des aspirations pacifiques qui puissent se concrétiser.

(18.3) Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, vu combien il est important d'accorder une attention toute particulière au patrimoine mondial matériel et immatériel, nous louons hautement les activités de l'UNESCO pour la sauvegarde de ce patrimoine humain, et ses efforts pour l'inscrire sur des listes uniques en leur genre qui permettent le suivi des objets et des arts du patrimoine culturel, mais aussi l'échange de compétences expertes entre pays membres aux fins de sa préservation. Nous exprimons ici notre fierté qu'un certain nombre de sites omanais se trouvent inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, et nous sommes également fiers de l'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial immatériel de la musique et de la danse *al-bar'a*, l'un des arts du patrimoine omanais. Le Sultanat est fier de ses créations artistiques, culturelles et folkloriques multiples et il est déterminé, à l'image de son gouvernement, à enseigner ces arts à sa population. Vous avez peut-être entendu parler de l'ouverture de l'Opéra du Sultanat le 14 octobre de cette année. Il se trouve à côté du Centre omanais de la musique traditionnelle, témoignage du goût artistique raffiné dont s'enorgueillit Oman et de sa foi en la communication sur un plan culturel et civilisationnel. S'agissant du patrimoine et de sa protection, permettez-moi de souligner la nécessité pour l'UNESCO de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour protéger la Mosquée el-Aqsa et pour assurer le suivi de la mise en œuvre des résolutions sur la protection des biens culturels et éducatifs en Palestine. Nous réaffirmons également notre soutien à la recommandation du Conseil exécutif concernant l'adhésion de la Palestine à l'Organisation.

(18.4) Monsieur le Président, en ce qui concerne l'engagement du Sultanat au sein du Partenariat international, et en réponse aux efforts internationaux consentis dans le cadre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation en vue du développement durable, le Ministère de l'éducation omanais a organisé, au début de cette année, la Conférence sur l'éducation pour le développement durable au service de la diversité culturelle et biologique, à laquelle ont participé de nombreux experts et universitaires à l'échelle mondiale, et que la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO a honorée de sa présence. Cette conférence a contribué à mettre en relief la stratégie du Sultanat et les efforts qu'il consent au titre de l'appui au développement durable et à la diversité culturelle.

(18.5) Mesdames, Messieurs, les problèmes environnementaux auxquels nous faisons face aujourd'hui – effet de serre, pollution, catastrophes naturelles, insuffisance des ressources aquatiques et changement climatique – comptent parmi les plus redoutables pour tous les pays du monde, ce qui nécessite une attention accrue de la part de l'UNESCO : il faut établir des centres de recherche et d'observation et fournir des experts et des bases de données, mais aussi harmoniser les lois et la réglementation applicables à l'utilisation de l'eau dans chaque région géographique, afin d'atténuer les conséquences de ces phénomènes dangereux et d'y trouver des remèdes efficaces. Le Sultanat d'Oman, comme beaucoup d'autres pays, déploie des efforts énergiques pour préserver un environnement équilibré et libre de ces dangers, protégé de ces menaces et dont les polluants soient absents. Il a établi un ministère de l'environnement et des affaires climatiques et il a instauré le Prix du Sultan Qabus pour la préservation de l'environnement sous le patronage de l'UNESCO, qui doit être décerné dans les prochains jours, à l'occasion de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de la science au service de la paix et du développement.

(18.6) Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la foi en cette Organisation et en son message va s'intensifiant et l'attachement à ses objectifs est une exigence fondamentale. L'horizon est dégagé pour que nous travaillions ensemble pour le progrès, le bien et la paix au bénéfice des générations actuelles et à venir. J'ai l'honneur, encore une fois, au nom de ma délégation, de réaffirmer notre adhésion aux nobles buts et objectifs de l'Organisation, et nous répondrons présents à tous les niveaux. Nous travaillerons dans un esprit d'ouverture, de positivité et de dialogue constructif. Que Dieu vous donne le succès. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now it is a great pleasure for me to give the floor to the Minister of Culture and Sport of Finland, His Excellency Mr Paavo Arhinmäki. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

20.1 **Mr Arhinmäki (Finland):**

Madam President, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, let me congratulate you, Madam President, on your election as President. We cordially thank the outgoing President, Mr Hepburn. Finland concurs with the statement to be made by Poland on behalf of the European Union. As a strong UNESCO supporter, Finland also expects a lot – in areas upon which so much of our well-being and societies depend and thrive: from building education for all (EFA) to advancing freedom of speech and the press. The human rights perspective is invaluable, as is gender equality. We are very encouraged by the Director-General's "reform to perform". Finland firmly supports the follow-up of the independent external evaluation. It will, through joint efforts, enhance relevance, credibility and visibility. We foresee sharpened systemic approaches, new policy mixes, more coherence and more concentration. It will make a difference for delivery and impact in the Member States, within the United Nations, and for the Medium-Term Strategy. In a world with tough economic times ahead, Finland thanks the Director-General for the effort embedded in the zero nominal growth programme. The still ambitious programme calls for innovative funding and a clear roadmap for strategic partnerships. We urge all Member States to pay their fees in full and on time. We welcome the increased focus on implementation and improvements made regarding prioritized allocations. Nevertheless, Finland and others have moved a resolution for increased allocations for EFA and freedom of expression and the press. We strongly support all work to improve the safety of journalists and put an end to impunity for their murders. In the programme, focus should be on the most vulnerable in the small island developing States (SIDS), as well as on gender equality and Africa as continued global priorities. Finland is happy with the proactive involvement in the United Nations inter-agency work, and hopes that the field network reform will spark off of a new momentum. We support and believe in the capacity and relevance of a number of institutes, such as the ones on statistics and educational planning. They are decisive for knowledge-based decision-making.

20.2 Madam President, we are here to determine the common interests to prevail over national priorities and to respond to the real concerns of people far from the Place de Fontenoy. Our strong common interest is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda, also beyond 2015. Despite the progress made, can we be satisfied? Finland thinks not. Recent movements in North Africa and the Middle East show that the objectives of development, democracy, human rights, security and good governance are interlinked. It is critical to create a future for and with young people. Everyone must be able to enjoy civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights. This must not be a time of frustration, dashed hopes and social exclusion. Youth must be empowered through inclusion, schooling and job creation. Despite efforts to uproot all forms of racism, intolerance has increased. Finland calls on UNESCO to work for global and human rights education, the most important pillars of the Culture of Peace Programme. All three dimensions of sustainable development must be respected: social, economic and ecological. If even one of these is missing, development cannot be sustainable. UNESCO can make a huge contribution through education for sustainable development (ESD) and institutional capacity-building for African higher education and science policies. The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is key. The role of culture and linguistic diversity is too often neglected. Education of women and girls is a top investment. Gender equality calls for bolder benchmarks and indicators. We must make full use of half of the world's intelligence. Let us turn our time into an era of opportunity for all. We all want, we all deserve, and we are all entitled to have our rights observed. Thank you.

21. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Higher Education of Cuba, His Excellency Mr Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez. The floor is yours, Sir.

22.1 **Sr. Díaz-Canel Bermúdez (Cuba):**

Señora Presidenta: la felicito por su elección para presidir los trabajos de la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO. Distinguidos delegados: el mundo vive indignado. Los pueblos se rebelan contra las injusticias y las promesas vacías. Se indignan por las frustraciones acumuladas y la ausencia de esperanzas. Se rebelan contra un sistema depredador que ya no puede seguir engañando con un falso rostro humano. Un sistema que continúa marginando a las mayorías excluidas, en beneficio de un puñado de privilegiados que lo tienen todo, que no repara en el rescate de banqueros corruptos que multiplican sus ganancias, mientras disminuyen los recursos para la educación, la salud o la creación de empleos.

22.2 La crisis del sistema capitalista es sistémica y multisectorial. Es crisis financiera, económica y social, y también ética. Los poderosos apuestan a la guerra como un recurso de su salvación. Se reparten el mundo impunemente y le encargan la tarea a la belicosa OTAN. Todavía no han terminado de destruir Libia y ya amenazan a Siria. ¿Quién de nosotros irá detrás? Son las guerras de un nuevo tipo con armas que se llaman "inteligentes" pero que matan y destruyen indiscriminadamente. Son guerras de conquista para apropiarse de los recursos energéticos y minerales con los cuales oxigenar sus voraces economías. Con la complicidad de sus emporios mediáticos, que actúan también como armas en el combate, pretenden convencernos del "cambio de régimen" y la "responsabilidad de proteger". Es la nueva filosofía enarbolada para el mismo objetivo de continuar explotándonos. La única ofensiva que no pueden librar sus armas ni sus voraces empresas, la única contienda legítima que no están dispuestos a emprender, es la necesaria contra el hambre, el analfabetismo, la incultura y la pobreza para, efectivamente, democratizar la democracia, proteger a los excluidos y cambiar el actual orden mundial.

22.3 Señora Presidenta: la UNESCO, que en su Constitución declaró: "puesto que las guerras nacen en la mente de los hombres, es en la mente de los hombres donde deben erigirse los baluartes de la paz", está llamada a desempeñar un papel de vanguardia en la incansable lucha por un mundo mejor, donde los seres humanos puedan vivir libres del

temor y la ignorancia. Es en la UNESCO donde deben levantarse las armas de la educación, la ciencia y la cultura para luchar por la paz y la comprensión mutuas, para que las bombas dejen de matar y mutilar a los seres humanos, para que no se destruyan las escuelas, ni los museos, para que la ciencia progrese en los laboratorios y la cultura enriquezca el mundo espiritual. Para que las generaciones presentes y futuras puedan disfrutar de la belleza única e irreplicable del planeta y sus más de 900 sitios del patrimonio mundial.

22.4 Para ello se necesita refundar la Organización y habrá que hacerlo con mayor prisa y decisión. La reforma en curso, que ha emprendido nuestra activa y enérgica Directora General, necesita llegar a los cimientos mismos de la institución. Debe ser profunda y radical. Debe reposicionar y hacer más visible nuestra acción. Debe salir de las oficinas burocráticas para llegar a la gente común y atender sus necesidades elementales, aquellas que tenemos por mandato. La educación tiene que ser la verdadera prioridad de prioridades, en el compromiso tanto político como financiero. Es inadmisibles que en el mundo existan casi 800 millones de analfabetos, de los cuales dos tercios son mujeres. Es inadmisibles que casi 70 millones de niños y niñas no tengan una escuela donde recibir la luz de la enseñanza.

22.5 Cuba, pobre y bloqueada, con su método de alfabetización "Yo sí puedo" ha logrado en poco tiempo y con escasos recursos, pero con enorme pasión solidaria, alfabetizar a 5.706.082 personas en 28 países de América Latina y el Caribe, África, Europa y Oceanía. Agradecemos a la Directora General su reconocimiento a la eficacia de este programa como método de cooperación Sur-Sur, así como su disposición reiterada de acoger las buenas prácticas en el ámbito de la educación.

22.6 Señora Presidenta: la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General debe dejar sentadas las pautas del cambio y del reposicionamiento de la UNESCO en el sistema multilateral. La Conferencia debe pronunciarse además, y esperamos lo haga de manera clara e inequívoca, respecto a un asunto de trascendental importancia: la admisión de Palestina como Estado Miembro de la UNESCO. No se trata de una opción. Resulta una obligación ética y moral ante la cruel y prolongada injusticia que sufre el pueblo palestino. Cuba desea reiterar su firme y decidido apoyo a la solicitud de Palestina, y espera que la decisión de su ingreso a la UNESCO contribuya a los objetivos de la paz y la universalidad que animan a nuestra organización.

22.7 No debo concluir mis palabras, sin reclamar y exigir en nombre del pueblo cubano la liberación de nuestros cinco héroes, cuatro de ellos injustamente prisioneros en cárceles del imperio y uno, René, cumpliendo una pena adicional de tres años falsamente denominada "libertad supervisada". Cuba, que sigue firmemente comprometida con la UNESCO y los valores que esta representa, confía en el liderazgo de la Directora General, para el fortalecimiento y refundación de la Organización. Muchas gracias

(22.1) **M. Díaz-Canel Bermúdez** (Cuba) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente, je vous félicite pour votre élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants, le monde est en train de s'indigner. Les peuples se révoltent contre les injustices et les promesses creuses. Ils s'indignent à force de frustrations accumulées et d'absence d'espoir. Ils se rebellent contre un système dévastateur qui ne peut continuer de tromper sous des traits faussement humains. Un système qui ne cesse de marginaliser une majorité d'exclus au profit d'une poignée de privilégiés qui ont tout, qui ne recule devant rien pour sauver des banquiers corrompus qui multiplient leurs gains, tandis que les ressources destinées à l'éducation, à la santé ou à la création d'emploi diminuent.

(22.2) La crise du système capitaliste est systémique et multisectorielle. Elle est financière, économique et sociale, mais aussi éthique. Les puissants misent sur la guerre comme moyen de salut. Ils se partagent impunément le monde et confient cette tâche à la belliqueuse OTAN. Ils n'ont pas encore achevé de détruire la Lybie que déjà ils menacent la Syrie. Qui sera le suivant ? Ce sont des guerres d'un nouveau genre, avec des armes que l'on dit « intelligentes » mais qui tuent et détruisent sans faire de distinction. Ce sont des guerres de conquête visant à s'approprier les ressources énergétiques et minérales qui permettront de satisfaire la voracité de leur économie. Avec la complicité de leurs empires médiatiques, qui sont aussi des armes dans cette bataille, ils prétendent nous convaincre de la nécessité d'un « changement de régime » et de la « responsabilité de protéger ». C'est la nouvelle philosophie, brandie dans le but même de continuer à nous exploiter. La seule offensive que ne peuvent mener leurs armes ni leurs entreprises voraces, la seule guerre légitime qu'ils ne sont pas disposés à engager, c'est la guerre nécessaire contre la faim, l'analphabétisme, l'inculture et la pauvreté pour véritablement démocratiser la démocratie, protéger les exclus et changer l'ordre mondial actuel.

(22.3) Madame la Présidente, l'UNESCO, dont l'Acte constitutif établit que « les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix », est appelée à jouer un rôle d'avant-garde dans la lutte inlassable pour un monde meilleur, où les êtres humains pourront vivre sans peur et à l'abri de l'ignorance. C'est au sein de l'UNESCO que doivent être levées les armes de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture, pour lutter en faveur de la paix et de la compréhension mutuelle, pour que les bombes cessent de tuer et mutiler les individus, pour que les écoles ne soient plus détruites, ni les musées, pour que la science prospère dans les laboratoires et que la culture vienne enrichir l'esprit. Afin que les générations actuelles et futures puissent jouir de la beauté unique et irremplaçable de la planète et de ses quelque 900 sites du patrimoine mondial.

(22.4) Pour cela, il est nécessaire de refonder l'Organisation et il faudra le faire plus rapidement et de manière plus résolue. La réforme en cours, à laquelle s'emploie notre énergique Directrice générale, doit atteindre le socle même de l'institution. Elle doit être profonde et radicale. Elle doit recentrer notre action et lui donner davantage de visibilité. Elle doit s'affranchir de la bureaucratie pour atteindre les individus et répondre à leurs besoins élémentaires, ces besoins qui relèvent de notre mandat. L'éducation doit véritablement être la priorité absolue, dans l'engagement tant politique que financier. Il est inadmissible que le monde compte près de 800 millions d'analphabètes, dont deux tiers de femmes. Il est inadmissible que près de 70 millions d'enfants ne disposent pas d'école où recevoir la lumière du savoir.

(22.5) Cuba, pauvre et victime d'un blocus, avec sa méthode d'alphabétisation « Yo sí puedo », a réussi en peu de temps et avec peu de moyens, mais avec une immense passion solidaire, à alphabétiser 5 706 082 personnes dans 28 pays d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, mais aussi d'Afrique, d'Europe et d'Océanie. Nous remercions la Directrice générale d'avoir reconnu l'efficacité de ce programme comme méthode de coopération Sud-Sud, et de toujours se montrer ouverte aux bonnes pratiques dans le domaine de l'éducation.

(22.6) Madame la Présidente, la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale doit fixer les grandes lignes du changement et du repositionnement de l'UNESCO au sein du système multilatéral. En outre, elle doit se prononcer, et nous espérons qu'elle le fera de manière claire et sans équivoque, sur un sujet d'une importance capitale : l'admission de la Palestine comme État membre de l'UNESCO. Ce n'est pas une option. C'est une obligation éthique et morale face à la cruelle injustice qu'endure le peuple palestinien. Cuba tient à réaffirmer son appui ferme et résolu à la demande de la Palestine et espère que la décision quant à son admission à l'UNESCO contribuera aux objectifs de paix et d'universalité qui animent notre Organisation.

(22.7) Je ne saurais conclure sans réclamer et exiger, au nom du peuple cubain, la libération de nos cinq héros, dont quatre sont injustement détenus dans des prisons de l'empire, et le cinquième, René, purge une peine supplémentaire de trois ans qualifiée de manière trompeuse de « liberté surveillée ». Cuba, qui reste résolument attachée à l'UNESCO et aux valeurs qu'elle représente, a toute confiance en la capacité de la Directrice générale de mener à bien le renforcement et la refonte de l'Organisation. Je vous remercie.

**23. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to ask the Minister of Basic Education, Secondary and Professional Education from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr Maker Mwangu Famba. The floor is yours.

**24.1 M. Mwangu Famba (République démocratique du Congo) :**

Madame la Présidente, félicitations pour votre élection et plein succès à votre mandat. La République démocratique du Congo se félicite de l'évolution de ses relations de coopération avec l'UNESCO, concrétisée par la visite officielle, à Kinshasa, de la Directrice générale, en janvier 2011. La réforme du système éducatif de la République démocratique du Congo est en cours depuis cinq ans. La stratégie de l'enseignement primaire, secondaire et professionnel, élaborée avec le concours technique de l'UNESCO, vise à améliorer l'accès, la qualité et la gestion de l'enseignement. Nous avons institué la gratuité de l'enseignement primaire selon une approche progressive, en commençant, en 2010, par les trois premières classes, avant d'étendre la mesure, cette année, à la classe de quatrième année. Nous avons enregistré un accroissement du taux d'inscription, ce qui a abouti à des effectifs élevés dans les classes et à des difficultés d'appui et d'encadrement pédagogiques. Plus d'un million d'enfants supplémentaires ont ainsi eu accès à l'enseignement primaire. Le gouvernement a augmenté la part du budget allouée au secteur de l'éducation en vue de rémunérer les enseignants supplémentaires et de couvrir les frais de fonctionnement des écoles et des bureaux gestionnaires.

24.2 Une nouvelle loi-cadre consacre l'allongement de l'éducation de base de 6 à 8 ans, le système LMD, le statut particulier de l'enseignant, l'introduction des langues nationales et des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication. Une étude est en cours pour définir le profil des quelque sept millions d'enfants et adolescents non scolarisés et assurer leur intégration sociale. Tous ces efforts doivent se poursuivre afin de relever les défis posés par l'accès, l'équité, la rétention, la qualité et la gestion du système éducatif congolais, en prenant en compte ces 15 millions d'élèves, ces 500 000 enseignants et ces 45 000 écoles. Tout ceci est possible car le Président de la République, M. Joseph Kabila, ainsi que toute la communauté nationale, ont fait de l'éducation une priorité. Les centres de formation des maîtres que nous construisons dans nos 11 provinces serviront, avec le concours de l'UNESCO, de centres pilotes qui partageront leur expérience avec les États engagés dans le même processus, afin que ces réformes produisent les effets escomptés.

24.3 En ce qui concerne le Programme et budget pour 2012-2013, le Congo approuve les réformes entamées par l'Organisation en vue de la coordination et du suivi en faveur de l'Afrique. Il souhaite que davantage d'actions à effets visibles soient menées afin d'apporter des réponses appropriées aux nombreux défis liés à la paix, à la démocratie, au développement et à la reconstruction que l'Afrique est appelée à relever. Notre pays remercie l'UNESCO de l'appui qu'elle lui a apporté pour accélérer les progrès vers la réalisation de l'EPT et compte encore sur son soutien pour la poursuite du processus de planification et de gestion des animateurs nationaux, provinciaux et locaux relatif à la production de statistiques. De même, la République démocratique du Congo s'efforce de finaliser la stratégie en vue de la promotion de l'alphabétisation et de l'éducation non formelle, l'accent étant mis en particulier sur les filles et les femmes, mais aussi tout autre groupe vulnérable. Soulignons que notre pays a remporté, en 2010, le Prix UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum récompensant des pratiques et des performances exemplaires pour améliorer l'efficacité des enseignants et, dernièrement, le Prix UNESCO-Confucius d'alphabétisation.

24.4 Dans le domaine des sciences exactes et naturelles, conscients du rôle majeur que jouent la science et la technologie au service du développement durable, de l'élimination de la pauvreté et de la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, nous venons d'organiser, avec l'appui de l'UNESCO, les états généraux de la recherche scientifique. Il nous reste à finaliser la politique scientifique nationale en vue de promouvoir la recherche et le développement et de garantir la sécurité humaine. Dans cet ordre d'idées, nous envisageons d'élaborer un annuaire national des indicateurs des STI pour promouvoir la recherche en faveur du développement durable de notre pays. Nous informons les États membres de l'engagement de notre pays à doter l'École Régionale post-universitaire d'Aménagement et de gestion intégrés des Forêts et Territoires tropicaux du statut de centre d'excellence de l'UNESCO, après son appropriation par les États bénéficiaires dans ses domaines de compétence.

24.5 Nous remercions aussi l'Organisation pour les efforts entrepris en vue de la promotion de la participation et de la contribution des femmes aux actions visant à relever les défis sociaux et éthiques et aux débats philosophiques au niveau international, notamment dans le cadre du Réseau international de femmes philosophes de l'UNESCO et du Centre régional de recherche et de documentation sur les femmes, le genre et la construction de la paix dans la région des Grands Lacs. Le Conseil d'administration de ce dernier s'est tenu à Kinshasa du 17 au 18 septembre dernier. Attentif à la bioéthique, le Comité national prend toujours une part active aux activités du Comité international de bioéthique. Notre population adhère à l'organisation d'activités de jeunesse en Afrique en vue de l'autonomisation des jeunes, de leur participation à l'élaboration des politiques et des programmes, de l'entreprenariat social et de l'intégration

régionale grâce aux réseaux de jeunes. Par ailleurs, nous organiserons prochainement une table ronde sur la sauvegarde, la protection, la promotion et la valorisation du patrimoine culturel, matériel et immatériel. Une chaîne des musées nationaux sera mise en place et il nous faut finaliser le processus d'inscription de nos biens culturels sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO et des inventaires du patrimoine culturel immatériel. La richesse culturelle de la République démocratique du Congo ne fait aucun doute.

24.6 En ce qui concerne le Secteur de la communication et de l'information, nous faisons nôtres toutes les préoccupations exprimées dans le Communiqué conjoint signé à l'occasion de la visite officielle de Madame la Directrice générale à Kinshasa, en janvier 2011. S'agissant des bureaux hors Siège, nous remercions l'UNESCO pour la mise en œuvre des programmes décentralisés et espérons qu'elle maintiendra son Bureau à Kinshasa, compte tenu de l'immensité du pays, de sa situation de post-conflit et des caractéristiques spécifiques à ce bureau. Nous renouvelons notre adhésion à l'action de l'UNESCO, appelée, aujourd'hui plus qu'hier, à relever les nombreux défis de notre monde. Il est aujourd'hui urgent d'élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes ; c'est une nécessité pour construire un monde nouveau basé sur des valeurs universellement partagées s'appuyant sur la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de toute l'humanité. Nous vous remercions.

## 25. The President:

Thank you very much. Now it is a great honour for me to ask the Minister of Culture of Lebanon, His Excellency Mr Gaby Layoun, to address the General Conference.

٢٦ السيد ليون (لبنان):

السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، أصحاب المعالي الوزراء رؤساء الوفود، حضرات السيدات والسادة، يسعدني أن استهل كلمتي بتوجيه التهئة إلى السيدة كاتالين بويغاي لانتخابها رئيسة للمؤتمر العام، وأن أعرب بداية عن مسلمة أكيدة وهي أن بلدي لبنان، العضو المؤسس في منظومة الأمم المتحدة والحاضن تاريخاً للتنوع بمختلف أشكاله، لا يسعه إلا أن يكون في مقدمة المعنيين بتجديد حلِّ إمكاناته، وبذل أقصى جهوده، استجابة لأهداف منظمة اليونسكو وغاياتها، والمعبر عنها في مؤتمرها هذا بالاستراتيجية المتوسطة الأجل ٢٠٠٨-٢٠١٣ والبرنامج والميزانية ٢٠١٢-٢٠١٣ وما يضعه من أولويات وبرامج وأولويات مشتركة بين القطاعات. كما يسعدني التنويه بأننا، وفي السير من أجل تحقيق أولويات اليونسكو على الصعيد الوطني، نرى جهوداً منتجة وواعدة للمجتمع اللبناني توظف في إطار التربية النوعية والإدماجية للجميع، وفي الاضطلاع بدور مشعل للتنوع الثقافي والديني، وفي توفير فضاء للتلاقي والحوار، كما السير بموجبيات مختلف اتفاقيات اليونسكو، وتفعيل وتطوير المركز الدولي لعلوم الإنسان في جبيل/Byblos، ليكون مواكباً لمختلف التحديات كما للتطورات الحاصلة راهناً في عالمنا العربي، بما يخدم تدعيم حرية التعبير والديمقراطية والتسامح والانفتاح. وإضافة إلى ما سبق، السعي إلى توجيه تكنولوجيا المعلومات نحو إرساء مجتمع المعرفة، وإغناء مختلف قطاعاته وتطويرها. كما الأخذ بالقيم والمعايير الأخلاقية في وضع استراتيجيات العلوم والتكنولوجيا. وكم يحرص لبنان على التنويه بما وفرته اليونسكو من كرم عناية عبر زيارة المديرية العامة السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا للبنان في عام ٢٠١٠، وعبر زيارات سابقة قامت بها بعثات مختلفة من مسؤولين رفيعي المستوى للوقوف على حاجات لبنان، وهو الذي تكبد الكثير من الخسائر في أعقاب الاعتداءات الإسرائيلية في عام ٢٠٠٦. وها هو لبنان يتطلع في هذا السياق إلى سير اليونسكو في تنفيذ ما أقره المجلس التنفيذي من برنامج مساعدة شاملة لإعادة الإعمار في مجالات عمل اليونسكو وحشد التمويل اللازم لذلك، لا سيما من مصادر خارجية عن الميزانية. وغني عن القول أن في اندفاع لبنان وسائر الدول الأعضاء إلى ترجمة غايات اليونسكو والأهداف لا تغيب عن بالنا التحديات المتلاحقة والمتعاضمة التي يشهدها العالم راهناً، والتي بات حلها يتمثل في أزمت مالية حادة أربكت حتى أكبر اقتصادات العالم وأوقعتها في أزمت بنوية مستعصية تمثلت، ضمن جملة أمور، في بطالة متفشية، ولا سيما في صفوف الجيل الشاب، وتراجع تلو آخر في معدلات النمو، وارتفاع كبير في أسعار المواد الغذائية الأساسية، وقفزات متتالية في أسعار الوقود المحرك للاقتصاد، وهذا كله من شأنه، إن لم نتداركه سريعاً، أن يعطل العمل بجهود تحقيق أهداف الأمم المتحدة الإنمائية للألفية الثالثة، وفي مقدمها القضاء على الفقر، والمساواة بين الجنسين، والحفاظ على البيئة، والتعامل مع التحديات والمخاطر الناشئة من جراء انتهاك متنام للبيئة والآثار المترتبة على الصحة العامة وسواها من مؤشرات التنمية الإنسانية. هي تحديات ندرك وإياكم مدى خطورتها، ولكننا من المؤمنين في الوقت عينه أن كثيراً ما تشكل التحديات فرصاً لابتداع الحلول؛ حلول نراها تتركز على: تعظيم التضامن الدولي، وإزالة أسباب التوتر والصراعات، وإقامة الحوكمة الدولية الرشيدة، ونشر العدالة العالمية، والعمل على تقارب الثقافات، ليس فقط عبر ما يجمع تلك الثقافات من تراث إنساني مشترك وقيم أسمى متداخلة، بل أيضاً عبر الحوار حول المختلف فيها واعتماد المقاربات المتنوعة بشأنا. إن ما سبق وطرحته المديرية العامة، في مطلع ولايتها منذ عامين، من التزام بنهج النزعة الإنسانية الجديدة داخل اليونسكو من شأنه أن يشع قوة فاعلة وقيماً مؤثرة في الإرادة الجمعية للدول الأعضاء، وأن يقدم إجابات لمسائل شائكة، وأن يشكل فضاءً رحباً لإحداث تغيير إيجابي يصب في جهود إصلاح أممي يلتمز في المقدمة: العمل بموجب حقوق الإنسان وصونها بعناصرها الفكرية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية والسياسية، من حيث هي حقوق متلازمة ومتكاملة تقضي إلى ديمقراطيات الشعوب واستقرارها. إن التطلع إلى إحداث تغيير إيجابي يتطلب منا التوسع في التأكيد على مبادئ اليونسكو ومنظومة قيمها وأدواتها المعيارية والتقنية في شتى المجالات.

٢٦،٢ حضرات السيدات والسادة، ختاماً، وفي إطار الاستشهاد بما جاء في نص الميثاق التأسيسي لمنظمة اليونسكو القائل إن السلم الثابت والمخلص الذي نسعى إليه، إنما يقوم "على أساس من التضامن الفكري والمعنوي بين بني البشر"، لا أحد ما أنهي به كلمتي خيراً من الدعوة دون إبطاء أو تأجيل إلى تحقيق المزيد من التضامن عبر قبولنا جميعاً انضمام فلسطين إلى اليونسكو دولة كاملة العضوية كما انضمامها إلى الاتفاقيات الثقافية الأربع الموقعة في إطار اليونسكو، لأن ثقافة السلام الحقيقي والراسخ لا تبني إلا على الحق، وشكراً لكم.

## (26) M. Layoun (Liban) traduit de l'arabe :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et messieurs les ministres et les chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de commencer mon intervention en félicitant Madame Katalin Bogyay pour son élection à la présidence de la Conférence générale, et je vais répéter une phrase maintes fois entendue : mon pays, le Liban, membre fondateur du système des Nations Unies et pépinière historique de la diversité sous toutes ses formes, ne peut qu'être à l'avant-garde de ceux qui investissent toutes leurs capacités et qui ne ménagent aucun effort pour répondre aux buts et aux objectifs de l'UNESCO, tels qu'énoncés dans la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013, ainsi que dans le Projet de programme et budget pour 2012-2013 et les priorités programmatiques et intersectorielles. J'ai également le plaisir d'annoncer que, dans notre progression vers la réalisation des priorités de l'UNESCO au niveau national, nous constatons qu'ont porté leurs fruits les efforts productifs et prometteurs de la société libanaise pour parvenir à une éducation de qualité et ouverte à tous, jouer un rôle catalyseur en faveur de la diversité culturelle et religieuse, ouvrir des espaces de rencontre et de dialogue, donner effet aux dispositions positives des diverses conventions de l'UNESCO, développer et dynamiser le Centre international des sciences de l'homme - Byblos (CISH) afin qu'il soit à la hauteur des divers défis faits nouveaux auxquels notre monde arabe doit s'adapter, défendre

la liberté d'expression, la démocratie, la tolérance et l'ouverture et, en outre, pour tenter d'utiliser l'informatique afin de consolider la société du savoir et développer et étendre ses divers secteurs. Il faut également prendre en compte les valeurs et les normes éthiques lors de l'élaboration de stratégies pour les sciences et la technologie. Le Liban apprécie beaucoup la grande attention que l'UNESCO lui accorde : sa Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, s'est rendue au Liban en 2010, et il avait reçu auparavant diverses missions et responsables de haut rang qui ont examiné les besoins du pays, victime de grandes pertes à la suite des agressions israéliennes perpétrées en 2006. Dans ce contexte, le Liban espère vivement que l'UNESCO mettra en œuvre le programme d'assistance globale pour la réhabilitation dans ses sphères de compétence, tel qu'approuvé par le Conseil exécutif, et mobilisera les fonds nécessaires à cet effet, en particulier les ressources extrabudgétaires. Il va sans dire que l'empressement du Liban et de tous les États membres à traduire les objectifs de l'UNESCO par des mesures concrètes est freiné par les défis successifs et croissants auxquels le monde fait face actuellement, dont la majorité sont le résultat des crises financières aiguës qui ont accablé même les plus grandes économies du monde, les acculant à des crises structurelles insurmontables – chômage endémique, surtout parmi les jeunes, récessions successives, taux de croissance en berne, forte hausse des prix des produits alimentaires de base, instabilité des prix des carburants, qui constituent le moteur de toute économie. Tout cela est susceptible, si nous n'y remédions pas rapidement, d'entraver les efforts déployés pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD), et plus particulièrement ceux qui concernent l'élimination de la pauvreté, l'égalité des sexes, la protection de l'environnement, les défis et les risques découlant des atteintes de plus en plus nombreuses à l'environnement et de leur impact sur la santé publique ainsi que sur d'autres indicateurs du développement humain. Ce sont des défis dont nous saisissons tous la gravité, mais nous croyons en même temps que les défis constituent souvent des possibilités offertes de trouver des solutions, des solutions qui passent par le renforcement de la solidarité internationale, l'élimination des causes de tensions et de conflits, l'établissement d'une gouvernance internationale rationnelle, la généralisation à l'échelle mondiale des principes de la justice, le rapprochement des cultures, non seulement par le truchement du patrimoine humain commun qui relie ces cultures entre elles et des valeurs onusiennes, interdépendantes, mais également par le dialogue au sujet de ce qui les sépare et la mise en œuvre de divers facteurs de rapprochement à cet égard. L'adoption d'un nouvel humanisme à l'UNESCO, que la Directrice générale a déjà proposée au début de son mandat il y a deux ans, serait susceptible d'insuffler une nouvelle vigueur et de faciliter la diffusion de valeurs inspiratrices dans l'optique de cette gestion collective par les États membres, d'offrir des réponses à des questions épineuses et d'ouvrir la voie à un changement positif qui débouche sur la réforme du système des Nations Unies. Il faut en priorité travailler dans le respect des droits de l'homme et les protéger, ainsi que leurs ramifications d'ordre intellectuel, social, économique et politique, en tant que droits cohérents et intégrés qui mènent à la démocratie et à la stabilité des peuples. L'aspiration à ce changement positif exige que nous nous appuyions encore davantage sur les principes de l'UNESCO et sur son système de valeurs, ainsi que sur ses instruments normatifs et techniques dans divers domaines.

(26.2) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, en conclusion, je voudrais citer l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, selon lequel la paix durable et sincère que nous recherchons « doit être établie sur le fondement de la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de l'humanité ». Je ne trouve pas mieux pour terminer mon intervention que de lancer un appel pour susciter, sans tarder, davantage de solidarité dans nos cœurs et faire de sorte que la Palestine puisse adhérer à l'UNESCO comme État membre de plein droit et qu'elle adhère également aux quatre conventions culturelles adoptées par l'UNESCO, car la véritable, authentique culture de la paix ne peut se bâtir que sur le droit. Merci beaucoup.

**27. The President:**

Thank you very much. Now it is a great honour for me to welcome the Minister of Education, Employment and Human Resources of the Seychelles, Her Excellency Ms Macsuzy Mondon. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

**28.1 Mme Mondon (Seychelles) :**

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais, au nom de mon pays, commencer par vous féliciter, Madame la Présidente, à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Les Seychelles ont toujours adhéré aux idéaux de l'Organisation. Nous avons œuvré à la promotion de sa vision et de sa stratégie. Dans cette logique, la République des Seychelles appuie les propositions de la Directrice générale en ce qui concerne l'ensemble des cinq grands programmes, telles que reflétées dans le document C/5. Au cours des trois dernières décennies, notre pays est parvenu à un niveau de vie et de développement social élevé, atteignant de ce fait la plupart des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Nous sommes désormais à un moment crucial, où nous nous efforçons de consolider nos acquis, tout en affrontant les défis qui pourraient les compromettre. Au nombre de ces défis figurent la piraterie maritime aussi bien qu'un environnement économique mondial très instable. Notre politique de l'éducation offre à tous les enfants seychellois un enseignement général gratuit du préscolaire au secondaire. La qualité de l'enseignement constitue cependant un défi, et notre programme de réforme, lancé en 2010, accorde une grande importance au suivi systématique et à l'évaluation de l'enseignement et de l'apprentissage. Un investissement considérable est consenti en faveur de la formation et du développement professionnel continu de nos enseignants.

*(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)*

28.2 Ladies and gentlemen, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) features among the main priorities of our education reform. We are grateful for the support given by UNESCO in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for the assessment and review of TVET in the SADC region and the development of a regional strategy for the revitalization of TVET. This is a good example of regional partnership. We consider TVET a key component in the preparation of our young people for the world of work. Through education we are ensuring that our young Seychellois become caring, informed and responsible citizens who show concern for the sustainability of our planet. Madam President, the development of a nation rests on the strength of its human resources. We aim, through the University of Seychelles, to satisfy our manpower needs in all sectors of our economy. We are also grateful to our partners who continue to provide scholarships to our students.

28.3 Culture and heritage are two of the pillars of our nation. This year the government is placing a special emphasis on developing cultural industries which will become catalysts in national development. We attach much importance to our intangible cultural heritage and we are taking all the necessary measures to protect and promote its unique aspect. For many years, Seychelles, as well as other small island developing States (SIDS), have been strongly advocating for the



special recognition of the vulnerabilities of SIDS. SIDS remain a top priority for our Government. The President of Seychelles is making a strong statement on SIDS at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting taking place now in Australia. SIDS must be empowered to play a fuller role in building a better world, and it is our duty in the UNESCO family to help them do so. In our experience, support provided by the international community has produced considerable results in helping SIDS surmount their vulnerabilities, but this support has fallen short of the mounting challenges that they face. Seychelles therefore encourages UNESCO to further strengthen its engagement with SIDS. We welcome the financial support to be given to the intersectoral platform for SIDS and we strongly urge UNESCO to reinforce in-house intersectoral cooperation in order to effectively implement the Mauritius Strategy.

28.4 We strongly support UNESCO's priority for Africa. We equally support the comprehensive reforms undertaken by UNESCO and it is our fervent wish that they contribute towards better delivery of programmes in Africa. They should also strengthen and empower National Commissions to give visibility to UNESCO programmes at country level. Seychelles also recognizes with gratitude the assistance provided to us by UNESCO. Over the years we have benefited from policy advice, capacity building and also support for the development of the Seychelles Creole language. We also appreciate the assistance given by the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) to the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ). I take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for its constant support for this project. Following the recommendation of the UNESCO World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) held last year in Moscow, Seychelles has launched its national framework for ECCE under the theme "Winning for Children – A shared commitment". This framework embodies our country's commitment to young children. It lays down our beliefs and values about children and early childhood and our common vision for a winning start in life for all Seychellois children. With UNESCO's assistance and expertise, we are formulating a science, technology and innovation policy. In this regard, a national centre for science, technology and innovation will be set up. Madam President, I would like to assure this gathering that the Government of Seychelles is committed to the principles, values and overarching objectives to which Member States have subscribed. I wish this conference great success. We are privileged to be a member of the UNESCO family. I thank you all for your kind attention.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I am very happy to welcome the Minister of Education, Culture, University and Youth Politics of San Marino, His Excellency Mr Romeo Morri. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

30.1 **M. Morri (Saint-Marin) :**

Madame la Présidente, je suis honoré d'être parmi vous et de participer, pour la deuxième fois, à cette assemblée dans laquelle toutes les voix de la planète sont à l'unisson pour développer des idées pour le futur. C'est le sens de notre participation : apporter notre contribution d'idées et exprimer notre approbation en faveur de l'œuvre complexe que l'UNESCO, soutenue par le monde entier, poursuit en s'appuyant sur son Acte constitutif. Nous sommes conscients que, malheureusement, le monde a profondément changé et que les ressources, par exemple, pour l'Afrique sont devenues dramatiquement insuffisantes et ce, malgré l'engagement de l'UNESCO et de ses États membres pour combattre l'avancée du désert, les catastrophes naturelles, les maladies et la cruelle explosion du nombre de conflits.

30.2 Madame la Directrice générale, nous savons que, dans plusieurs pays, les conditions de vie sont devenues insupportables ; les populations tournent les yeux vers nous, attendant des réponses humanitaires concrètes. La planète a plus que jamais besoin de l'appui de l'UNESCO et de la solidarité mondiale. Nous savons également que le monde est lié par un destin commun et que le dialogue entre les petits et les grands pays peut offrir des opportunités infinies pour rétablir le respect des droits humains. Il faut travailler ensemble, main dans la main, afin que cette Conférence générale, grâce à des objectifs communs, puisse marquer le début d'un nouvel humanisme. Un humanisme qui ne doit pas seulement inspirer les institutions et les gouvernements mais qui doit aussi naître de façon spontanée de la base et répondre à la demande de plus en plus pressante et consciente des peuples de vivre en liberté, soit dans l'éducation, soit dans le travail, qui sont des instruments indispensables au respect de tous les êtres humains.

30.3 En ce qui concerne la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation, des statistiques récentes diffusées par la Directrice générale sur l'objectif de l'alphabétisation montrent que le chemin à parcourir est encore long, mais il nous faut nous demander où nous serions sans la coopération internationale. Sans l'éducation, nul ne peut être protagoniste de son propre destin, et surtout pas les jeunes. Le processus de reconnaissance des titres de formation, que l'UNESCO a toujours encouragé à travers la coopération multilatérale, est aujourd'hui une importante réalité que nous, les responsables de la politique culturelle, promovons de plus en plus par le biais d'accords bilatéraux. Notre pays a lui-même emprunté ce chemin en signant des accords très importants afin de créer de nouvelles perspectives et de soutenir le développement de la formation à tous les niveaux, tant scolaire qu'universitaire. D'ailleurs, il ne faut pas oublier que nos sociétés ont besoin de forces créatrices qui puissent s'exprimer aussi par les arts, les métiers, l'artisanat, qui représentent des activités fondamentales pour le secteur du tourisme culturel et pour l'emploi.

30.4 Saint-Marin approuve les importantes initiatives que la Directrice générale met en œuvre de façon dynamique et prospective. Nous apprécions également les dispositions adoptées afin d'appuyer les programmes de promotion du dialogue entre les civilisations et les cultures et de la culture de la paix, programmes que nous avons soutenus lors de la 35<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Avant de conclure mon intervention, je tiens à rappeler que, le 7 juillet 2008, le Comité du patrimoine mondial a décidé d'inscrire Saint-Marin sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. La communication autour de cette reconnaissance a permis à la population, et surtout aux jeunes, de percevoir la valeur de l'UNESCO et de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de manière très forte. Grâce à l'aide admirable de leurs enseignants, nos étudiants ont beaucoup travaillé, et connaissent aujourd'hui très bien l'UNESCO, le sens de la sauvegarde d'un bien collectif et la valeur de l'identité d'un peuple. Pour un petit pays qui a toujours fondé son existence sur les principes de

liberté, de paix, de démocratie, il est fondamental de suivre son propre chemin dans le respect des objectifs de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

**31. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to ask the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Mr Isaak Stanislas Mudenge, to come to the floor. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

**32.1 Mr Mudenge (Zimbabwe):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Madam President, in congratulating you and wishing you success on your assumption of office as President of the 36th session of the General Conference, I also wish to express our appreciation for the work of your predecessor, Ambassador Davidson Hepburn of the Bahamas. Madam President, since the election of Ms Bokova as the first ever woman Director-General of UNESCO two years ago, we have witnessed very impressive progress in the implementation of gender equality policies in our Organization, not only in intergovernmental bodies but in the Secretariat as well. We encourage her to continue on this path of enlightenment as an example to other international organizations and to Member States.

32.2 The promotion of peace in the minds of men and women is UNESCO's primary vocation. International cooperation is its midwife. But peace stands gravely threatened amidst the current myriad of crises and tensions and the resort by some among us to violence and war under false pretexts. How can peace thrive when dialogue is spurned and war drums are beaten ostensibly in the name of peace and protecting lives? How can the values of peace, tolerance and mutual respect subsist when we are blatantly opportunistic and inconsistent in our messages? These dangerous and convulsive times that we are living in confirm the relevance of UNESCO's mandate and the urgency with which it should respond. It is in this context that we attach particular importance to the project on the Pedagogical Use of the *General History of Africa* as it seeks to transform and reorient the teaching of African history at all levels of the education system in Africa and throughout the world. This project, when successfully completed, will not only decolonize the history of our continent for the benefit of the ordinary non-specialist but also help to liberate others from any lingering baggage. We firmly believe that African citizens who are self-confident and conscious of the value of their contribution to human progress make for more productive national and global citizens. We are pleased that the Director-General shares our passion for this project and we appreciate her personal commitment to ensuring that adequate financial resources will be mobilized and made available for its full implementation. I assure her that UNESCO has committed partners in Africa and beyond in this project, a fact I personally witnessed at the first meeting of the Drafting Teams which my country was privileged to host from 5 to 8 September this year. That meeting has established a solid foundation for the technical and other aspects of this project. Its participants' efforts should not be put to waste. My delegation welcomes the initiative to strengthen the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme as a fitting complement to the objectives of the Pedagogical Use of the *General History of Africa* project. The Memory of the World Programme has special relevance in Africa, a continent rich in oral traditions and where large parts of the continent remain untouched by current information and communication technologies. The loss of that vast memory bank is a needless loss to the whole of humanity.

32.3 Madam President, while UNESCO's future existence is not in immediate question, we must raise the alarm over its future capacity to deliver on its mandate. UNESCO is in permanent reform while simultaneously it faces progressively diminishing financial resources. Unless we strike the right balance between these two trends, reforms and provision of adequate financial resources, a day is surely approaching when all that will remain is a skeleton, or even a distant shadow, of a once vibrant Organization. Even though my own country's financial contributions to UNESCO's regular budget may appear rather insignificant in nominal terms, in relative terms they represent a sacrifice and a commitment for a country that is burdened by European Union and United States illegal sanctions. We ask others to similarly accept the sacrifice and assume their responsibilities for the financial well-being of our shared Organization. It is a truism that UNESCO belongs to all its Members, in this case, the Member States. The fact that UNESCO has a wider family of associations and partnerships serves to accentuate rather than diminish its core membership. This core membership's sense of belonging to the Organization is critical to the latter's relevance and vitality. That sense of belonging is enhanced through, among other things, real consultations on key issues affecting the life of the Organization. The proposed reform of the Organization's field network is one such key existential issue. In this regard, my delegation expects that adequate consultations among all concerned regional countries will be undertaken on the location of the planned multisectoral regional offices. Madam President, finally, the vagaries of climate change are wreaking havoc in the economies of many countries and afflicting the livelihoods of many individuals across the globe. As early as the 1980s, UNESCO already had the foresight that this challenge needed sustainable solutions. It thus became the leading light in the area of renewable sources of energy, especially solar energy. We would like to see UNESCO once again take leadership in this field and, drawing on its vast expertise and experience, contribute to making this technology more accessible, at affordable cost, to developing countries. I thank you.

**33. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now it is a great pleasure for me to welcome the Minister of Education of Bahrain, His Excellency Mr Majid bin Ali Al Noaimi. The floor is yours.

٣٤٠١ السيد النعيمي (البحرين):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، أصحاب السعادة، رئيسة المؤتمر العام، رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، رؤساء الوفود، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. يسعدني ويشرفني أن أحيايكم باسم بلدي مملكة البحرين، وأن أنقل إلى مؤتمركم الموقر تقدير قيادة بلدنا العزيز لجهود المنظمة ولدورها الرائد في مجالات اختصاصاتها، وبناء أواصر الثقة والتعاون بين الدول الأعضاء. ويسرني أن أتقدم بالتحية والشكر إلى سعادة المديرية العامة السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا على جهودها المثمرة في دفع عجلة الإصلاح والتطوير لهذه المنظمة العريقة، ليشمل لكل قطاعات المنظمة. وأشكرها باسم بلدي على ما لقيناه منها

من تعاون صادق خلال العامين الماضيين في كافة المجالات، والشكر موصول لرئيسة المؤتمر العام، ورئيسة المجلس التنفيذي ولجميع أعضاء الأمانة الذين أسهموا في الإعداد الجيد لهذه الدورة، مرحباً بهذه المناسبة بالأعضاء الذين انضموا حديثاً إلى المنظمة.

٣٤،٢ إن مشروع البرنامج والميزانية للعامين القادمين يعكس بحق صورة واضحة للأولويات والأهداف الاستراتيجية للمنظمة، ولعل أكثر ما يثير الاهتمام في هذا البرنامج أنه يسعى إلى تعزيز تأثير المنظمة إلى أقصى حد ممكن على المستوى العالمي وتوسيع نطاق تأثيرها في بناء القيم المشتركة وتعزيز التعاون وتبادل الخبرات في مسائل التعليم للجميع، والأهداف الإنمائية والتنمية المستدامة، وقضايا الاتصال والمعلومات، وسد الفجوة الرقمية وتكافؤ الفرص. وأكد أن جميع هذه القضايا هي موضع الاهتمام والعناية والأولوية في خططنا الوطنية في بلدي مملكة البحرين، حيث نسعى إلى معالجتها في تعاون تام مع اليونسكو، إيماناً بدورها وخبراتها العالمية، واكتنفي هنا بالإشارة إلى بعضها: ففي مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال، فقد نجحت المملكة في تعميم التعليم الإلكتروني من خلال مشروع جلاله الملك حمد لمدارس المستقبل، الذي يهدف إلى الانتقال بنظام التعليم عندنا من النمط التقليدي إلى التعليم الإلكتروني، وهناك المركز الإقليمي لتكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال، وهو مركز من الفئة الثانية يعمل حالياً تحت رعاية اليونسكو، ويهدف إلى تطوير تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال واستخدامها في مجالات التربية والتنمية والاتصال.

٣٤،٣ وعلى المستوى الإقليمي، هنالك جائزة اليونسكو - الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة لاستخدام تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال في مجال التعليم، وهي الآن في عامها الخامس، وقد أصبحت موضع الاهتمام للباحثين والمختصين في مختلف أنحاء العالم. أما بشأن المناهج الدراسية في مرحلتي التعليم الأساسي والثانوي، فإن هدفنا الأول هو ترسيخ مفهوم وممارسة حقوق الإنسان والتربية للمواطنة، وترسيخ مفاهيم التسامح والعيش المشترك، والعمل جارٍ حالياً بالاستفادة من الخبرات الدولية في هذا المجال وخصوصاً مع منظمة اليونسكو ومع منظمات أخرى ذات علاقة بهذا الشأن المهم لغرس هذه المفاهيم لدى الأجيال الجديدة وترسيخها في نفوسهم. كما نسعى من وراء ذلك إلى معالجة الظواهر السلبية التي نتجت عن الأحداث المؤسفة التي شهدتها مملكة البحرين، والتي تم من خلالها استغلال المؤسسات التعليمية والأطفال في بلدي لغايات سياسية، خروجاً عن القيم والأعراف والقوانين التي تُحرم مثل هذا العمل، وتدين استخدام المدارس والمؤسسات التعليمية لتلك الغايات التي ينتج عنها زرع الكراهية وتعارض مع حقوق الطفل في الحصول على الخدمات التعليمية في بيئة آمنة. وقد بدأنا في تنفيذ برنامج تربوي متكامل لمعالجة تلك الآثار.

٣٤،٤ السيدة الرئيسة، إننا في مملكة البحرين نسعى إلى تعزيز قيم التسامح التي هي جزء أساسي من أهداف هذه المنظمة، والله الحمد فقد تمكنت البحرين من تحقيق نتائج طيبة في التعليم للجميع، حيث أصبحت الآن من الدول ذات الأداء العالي، ونعمل حالياً ضمن مبادرات المشروع الوطني لتطوير التعليم والتدريب وبالتعاون مع بيوت الخبرة العالمية والمنظمات المختصة، وفي مقدمتها اليونسكو، على تطوير وتحديث التعليم في مختلف مراحله والارتقاء به كماً ونوعاً لتكون البحرين بإذن الله تعالى، كما كانت دائماً، من الدول التي تعمل على أن يكون التعليم مثل الماء والهواء حقاً يتمتع به الجميع دون تمييز. أتمنى لمؤتمركم النجاح والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(34.1) **M. Al Noaimi (Bahreïn) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous. J'ai le plaisir et l'honneur de vous saluer au nom de mon pays, le Royaume de Bahreïn, et de transmettre à votre Conférence estimée la reconnaissance des dirigeants de notre cher pays pour les efforts de l'Organisation et le rôle d'éclaireur qu'elle joue dans ses domaines de compétence, ainsi que pour les liens de confiance et de coopération qu'elle a tissés entre les pays membres. J'ai également le plaisir d'exprimer notre reconnaissance et nos remerciements à Madame la Directrice générale, Irina Bokova, pour ses efforts fructueux qui ont dynamisé la réforme et le développement de cette vénérable Organisation, dans tous ses secteurs. Je la remercie au nom de mon pays pour sa sincère coopération au cours du dernier exercice biennal dans tous les domaines. Des remerciements sont également dus à la Présidente de la Conférence générale, à la Présidente du Conseil exécutif et à tous les membres du Secrétariat, qui ont participé à la préparation de la présente session, et à cette occasion je salue tous les nouveaux membres de l'Organisation.

(34.2) Le Projet de programme et budget pour les deux ans à venir reflète clairement les priorités et les objectifs de la Stratégie de l'Organisation. Ce qui retient le plus l'attention dans ce Projet de programme et budget, c'est la volonté qui y transparait de renforcer l'impact de l'Organisation autant que faire se peut et d'élargir son influence aux titres de l'édification de valeurs communes, du renforcement de la coopération et de l'échange de connaissances et de compétences en ce qui concerne l'éducation pour tous (EPT), les objectifs de développement, le développement durable, les questions de communication et d'information, la réduction du fossé numérique, et l'égalité des chances. Je réaffirme que toutes ces questions doivent recevoir toute notre attention et constituer des priorités des plans de portée nationale élaborés dans mon pays, le Royaume de Bahreïn. Nous nous efforçons de les traiter en pleine coopération avec l'UNESCO, ayant foi en sa palette de compétences de pointe à l'échelle mondiale. Je me permettrai de citer quelques exemples : dans le domaine de la technologie de l'information et de la communication, le Bahreïn a réussi à généraliser l'enseignement électronique grâce à un projet exécuté à l'initiative de Sa Majesté le Roi Hamad pour les écoles de l'avenir, ayant pour but le passage, dans le système scolaire, du modèle traditionnel à l'enseignement électronique. Nous sommes dotés du Centre régional pour les technologies de l'information et de la communication, un centre de catégorie 2 qui fonctionne actuellement sous les auspices de l'UNESCO et qui travaille au développement de l'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication dans les domaines de l'éducation, du développement et de la communication.

(34.3) Au niveau régional, le Prix UNESCO-Roi Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa pour l'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication dans l'éducation, qui en est à sa cinquième édition, a attiré l'attention de chercheurs spécialisés dans diverses parties du monde. Quant aux programmes scolaires des cycles primaire et secondaire, nos premiers objectifs sont d'y introduire les concepts de l'exercice des droits de l'homme et de l'éducation à la citoyenneté et d'inculquer les concepts de la tolérance et du vivre ensemble. Des efforts sont actuellement déployés pour puiser dans les compétences existantes à l'échelle internationale, en particulier au sein de l'UNESCO et d'autres organisations compétentes dans ce domaine important, afin d'inculquer ces concepts aux jeunes générations et de les fixer dans leurs esprits. Nous nous efforçons également de traiter les phénomènes négatifs découlant des évènements regrettables qui se sont déroulés au Bahreïn, lorsque d'aucuns ont utilisé les institutions éducatives et les élèves de mon pays à des fins politiques, contrairement aux principes, aux coutumes et aux lois en vigueur, qui interdisent de telles pratiques et condamnent l'utilisation des écoles et des institutions scolaires à de telles fins, qui ne peuvent que semer la haine et qui sont d'ailleurs contraires aux droits de l'enfant de recevoir des services éducatifs dans un environnement calme et sûr. Nous avons commencé à mettre en œuvre un programme éducatif intégré visant à combattre ces effets.

(34.4) Madame la Présidente, au Royaume de Bahreïn, nous tentons de renforcer les valeurs de la tolérance, qui constituent une partie fondamentale des objectifs de cette Organisation. Grâce à Dieu, Bahreïn a pu obtenir de bons résultats en ce qui concerne l'EPT, puisqu'il figure actuellement parmi les pays à haute performance dans ce domaine. Nous travaillons maintenant dans le cadre des initiatives du programme national pour le développement de l'enseignement et de la formation, en coopération avec les maisons mondiales du savoir et les organisations compétentes, en premier lieu l'UNESCO, afin de développer et de rénover l'éducation dans ses divers cycles, et de la faire progresser tant sur le plan quantitatif que sur le plan qualitatif, pour que Bahreïn, avec l'aide de Dieu, puisse être, comme il l'a toujours été, un pays qui œuvre pour garantir que l'éducation soit comme l'eau ou l'air libre, un droit dont tous jouissent sans distinction. Je souhaite tout le succès possible à votre Conférence. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soit sur vous.

**35. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now it is a great honour for me to welcome the Minister for Children and Education of Denmark, Her Excellency Ms Christine Antorini. The floor is yours.

**36.1 Ms Antorini (Denmark):**

Thank you. Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election to the high office of President of the 36th session of the General Conference. We meet in a time of major global changes. People all over the world want to participate in building up democratic societies and youth expect to be heard. Freedom of expression is no longer just inscribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also, as all evidence shows, a right to be exercised and indeed a precondition for development in a society. Education is the driver of change. Therefore, education for all (EFA) really should embrace people of all ages and countries. UNESCO has worked diligently to make progress in this field but there is still much to be done for all children and adults to be given the possibility to achieve quality education and for UNESCO to meet the 2015 targets. We congratulate the Director-General on the initiative taken in May of this year on global partnership for girls and women's education. Investing in girls' and women's education has real potential for breaking the poverty cycle and achieving social justice. Education should be viewed in a holistic perspective. Research confirms that early childhood care and education is a cornerstone of good and successful education and learning throughout life. The Danish Government has taken that statement seriously by establishing a Ministry for Children and Education of which I am proud to be in charge. Education and science have the highest priority in Denmark. We will establish an integrated system for education, research and innovation and look forward to working with UNESCO on this important agenda. We face a number of challenges, climate change being one of the most serious. The cost of inaction – in ecological, human and financial terms – exceeds by far the cost of action now. Climate change affects us all, but it does not affect us all equally. That is why we have an ethical obligation to right this injustice. The Danish Government has big ambitions as to the reduction of greenhouse gases and the development of sustainable energy and will work actively to reach a binding climate agreement at the international level. UNESCO has a mandate as lead agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development to enhance cooperation within this field. UNESCO should therefore strengthen its focus on scientific cooperation, climate change education and sustainable development. Denmark attaches great importance to the normative role of UNESCO, not least within the cultural field. A number of conventions set the agenda at a global level, not least the World Heritage Convention of 1972, which next year celebrates its 40th anniversary. These have been 40 years of constructive efforts to protect world heritage for the benefit of humankind, entailing a number of challenges too. However, we should continue to strive to maintain the esteem of this precious Convention. Denmark places great emphasis on consensus and on the inclusion of all viewpoints concerning efforts to protect world heritage. We would be happy to share our positive experiences within the framework of the World Heritage Committee.

36.2 Ms Director-General, this General Conference marks not only the first half of your mandate, but also Denmark's first half as a Member of the Executive Board. We are very satisfied with the progress we have accomplished together so far. The visibility of UNESCO on the international scene and in the United Nations family has been remarkably improved. The new programme and budget frame has given us a set of fine tools for revitalizing UNESCO. The many initiatives following the independent external evaluation confirmed your and the Board's willingness and ability to keep UNESCO on the right track. However, we still have a long and winding road to go to reach our final goals, to ensure high standards and impact in all our activities.

36.3 Ms Director-General, we hope that this General Conference will give you a clear mandate to further sharpen the focus and priorities of our future work. I am proud that Denmark was among the founding fathers of UNESCO back in the 1940s. Together with many of you we have worked seriously to promote the vision of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity, to build peace in the minds of men and women. I promise you that I will do my best to continue working in that spirit. Thank you, Madam President.

**37. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to invite the Minister of Basic and Secondary Education of Gambia, Her Excellency Ms Fatou Lamin Faye, to the floor. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

**38.1 Ms Faye (Gambia):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Your Excellencies, all other protocols duly observed, I wish to seize this opportunity, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf to first and foremost congratulate the new President of the General Conference, Ambassador Katalin Bogyay of Hungary, on her election. I am confident that she will diligently steer the affairs of the General Conference with professionalism and commitment. In the same vein, I wish to thank the outgoing President from the Bahamas for his able stewardship over the last two years. I wish him a bright future. Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, as we meet once again in this friendly atmosphere, I wish to convey His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Gambia's deep gratitude to both UNESCO and ISESCO for supporting his initiative to explore the possibility of establishing a science park at the University of The Gambia. May I

also convey, on behalf of my delegation, an account of impressive strides that have been made in the education, science, culture and communication domains over the past two years. In the area of basic and secondary education, the Ministry completed, with support from the IIEP-UNESCO Pôle de Dakar and the World Bank, its 2010 Country Status Report, a rigorous analysis of the system that highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the education system with proposed measures to remedy problems of quality, relevance and access. This has led to the launching of a Masters Degree in Education Sector Analysis and Management at the University of The Gambia (UTG), in collaboration with the IIEP-UNESCO Pôle de Dakar with a view to building national and regional capacities. Furthermore, the 2004-2015 education policy is undergoing a mid-term review and revision through a participatory approach from planning to validation. This is accompanied by a review and revision of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (2006-2015) which works out the operational details of the revised education policy. With regard to higher education, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology is also engaged in the development of a comprehensive policy on higher education, the process of which has already produced a roadmap with visible direction, purpose and priorities with consultative arrangements leading to the final write-up of the policy by April 2012. In accordance with the policy of developing the nucleus for an enduring and sustainable higher education system in the country, the sector continues to be preoccupied with the gradual integration of tertiary institutions into the University of The Gambia, the outcome of which will be a seamless system of higher education in the Gambia.

38.2 For the culture sector, the promotion of our cultural heritage and intercultural dialogue attracts the keen interest of the Government and people of the Gambia under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Gambia. In February 2011, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture organized the 10th International Roots Homecoming Festival that attracted people from the West African subregion and the diaspora. In May 2011, families from Senegal and the Gambia, bearing the surnames of Badjan, Bojang and Manga, organized a cultural festival in Foni in order to trace their common roots and produce a book on their heritage. In the information and communication domain, a positive development for the sector was the meeting convened by His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Gambia with media chiefs aimed at redefining their relationship with the Government. The outcome of this interface provided a reassuring frame of cooperation predicated on the principles and ideals of professionalism. On the development of communication infrastructure, the World Bank-supported West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme and the Islamic Development Bank-funded ECOWAS Wide Area Network (ECOWAN) project have been initiated to provide a wider broadband capacity and regional connectivity for the country. This will invariably facilitate the use of information and communication technologies. I am elated to report that four mobile phone companies have already been granted third generation (3G) licences to facilitate communication and information-sharing as well as nudge the use of ICT applications in education.

38.3 Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we do recognize the crucial role of the National Commission in our relationship with UNESCO. Hence, we have injected additional financial resources in order to facilitate the recruitment of highly qualified and motivated staff to enable them to work effectively with relevant institutions. The majority of the staff have been supported in their capacity-building aspirations in order to set them on the path for a mutually beneficial relationship with our partner organizations. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our deep commitment to building bridges and collaboration at both the national and international levels, the results of which have already been a cause for celebration. It is for this reason that I pay tribute on behalf of the Government and people of the Gambia to the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Education (formerly EFA/FTI), the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNESCO, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and civil society organizations such as the Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA) and the Gambia Teachers' Union (GTU) for their meaningful partnership in the execution of our national development agenda. Their contribution has indeed made a significant impact on the lives of many Gambians. I thank you all for your kind attention.

### 39. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now it is a great honour for me to welcome the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt, His Excellency Mr Moataz Khorshed. The floor is yours.

٤٠١ السيد خورشيد (مصر):

أصحاب السعادة، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدات والسادة، معالي الوزراء ورؤساء الوفود وممثلي الدول الأعضاء. اسمحوا لي أن أستهل كلمتي بأن أتقدم بخالص التهنية إلى سعادة السفارة كثالين بوغياي لانتخابها رئيسة للدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو، كما أتقدم بشكري وامتناني العميق إلى السيد ديفيدسون هيبورن رئيس المؤتمر العام خلال الدورة السابقة على جهوده المتميزة، كما أود، باسم المجموعة العربية، أن أتوجه بالشكر إلى السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا وأعضاء أمانة المنظمة على ما يقومون به من جهد من أجل تعزيز دور اليونسكو وتطوير أسلوب العمل بها وإعادة هيكلة أنشطتها وتحقيق أهدافها الإنمائية.

٤٠٢ سيدتي الرئيسة، أصحاب السعادة أعضاء المؤتمر، أقدم لكم اليوم كلمة مصر، التي تمر بمرحلة فاصلة وتشهد أحداثاً غير مسبوقة في تاريخها الحديث، فقد اندلعت ثورة الغضب المصرية للاعتراض على الأوضاع الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والسياسية السائدة، وطلباً للتغيير نحو نظام أكثر ديمقراطية وعدالة، كما أظهرت هذه الثورة قدرة الشعب المصري على التغيير بأسلوب سلمي، وأن الجيش هو قوته المساندة وليس أداة لقمعه. ويأتي أيضاً لقاءنا اليوم في وقت يشوبه توتر كبير على الساحة الدولية، ويشهد تغيرات سريعة ومتعاقبة، وتحديات اقتصادية غير مسبوقة وتنامياً لظاهرة الفقر والتهمة، خاصة في أوساط الشباب، وانتشاراً للعنف والتعصب والتطرف، وكل ذلك يدفعنا إلى تأكيد حاجة الدول جميعاً إلى تعزيز منهجية العمل المتعدد الأطراف ويؤكد على ضرورة مراجعة رسالة اليونسكو أكثر من أي وقت مضى. ومن هنا فإن مصر تقترح، عند إعداد الخطة المتوسطة الأجل واعتماد البرنامج والميزانية، أن تراعى النقاط التالية: أولاً، ينبغي أن نلجأ في اليوم في بناء ثقافة حقيقية للمشاركة تتضمن حكومات وشرائح المجتمع المدني ومنظمات غير الحكومية الإقليمية والدولية، كما يجب علينا في نفس الوقت أن نتخذ من الشفافية والمساءلة والحكمة الرشيدة منهاجاً إذا أردنا لعملائنا المتعدد الأطراف وبرامجنا المشتركة الوصول إلى غايتها. ثانياً، أن تخصص منظمة اليونسكو أحد محاور عملها لمساعدة الدول في إعداد استراتيجياتها التنموية وخططها المستقبلية من أجل توجيه مزيد من الاهتمام إلى البرامج

والمشروعات التي تهدف إلى تحقيق العدالة الاجتماعية والحد من الفقر، ودعم محدودي الدخل والارتقاء بمستوى الرفاهية لمواطنيها. ثالثاً، في إطار الثورة المعرفية العالمية يتعين على المنظمة أن تسعى إلى تقليل الفجوة المعرفية بين الشمال والجنوب، والعمل على إزالة المعوقات التي تعترض إتاحة المعرفة، إذ إن ذلك يمثل أحد متطلبات الاستقرار السياسي والتنمية المستدامة. رابعاً، ترى مصر ضرورة تطوير عمل المنظمة لوضع المعايير والتدابير الخاصة للحد من المخاطر الطبيعية والتأهب للكوارث. وهنا أود أن أتوجه بخالص تعازينا لأسر الضحايا في دول جنوب آسيا وتركيا. خامساً، برغم تأكيد البرنامج المقترح على التركيز بقوة على إدارة المعرفة كأساس للتخطيط وصياغة البرامج، فإن مصر ترى إضافة مجال جديد إلى مشروع الوثيقة ٥/٣٦/٥ يسعى إلى دعم الدول النامية في استخدام العلم والتكنولوجيا لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة، كأساس لتعزيز حقوق الإنسان والارتقاء بمستويات رفاهيته.

٤٠،٣ سيدتي الرئيسة، إن مصر تؤيد وتدعم التوجه الراهن إلى ممارسة الاستشراق واستباق الأحداث والإعداد لها ليمثل ركيزة العمل المستقبلي لليونسكو، من خلال استخدام المعرفة والتجربة وأساليب التنبؤ بحيث يصبح للمنظمة دور رائد في تغيير منظومة العمل العالمي. ومن المؤكد أن تمكين الأجيال الناشئة من الحصول على تعليم يهدف إلى تطوير وتعزيز قدراتها على التحليل والابتكار والإمساك بناصية المعارف الحديثة، يمثل تحدياً إضافياً لمنظمة اليونسكو من أجل السعي إلى تحقيق حلم الغد في التنمية والإصلاح.

٤٠،٤ سيدتي الرئيسة، أصحاب السعادة، إن حقوق الشعب الفلسطيني تمثل مطلباً مصرياً وعربياً ودولياً يتعين دعمه وتأكيدده. أكرر أن حقوق الشعب الفلسطيني تمثل مطلباً مصرياً وعربياً ودولياً يتعين دعمه وتأكيدده، إذ يُعد الاعتراف بدولة فلسطين من الأسس الرئيسية التي تستند إليها قرارات الأمم المتحدة ذات الصلة، بما يشمل مبدأ حل الدولتين، ومن هنا فإن الاعتراف بدولة فلسطين لا يمثل بديلاً عن المفاوضات بل إنه يساهم في إمكانية التوصل إلى سلام دائم قائم على الشرعية الدولية.

٤٠،٥ وختاماً، سيدتي الرئيسة، إن شباب مصر الذي اقتحم التاريخ بالمليين في ٢٥ كانون الثاني/يناير الماضي من أجل تحقيق مطالبه في الحرية والديمقراطية والعدالة الاجتماعية، يؤكد عزيمة الشعب المصري على تخطي تحديات المرحلة الانتقالية، وبناء دولة حديثة تعتمد على الثورة المعرفية في الألفية الثالثة، وتتعلم بالاستقرار والأمن في إطار من التعايش السلمي والتسامح الديني من أجل الارتقاء بمستوى معيشة أبنائها وتحقيق التنمية المستدامة. فمصر كانت نبراساً اهتدت به البشرية، ومنذ بدء التاريخ شهدت مصر بزوغ فجر الحضارة الإنسانية ونبع العلوم والفنون والثقافات. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(40.1) **M. Khorshed (Égypte) traduit de l'arabe :**

Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, les chefs de délégation et les représentants des États membres, permettez-moi de commencer mon intervention en félicitant sincèrement Son Excellence l'Ambassadrice Katalin Bogay pour son élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. J'exprime également mes remerciements et ma profonde appréciation à Monsieur Davidson Hepburn, Président de la Conférence générale à la session précédente, pour ses efforts remarquables. Au nom du groupe des États arabes, j'aimerais remercier Madame Irina Bokova et les membres du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des efforts qu'ils déploient pour renforcer le rôle de l'UNESCO, améliorer ses méthodes de travail, restructurer ses activités et atteindre les objectifs fixés par l'Organisation en matière de développement.

(40.2) Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous présente aujourd'hui l'intervention de l'Égypte, qui traverse une étape décisive et qui vit des événements sans précédent dans son histoire récente. La révolution de la colère égyptienne s'est déclarée pour protester contre les conditions sociales, économiques et politiques qui prévalaient et pour demander le changement, à savoir l'avènement d'un régime plus démocratique et plus juste. Cette révolution a démontré que le peuple égyptien savait engager le changement de façon pacifique et que l'Armée était un soutien fort, pas un instrument d'oppression. Nous sommes réunis aujourd'hui à un moment d'extrême tension sur la scène internationale, où l'on observe des changements rapides et successifs et des défis économiques sans précédent, ainsi qu'une aggravation des phénomènes de la pauvreté et de la marginalisation, particulièrement parmi la jeunesse, ainsi que de la violence, du fanatisme et de l'extrémisme. Tout cela nous pousse à souligner la nécessité pour tous les pays de renforcer le multilatéralisme et à réaffirmer le message de l'UNESCO, plus que jamais. Sur cette base, l'Égypte propose que, lors de la préparation de la Stratégie à moyen terme et de l'adoption du Programme et budget, on prenne en compte les points suivants : 1) Il nous faut commencer dès aujourd'hui à construire une véritable culture de participation qui inclue et les gouvernements et les couches de la société civile, ainsi que les organisations non gouvernementales régionales et internationales, et en même temps que nous adoptions la transparence, la responsabilité redimensionnée et la bonne gouvernance comme méthodes si nous voulons que notre travail multilatéral et nos programmes conjoints atteignent leurs objectifs ; 2) L'UNESCO doit consacrer une partie de son action à aider les pays à préparer leurs stratégies de développement et leurs plans pour l'avenir afin qu'ils prêtent davantage d'attention aux programmes et aux projets destinés à réaliser la justice sociale, à réduire la pauvreté, à soutenir les personnes aux revenus restreints, et à améliorer le niveau de bien-être des citoyens ; 3) Dans le cadre de la révolution mondiale des connaissances, l'Organisation doit tenter de réduire l'écart des connaissances entre le Nord et le Sud et d'éliminer les obstacles à la dissémination des connaissances, puisque c'est une des conditions de la stabilité politique et du développement durable ; 4) L'Égypte croit que l'Organisation devrait élaborer davantage de normes et de mesures visant à réduire les risques naturels et à améliorer la préparation aux catastrophes. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour présenter nos condoléances aux familles des victimes dans les pays d'Asie du sud et en Turquie ; 5) En dépit de l'accent mis dans le Projet de programme et budget sur la gestion des connaissances comme base pour la planification et la formulation du Programme et budget, l'Égypte voudrait faire ajouter un nouvel élément au document 36 C/5, à savoir l'octroi d'un appui aux pays en voie de développement pour les aider à utiliser la science et la technologie aux fins du développement durable, première étape vers l'amélioration du respect des droits de l'homme et du niveau de bien-être des populations.

(40.3) Madame la Présidente, l'Égypte soutient la tendance actuelle qui consiste à pratiquer la prospective afin de prévenir les événements et de s'y préparer, car c'est un pilier de l'action de l'UNESCO, orientée vers l'avenir. Il s'agit d'appliquer les connaissances et les données d'expérience dont on dispose à diverses méthodes permettant d'établir des prévisions. L'Organisation peut ainsi jouer un rôle de premier plan en poussant à modifier le système d'action de la communauté internationale. Il est certain que le fait de permettre aux jeunes générations d'accéder à une éducation axée sur le développement et le renforcement des capacités d'analyse et d'innovation, qui les amène à acquérir des connaissances « de pointe », représente un défi supplémentaire pour l'UNESCO, mais qui peut nous amener à réaliser notre rêve, à savoir le développement et la réforme.

(40.4) Madame la Présidente, Excellences, le respect des droits du peuple palestinien est demandé par l'Égypte, le Monde arabe et la communauté internationale, et cette demande doit être soutenue et réitérée. Je répète que les droits du peuple palestinien sont une demande égyptienne, arabe et internationale qui doit être soutenue et réitérée, car la reconnaissance de

l'État de Palestine est l'une des premières bases sur lesquelles reposent les résolutions pertinentes des Nations Unies, en même temps que le principe de la solution à deux États. Par conséquent, la reconnaissance de l'État de Palestine n'est pas une solution de substitution aux négociations ; plutôt, elle contribue à la réalisation d'une paix durable ancrée dans le droit international.

(40.5) En conclusion, Madame la Présidente, la jeunesse d'Égypte, qui a investi l'histoire par millions le 25 janvier dernier afin de satisfaire ses demandes de liberté, de démocratie et de justice sociale, exprime la détermination du peuple égyptien à dépasser les défis de l'étape de transition pour bâtir un État moderne fondé sur la révolution des connaissances au troisième millénaire et pourvu de stabilité et sécurité dans le cadre de la coexistence pacifique et de la tolérance religieuse, afin de rehausser le niveau de vie de ses concitoyens et de parvenir au développement durable. L'Égypte était un modèle imité par l'humanité. Depuis le début de l'histoire, l'Égypte a vu les premiers rayons de l'aube de la civilisation humaine et l'émergence des sciences, des arts et des cultures. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

#### 41. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now it is a great honour for me to invite to the stage the Minister of Education of Qatar, His Excellency Mr Saad bin Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud. The floor is yours, Excellency.

٤٢،١ السيد آل محمود (قطر):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب السعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، يسعدني أن أضمم صوتي إلى من سبقني بالتهنئة للسيدة كاتالين بوغياي لانخباها رئيسة للمؤتمر متمنياً لها التوفيق والنجاح. كما أتوجه بالشكر إلى السيد دافيدسون هيبورن على حسن رئاسته للدورة الخامسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام. كما أشكر المديرية العامة لليونسكو على جهودها الدؤوبة وكذلك أعضاء الأمانة والعاملين في المنظمة على جهودهم في حسن الإعداد لهذا المؤتمر.

٤٢،٢ الحضور الكريم، لقد أضحى اليوم جلياً أنّ قضية التعليم من أعظم التحديات التي تواجه الأمم والشعوب وخير دليل على ذلك التقارير الصادرة عن اليونسكو حول نسب الأمية في العالم، وخاصة بين النساء والأطفال. ولقد أدركت القيادة في دولة قطر، وعلى رأسها حضرة صاحب السمو الشيخ حمد بن خليفة آل ثاني أمير دولة قطر، هذه الحقيقة منذ أمدٍ، وهي أن التعليم حق إنساني للجميع ومطلب أساسي لتحقيق الديمقراطية والتنمية المستدامة. فقد قامت الدولة باتخاذ خطوات ثابتة وحريفة نحو تحقيق أهداف التعليم للجميع، بالإضافة إلى تحقيق الأهداف التربوية الخاصة برؤية قطر الشاملة للتنمية ٢٠٣٠. فقد شهد قطاع التعليم إعادة هيكلة شاملة، تضمنت تبني خطة متكاملة لبناء مدارس على أحدث المعايير التربوية، والاهتمام كذلك بتدريب المعلمين والإداريين والفنيين الذين هم على صلة بالعملية التعليمية. كما أن مؤتمر القمة العالمي للابتكار في التعليم "وايز" (WISE)، الذي انعقد في الدوحة في نسخته الثالثة من الأول من شهر تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر القادم، والذي يجمع سنوياً كبار المهتمين بالعملية التعليمية في العالم أجمع، هو دليل آخر على اهتمام الدولة بالتعليم وبالشراكة مع دول العالم لرفع مستوى الأداء التعليمي في جميع بقاع الأرض. وسوف يتم في هذا العام ولأول مرة منح جائزة وايز للأداء المتميز في التعليم، بقيمة قدرها خمسمائة ألف دولار لفرد أو مجموعة أفراد ساهموا في تقدم التعليم في بلادهم أو بلاد أخرى.

٤٢،٣ أما في مجال حوار الحضارات، فإنّ دولة قطر تستضيف في كانون الأول/ديسمبر القادم أعمال المنتدى الرابع لتحالف الحضارات، الذي تُعتبر صاحبة السمو الشيخة موزا بنت ناصر، المبعوثة الخاصة لليونسكو للتعليم الأساسي والعالي، إحدى المشاركات البارزات في عضويته. وينبع عقد المؤتمر في الدوحة من رؤية الدولة التي تؤمن بأنّه لا بدّ من بناء جسور التفاهم والحوار بين الشعوب والثقافات التي تعيش على كوكب واحد يتسع للجميع، باختلاف ألواننا وثقافتنا ودياننا.

٤٢،٤ كما أولت دولة قطر اهتماماً كبيراً لرافد آخر من روافد الحضارة، ألا وهو الثقافة، لذلك تشهد دولتنا تنفيذ العديد من المشاريع في هذا المجال، إضافة إلى متحف الفن الإسلامي الذي افتتح في سنة ٢٠٠٨، فقد تمّ في ٢٠١٠ افتتاح المتحف العربي للفن الحديث، كما أنّ العمل يسير بخطوة ثابتة لاستكمال بناء متحف قطر الوطني الذي صممه المعماري الفرنسي جان نوفيل، ومن المتوقع افتتاحه عام ٢٠١٣. بالإضافة إلى مشاريع أخرى للمتاحف ستري النور مستقبلاً. وفي عام ٢٠١٠، تم افتتاح الحي الثقافي كتارا الذي صمّم لتتعاقد من خلاله حضرات العالم. كما أنّ المشروع الذي قدمه المجلس التنفيذي لإنشاء مركز إقليمي للفن الحديث في الدوحة بالشراكة مع منظمة اليونسكو هو دليل على اهتمام الدولة بالثقافة وتعزيز تعاونها مع هذه المنظمة العريقة. وفي نفس السياق، يعتبر تقدم دولة قطر إلى عضوية مركز التراث العالمي الذي ستعقد انتخاباته خلال الأيام القادمة إنما يجسد رغبة دولتنا في التعاون مع دول العالم في كل ما يسهم في تقدم شعوبنا. وفي هذا المقام يجدرنا الأمل في دعمكم لهذا الترشيح.

٤٢،٥ وفي مجال العلوم، قامت دولة قطر في عام ٢٠٠٩ بافتتاح واحة العلوم والتكنولوجيا التي تضم كبريات الشركات العاملة في مجال التكنولوجيا للمساهمة في دمج البحوث والأعمال لدفع عجلة اقتصاد العلم والمعرفة قدماً في دولة قطر والعالم.

٤٢،٦ وإيماناً من دولة قطر لما للرياضة من دور فاعل في مد جسور السلام والمحبة بين شباب العالم، فقد أولت اهتماماً جلياً لمشاريع الرياضة التي هي جزء من اهتمامات اليونسكو ابتداء من احتضان دورة الألعاب العربية في كانون الأول/ديسمبر القادم مروراً بتقديم ملف استضافة بطولة العالم لألعاب القوى لعام ٢٠١٧، وتقديم الطلب الرسمي لتنظيم دورة الألعاب الأولمبية وألعاب ذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة لعام ٢٠٢٠. ولا يخفى على حضراتكم فوز دولة قطر باستضافة نهائيات كأس العالم لعام ٢٠٢٢، كأول دولة عربية وشرق أوسطية تحظى بشرف تنظيم هذه البطولة العالمية.

٤٢،٧ السيدات والسادة، انعقد مؤتمرنا هذا والمنطقة العربية تشهد تحولات كبرى في بنيتها الاجتماعية والسياسية، وهذه الأوضاع تولّد حاجة ملحة للنظر لدول المنطقة بمنظور يساند ويدعم شعوبها المتطلعة إلى بناء مستقبل حضاري زاهر، ومن هذا المنطلق فإنّ دولة قطر تؤيّد القرار الذي قدمه المجلس التنفيذي إلى مؤتمرنا هذا للاعتراف بدولة فلسطين كعضو كامل العضوية في المنظمة، إيماناً منّا بأنّ هذا الأمر سيساهم في دفع عجلة السلم في المنطقة العربية والعالم أجمع. وفي هذا السياق، نعر عن تقديرنا ودعمنا لجهود المنظمة دعماً للمؤسسات التعليمية والثقافية في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة ومتابعتها الحثيثة للقرارات الخاصة بخطة العمل من أجل حماية التراث الثقافي لمدينة القدس. وختاماً، أسأل الله أن يوفقنا إلى اتخاذ القرارات التي تساهم في رفعة ورتبة شعوبنا. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(42.1) M. Al-Mahmoud (Qatar) (traduit de l'arabe) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux, Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et messieurs les chefs et les membres de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous. J'ai le plaisir d'ajouter ma voix à celles des orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter Madame Katalin Bogyay pour son élection à la présidence de la Conférence générale et lui souhaiter tout le succès possible. J'adresse des remerciements à Monsieur

Davidson Hepburn, qui a présidé avec efficacité la 35<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Je remercie également la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour ses efforts inlassables, ainsi que les membres du personnel du Secrétariat pour la qualité de la préparation de cette Conférence.

(42.2) Excellences, il est aujourd'hui clair que le problème de l'éducation compte parmi les plus grands défis lancés aux nations et aux peuples, comme le démontrent les rapports publiés par l'UNESCO sur les taux d'analphabétisme dans le monde, en particulier parmi les femmes et les enfants. Les dirigeants du Qatar, et en particulier Son Altesse le Cheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, l'Émir de l'État du Qatar, ont compris depuis longtemps cette vérité, qui est que l'éducation est un droit humain pour tous et une condition fondamentale pour réaliser la démocratie et parvenir au développement durable. L'État a pris des mesures fermes et audacieuses aux fins de la réalisation des objectifs de l'éducation pour tous (EPT), venus s'ajouter aux objectifs éducatifs fixés par le Qatar dans sa vision d'ensemble pour le développement d'ici à 2030. Le secteur de l'éducation a été restructuré de fond en comble, avec l'adoption d'un plan intégré pour la construction d'écoles selon les derniers critères pédagogiques, et l'on a également prêté attention à la formation des enseignants, ainsi qu'à celle des gestionnaires et des techniciens impliqués dans le processus éducatif. Le Sommet mondial sur l'innovation en éducation (WISE), dont la troisième édition se tiendra à Doha le premier novembre prochain, réunit chaque année les grands responsables de l'éducation du monde entier. C'est encore une indication de l'intérêt que porte le Qatar à l'éducation, en partenariat avec les pays du monde, afin d'augmenter le niveau de la performance éducative dans toutes les parties du monde. Cette année, pour la première fois, le Prix WISE récompensera l'excellence dans le domaine de l'éducation. D'une valeur de 500 000 dollars, il sera décerné à un individu ou à un groupe d'individus ayant contribué à faire progresser l'éducation dans son pays ou dans d'autres pays.

(42.3) Dans le domaine du dialogue des civilisations, l'État du Qatar accueillera en décembre prochain le quatrième Forum de l'Alliance des civilisations, avec la participation illustre de Son Altesse la Cheikha Mozah Bint Nasser, Envoyée spéciale de l'UNESCO pour l'éducation de base et l'enseignement supérieur. La tenue de la conférence à Doha reflète le point de vue du Qatar, selon lequel il faut bâtir des ponts d'intercompréhension et de dialogue entre les peuples et les cultures qui coexistent sur une seule planète qui a de la place pour tous, en dépit de leurs différences de couleur, de culture et de religion.

(42.4) L'État du Qatar s'est également intéressé à un autre vecteur de la civilisation, à savoir la culture. C'est pourquoi notre pays est en train de mettre en œuvre de nombreux projets dans ce domaine. Le Musée de l'art islamique a ouvert ses portes en 2008 et le Musée d'art arabe moderne a été inauguré en 2010. Des travaux se poursuivent, sur la base de plans approuvés, pour terminer la construction du Musée national du Qatar, dessiné par l'architecte français Jean Nouvel; on s'attend à ce qu'il ouvre ses portes en 2013. D'autres projets de musée verront le jour prochainement; en 2010, le village culturel « Katara » a été inauguré dans le but d'y favoriser l'interaction entre les civilisations du monde. Le projet de centre régional de l'art moderne à Doha (en partenariat avec l'UNESCO) qui a été présenté au Conseil exécutif témoigne lui aussi de l'intérêt du Qatar pour la culture et de son intention de renforcer sa coopération avec cette vénérable Organisation. De même, les progrès enregistrés par le Qatar sur la voie de l'obtention d'un siège au Comité du patrimoine mondial, lors de l'élection qui se déroulera dans les prochains jours, reflète le désir de notre pays de coopérer avec les pays du monde dans tout ce qui contribue au progrès de nos peuples. Nous comptons donc sur votre soutien pour cette candidature.

(42.5) Dans le domaine des sciences, le Qatar a ouvert en 2009 une « Oasis des sciences et de la technologie », où de grandes entreprises œuvrant dans le domaine de la technologie contribuent à fusionner leurs recherches et leurs travaux afin de faire progresser l'économie de la science et de la connaissance au Qatar et dans le monde.

(42.6) Le Qatar, persuadé du rôle effectif du sport dans la construction de ponts pour la paix et l'amitié entre les jeunes du monde, porte un intérêt particulier aux projets sportifs, qui font partie des domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO. Il accueillera ainsi les Jeux arabes en décembre prochain; il présente un dossier de candidature en vue d'accueillir le Championnat mondial des jeux de force en 2017 et il a déposé une demande officielle en vue d'organiser les Jeux olympiques et les Jeux paralympiques en 2020. Vous n'êtes pas sans savoir que le Qatar sera le pays hôte de la phase finale de la Coupe du monde de football en 2022, le premier État arabe ou du Moyen-Orient à obtenir cet honneur.

(42.7) Mesdames, Messieurs, notre Conférence se tient à un moment où la région arabe vit de grandes transformations de ses structures sociales et politiques, et ces circonstances exigent que l'on se tourne vers les pays de la région afin d'apporter un soutien à leurs peuples, qui espèrent bâtir un avenir civilisationnel resplendissant; le Qatar soutient ainsi la décision soumise par le Conseil exécutif à notre Conférence générale tendant à la reconnaissance de l'État de Palestine comme membre de plein droit de l'Organisation, car nous croyons que cette question sera de nature à faire avancer le processus de paix dans la région arabe et dans le monde entier. À cet égard, nous exprimons notre appréciation et notre soutien à l'Organisation pour l'appui qu'elle apporte aux institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires palestiniens occupés, et pour son suivi énergique de la mise en œuvre des résolutions concernant le Plan d'action pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel de la Vieille Ville de Jérusalem. En conclusion, que Dieu nous permette d'adopter des résolutions qui conduisent au bien-être et au progrès pour nos peuples. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

#### 43. **The President:**

Your Excellency, thank you very much for your intervention. Now it is a great honour for me to welcome to UNESCO the Minister of Higher Education of Congo. Your Excellency Mr Ange Antoine Abena, the floor is yours.

#### 44.1 **M. Abena (Congo) :**

Madame la Présidente, au nom de la délégation du Congo et en mon nom propre, je voudrais vous présenter mes vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Conférence. Sous votre direction clairvoyante et grâce à vos compétences reconnues, nos travaux, j'en suis convaincu, se dérouleront dans de très bonnes conditions. Madame la Directrice générale, permettez-moi de vous féliciter également pour la qualité des documents préparatoires, clairs et précis, que vous nous avez soumis et, surtout, pour la compétence avec laquelle vous dirigez notre Organisation. Soyez assurée du soutien de mon pays. Je me permettrai de vous rappeler, Madame, votre visite, cette année, dans mon pays. Je tiens à dire que cette visite a eu un écho positif et suscité l'espoir d'une consolidation de la coopération entre l'UNESCO et le Congo.

44.2 Madame la Présidente, c'est avec beaucoup d'intérêt que mon pays suit les activités de l'UNESCO, notamment celles liées à la réforme, à l'évaluation externe, aux deux priorités que sont l'Afrique et l'Égalité des genres, à la réforme du dispositif hors Siège qui débutera par l'Afrique dès l'année prochaine, sans oublier l'admission de la Palestine comme



futur État membre de l'UNESCO. Toutes ces actions bénéficient de l'appui de mon pays. Les critères de sélection du siège des bureaux régionaux, arrêtés par le Conseil exécutif, ont permis d'aboutir à des résultats absolument objectifs qui méritent d'être soulignés. Ainsi, la présence hors Siège de l'UNESCO se voit renforcée. Mais il conviendrait de doter ces bureaux hors Siège de moyens financiers, matériels et humains conséquents pour permettre une véritable visibilité de l'Organisation sur le terrain. Cependant, le Secrétariat devra faire de son mieux pour sauvegarder les bureaux nationaux existants. Je pense notamment au Bureau de Brazzaville, qui symbolise la culture de la paix au Congo et qui joue un grand rôle dans le processus de développement durable de mon pays.

44.3 Madame la Présidente, face à la difficile conjoncture économique et financière mondiale, mon pays est favorable à l'adoption, par la Conférence générale, du budget à croissance nominale zéro préconisé. Nous encourageons la Directrice générale à mettre un accent tout particulier sur les programmes, les deux priorités reconnues que sont l'Afrique et le genre, sans oublier les réformes. S'agissant du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013, je tiens d'emblée à dire la satisfaction de ma délégation quant aux mesures proposées visant à réduire le nombre de résultats escomptés dans tous les programmes. S'agissant du grand programme I, le Congo insiste sur la priorité qui devra être accordée à l'éducation, notamment par la formation des enseignants, l'amélioration des disciplines scientifiques – qui devront bénéficier d'équipements de laboratoire –, l'amélioration de l'enseignement à tous les niveaux. L'alphabétisation est également une priorité pour mon pays, face au retour de l'analphabétisme, loin d'être résiduel. Par ailleurs, le Congo se félicite des actions préconisées en vue de renforcer l'ancrage du droit à l'éducation dans les législations nationales et de développer les compétences au service de l'insertion professionnelle.

44.4 Préoccupé par le rôle et la place de l'enseignement supérieur comme moteur de la croissance et du développement national, le Congo a organisé, en décembre dernier, une table ronde sur l'enseignement supérieur et le monde du travail, à laquelle l'UNESCO a largement contribué par son expertise. Aussi sommes-nous particulièrement sensibles à l'engagement contenu dans le Programme et budget pour 2012-2013 en faveur de l'appui aux États membres dans le développement de leur système d'enseignement supérieur pour répondre aux impératifs du développement durable. L'objectif global de la politique scientifique élaborée par le Congo avec le concours de l'UNESCO est, d'une part, de disposer d'un système de recherche scientifique et d'innovation technologique capable de produire des connaissances scientifiques et techniques utiles et de haut niveau, qui servent d'outils de développement, et, d'autre part, de parvenir à une vulgarisation soutenue de la culture scientifique. Le Congo se félicite de la contribution de l'UNESCO au Sommet de Brazzaville et, plus particulièrement, de la participation du Secteur des sciences à l'élaboration du Projet d'accord de coopération entre les trois bassins forestiers tropicaux du monde, dont la version approuvée par les partenaires respectifs sera signée au Brésil, en juin 2012, lors de la Conférence Rio + 20, selon une feuille de route adoptée par les chefs d'État et de gouvernement dans la Déclaration de Brazzaville.

44.5 La culture, autre pilier de développement, devra être dotée d'un budget conséquent, à la hauteur de ses missions liées à la sauvegarde et à la promotion des sites et monuments culturels, du patrimoine immatériel, très divers, et des langues maternelles, dont beaucoup sont menacées de disparition. Nous remercions l'UNESCO pour ses conseils avisés sur le processus d'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial d'un bien commun à trois pays – le Cameroun, la République centrafricaine et le Congo : le Trinational de la Sangha. Le Congo jouit de la liberté et de la diversité de la presse. Cependant, la formation des journalistes devra être renforcée ; c'est pourquoi le Programme international pour le développement de la communication (PIDC) devra bénéficier de plus de moyens, notamment à travers des financements extrabudgétaires. Il convient de signaler que le Congo est engagé dans un programme de modernisation de ses outils de communication, la réorganisation de son cadre institutionnel et le maillage du territoire national par des moyens techniques modernes pour assurer l'accès universel à l'information.

44.6 Le Congo soutient la politique de la culture de la paix et pense que la reconnaissance de la Palestine par l'État d'Israël, d'une part, et celle d'Israël par les États arabes, d'autre part, garantirait la paix dans cette partie du monde. Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, vous voici arrivée au terme de votre mandat – mandat que mon pays qualifierait d'excellent. C'est pourquoi le Congo vous présente ses vives félicitations pour la qualité du travail que vous avez accompli avec fermeté et intelligence. Je vous remercie.

45. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* Now it is a great pleasure for me to welcome the Minister for Democracy and European Affairs of Sweden, Her Excellency Ms Birgitta Ohlsson. The floor is yours.

46.1 **Ms Ohlsson (Sweden):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as Isaac Newton once said: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". Every day we all stand on the shoulders of giants. They are people who have contributed to democracy, to science and to culture. I hope that we can make wise decisions here, so that future generations can stand on our shoulders and see further than we do. Madam President, Sweden fully concurs with the statement that will be made by Poland on behalf of the European Union. The European Union must continue to work for a world fulfilling the noble goals of the United Nations. Sweden has closely followed the impressive work of the Director-General, Ms Bokova, and we fully support her work for reform in UNESCO. We welcome the proposals based on the outcomes of the independent review of UNESCO. We are convinced that the reforms will lead to a stronger and more relevant Organization. Sweden also supports Ms Bokova's commitment to put human rights of girls and women at the core of all her undertakings. It is sad but evident that freedom of the press must remain at the top of UNESCO's agenda in the coming years. Madam President, education is probably the single strongest force for positive change for individuals, as well as nations. The right to education was established as a universal human right but still there are millions of children not attending school. Sadly, most of them are girls and that is a shame for all of us. The majority of the 775 million illiterate adults are women. Falling short of respecting their rights affects not only individuals but whole societies. In these times of global economic crisis, it seems obvious that we must realize the full potential of all

human resources in our societies. Closing the gap between male and female employment rates would have huge effects on the global economy. Sweden would like to congratulate UNESCO for its important work for sexual education. With sexual education we can reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV, and decrease the number of unexpected pregnancies. A pregnancy can seriously affect a young girl's health and ability to pursue empowerment through education.

46.2 Madam President, when artists cannot work, when books are burned and when cultural heritage is destroyed, it is a sign of repressive, dark times ahead. Sweden considers the cultural conventions of UNESCO and other relevant legal instruments to be important tools in the Organization's work within the cultural sector. Madam President, this year squares and streets have been the scene of major uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East. Women have been an important part of these movements and we need to ensure that the future also brings greater empowerment to these women. History teaches us that revolutions might happen fast, but that democracy building takes time. I am happy to see that UNESCO has already started working in these countries. Long-term support is needed by national authorities, by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and by UNESCO to ensure reform and progress. What has happened in many countries in North Africa is a victory for the values on which UNESCO is built.

46.3 Madam President, freedom of expression is a cornerstone of a democratic society. The Internet, social media and mobile phones should continue to play a crucial role as instruments for democratic participation. The same human rights that we have off-line must also be guaranteed and protected online. The test of democracy is the freedom to criticize. We cannot allow the freedom of expression to be undermined. The Swedish Government attaches great importance to this matter and to the work of UNESCO in this field. International NGOs also play a very important role in this area. More than 500 journalists have been killed over the last 10 years, the majority of them not reporting from war zones but reporting about corruption and scandals. Most of these murders are never punished. Sweden appreciates Ms Bokova's commitment to condemning such killings. We must speak up on behalf of those who have had their own voices silenced, like the Swedish-Eritrean journalist Dawit Isaak. He was arrested together with other colleagues in Eritrea on 23 September 2001 for publishing articles critical of the Government. Today is his 47th birthday. Dawit Isaak is imprisoned because he used his right of freedom of speech, a fundamental freedom now denied him and for which he personally has paid dearly with 10 long years in prison. We call for his immediate release. The Horn of Africa is an area of concern for press freedom. Two Swedish journalists, Martin Schibbye and Johan Persson, have been detained for three months in Ethiopia. They were arrested by the Ethiopian authorities in early July after crossing the border from Somalia into Ethiopia. The Swedish Government is working for their freedom. Remember, killing or imprisoning one journalist does not only silence one individual, it silences a whole society.

46.4 Madam President, science and research are tools to build a brighter future for us all. As the lead United Nations agency for research, UNESCO has an important role to play. We who have plenty must take our responsibility and invest in education and research globally. This year it has been 50 years since the Swedish United Nations Secretary-General Mr Dag Hammarskjöld's tragic death. Let me conclude with these words from Mr Hammarskjöld, one of the greatest international civil servants ever in world history. He said: "The United Nations has not been created to take humanity to heaven but to save it from hell". Thank you.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now it is a great pleasure for me to welcome the Minister of Education of Eritrea. Your Excellency Mr Semere Russom, the floor is yours.

48.1 **Mr Russom (Eritrea):**

Honourable President of the General Conference, Honourable Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished representatives, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the people and Government of the State of Eritrea and myself, I would like to congratulate UNESCO for bringing all Member States together, especially at a time when our world is going through a difficult global crisis. It is incumbent, therefore, upon the global village to rally together and exert strenuous efforts to minimize the global crisis, especially the effects of natural calamities and man-made disasters that are threatening the very future of our planet. We greatly value our membership of UNESCO and renew our commitment to contribute to the promotion of its ethical missions.

48.2 Madam President, Eritrea commends UNESCO for its continuous concern and efforts to assist Member States in renewing and managing the implementation of national sector-wide plans and inclusive policies in education with particular emphasis on gender, literacy and teachers' education geared to the huge concerns of global pledges. Accordingly, I would like to assure you that our National Education Policy recognizes the significant role of education in developing knowledgeable, productive and educated citizens who would contribute to the development of the country. My country is committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the education for all (EFA) goals and we are glad to note that UNESCO will significantly step up its support to education in Africa.

48.3 Madam President, if the world is to achieve the EFA goals by 2015, we need to intensify our collaborative efforts with special focus on remote communities and come up with innovations and best practices to better respond to pressing issues and challenges. Furthermore, we would like to praise the initiative taken by UNESCO to assist African Member States to formulate and review national science technology and information policies, thereby integrating them into national policies for sustainable development. As has been indicated in the current document 36 C/5, we strongly support UNESCO's actions in literacy and non-formal education by focusing on advocacy, capacity development and scaling up effective national literacy programmes. In view of this, literacy is considered one of the highest priorities in Eritrea. We are of the firm belief that when people use their languages in education and the media it is a basis for a healthy society, thereby defending diversity of cultures and identities. Hence, on a national level, the literacy programme has been provided with the nine ethnic languages in a sustained and effective manner. Furthermore, adult education policy has

been developed and is guiding literacy provision in the country. Currently, efforts are being made to reach the unreached out-of-school over-aged children by providing them with three-year accelerated elementary education and enabling them to catch up and join the formal middle school. On the basis of the country's commitment to EFA, the MDGs, the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) and the findings of the National Literacy Survey, some of the major activities in the coming biennium include the provision of literacy especially in rural areas to bring the illiteracy rate further down to 10-15% in 2015 and to conduct literacy campaigns in some selected regions where the illiteracy rate has remained relatively high. Thus, we will intensify our cooperation with UNESCO, thereby benefiting from the Organization's rich expertise as well as best practices. In accordance with UNESCO's top priorities, Eritrea has attached great importance to technical and vocational education and training (TVET). We have long felt the need for more technical and skilled workers in all branches of the current and future economy. We are also very much aware of the fact that investing in basic education only and giving little attention to TVET or higher education will take us nowhere. In the domain of culture, we are grateful to UNESCO for providing training opportunities to strengthen the conservation and preservation of heritage sites and capacity-building in cooperation with the African World Heritage Fund. These have been conducive to positive advances in the finalizing of documents pertaining to the sites in the tentative list of our country. Accordingly, the establishment of the National Heritage Committee for the implementation of the conventions has facilitated the identification of cultural, historical and natural heritage sites. Strenuous efforts are under way to preserve our archaeological sites as part of the country's proud past. Moreover, various training and awareness-raising workshops have been conducted.

48.4 Madam President, turning to the natural sciences, I would like to reaffirm Eritrea's appreciation for the reformulation of Major Programme II. In conclusion, the tasks ahead of us are enormous and if we are to change the face of the world, we need to re-position ourselves with renewed commitments to fulfil UNESCO's mission and mandates.

48.5 Madam President, I cannot pass without mentioning that the individual mentioned by the Swedish delegate is an Eritrean national bound by the country's laws. The acts of animosity and disinformation by the honourable delegate therefore are highly regrettable and out of place in this august assembly. Thank you very much.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to ask the Minister of Education of Norway, Her Excellency Ms Kristin Halvorsen, to come to the podium. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

50.1 **Ms Halvorsen (Norway):**

Madam President, Excellencies, Director-General, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, Norway is a strong supporter of Palestinian rights and aspirations for statehood within the framework of international law. We support initiatives that would ensure the protection of culture and heritage located in the Palestinian territory. In line with the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, Norway has given unwavering support to all efforts to reach a negotiated and comprehensive agreement that can turn the vision into a reality. The recommendation of the Executive Board to admit Palestine as a Member of UNESCO marks an historic step. It comes at the same time as the ongoing discussions in the Security Council about Palestinian membership of the United Nations. The membership issue, however, means that Members of UNESCO also have to consider issues that are normally referred to the Security Council and the General Assembly, including upgrading of status and United Nations membership qualifications. Norway would argue that these issues should be dealt with in New York first and before turning to specialized agencies or United Nations bodies. We should find a solution that is good for the Palestinians and good for UNESCO.

50.2 Dear colleagues, let me now turn to UNESCO's activities. UNESCO's mandate is undisputed. As we discussed during the Leaders' Forum this morning, UNESCO has a role to play in building peace and promoting sustainable development. At the same time, the recommendations from the independent external evaluation make it very clear that we, the Member States, need to better define UNESCO's priorities. UNESCO needs to do fewer things and do them better. Ladies and gentlemen, Norway would like to draw special attention to three areas that should form the backbone of UNESCO's work in the future: education for all (EFA) as the top priority; freedom of expression; women and gender equality throughout all of UNESCO's activities. UNESCO must continue to provide strong leadership for EFA. Looking at the track record since 2000, EFA is a success story. Never has such a high percentage of children been enrolled in school. The success is driven by Member States and supported by UNESCO and other partners. But we cannot stop here. There are still children left behind, including children living in conflict areas and children with disabilities. Also, enrolment is just a starting point. We want UNESCO to take a leading role in defining the education goals after 2015. How to ensure that children complete basic education must be one important topic. Quality is key to completion and teachers are key to quality and to ensure that education promotes peaceful coexistence. We also know that premises for learning are developed at a very early age. Early childhood care and education is a topic that lies close to my heart and has been a main priority for the present Norwegian Government. Early childhood care and education of high quality is beneficial for all children.

50.3 Madam President, let me now turn to Norway's second priority. This year, across the Middle East and North Africa, millions of people have called for democracy and human rights, and specifically freedom of expression. We are concerned that in many places around the world such basic freedoms are still lacking. UNESCO needs to continue and to strengthen its role in working alongside all the people of the world who long for the possibility to participate in a democratic society and to voice their opinion in public without fear of punishment. Let me end by stressing that women's rights and gender equality must be integrated into all of UNESCO's activities. Thank you.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Your Excellency Mr Sredoje Nović, the floor is yours.

52.1 **Mr Nović** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

(Statement delivered in Bosnian; interpretation into English):

Madam President, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to greet you on behalf of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and express my pleasure to be present at this year's 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. I would like to express support for the UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 and to emphasize the readiness of Bosnia and Herzegovina to cooperate with UNESCO in order to achieve the basic mission of contributing to peace-building, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue. Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to acting in a direction that will contribute to the implementation of the main objectives of the UNESCO programme for 2012-2013 in our country, as well as the implementation of all relevant UNESCO legal instruments ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Education reform is under way in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to build a contemporary education system which will meet the requirements of globalization while taking into account respect for and the protection and promotion of diversity. The priorities that are being implemented include strengthening institutional capacities, building infrastructure, linking higher education with scientific research, rejuvenating scientific and teaching personnel, and providing lifelong learning and education for all. We can create a basis for the social and economic development of the country only through successful education reform and the key objective is to make education equally accessible to all.

52.2 In the field of science, we have adopted the necessary legislation and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Science Development Strategy for 2010-2015 with the corresponding Action Plan. One of the key objectives of this strategy, *inter alia*, is the development of a new generation of scientists and the training of existing scientific and research personnel, as well as the development of scientific infrastructure in line with international standards, together with stronger encouragement of innovative partnerships linking science and economy. We believe that participation in regional initiatives and projects is extremely important because it is the right way to establish the necessary cooperation in order to improve the situation in the field of science and research, ensure easier access to information and provide services to researchers, as well as to foster employment and better conditions for researchers' work. We are committed to implementing a policy of removing obstacles to free movement of knowledge, strengthening the mobility of researchers, students, scientists and lecturers. We are also aware of the difficulties, but we believe that the current situation can be improved and planned goals can be attained through regional cooperation under the initiatives supported by UNESCO.

52.3 Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the International Convention against Doping in Sport. We are committed to international cooperation aimed at joint actions against doping in sport and sports development. Our goal is to put sports at the service of human development for the purpose of creating a healthy society engaged in the preservation of human dignity. Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified all the UNESCO conventions in the field of culture. This year we adopted the Action Plan to implement the Cultural Policy Strategy by 2014. We believe that cultural rights are part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent. They are at the heart of contemporary debate on identity, social cohesion and development of a knowledge-based economy. Respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation in a spirit of mutual trust and understanding are the best guarantee of international peace and security. I will take this opportunity to draw your attention to the joint project of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro aimed at the nomination of stećaks – medieval tombstones – for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The extraordinary cooperation in this project demonstrates that the cultural heritage is something that particularly connects us, and that we can achieve strong cooperation and promotion of the region in this field. I am glad that Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated this project and I am pleased to say that the proposed tombstone necropolises have been placed on the UNESCO Tentative List this year. Now we are intensively working to develop the nomination file. Bosnia and Herzegovina has applied to become a member of the World Heritage Committee and I would like to invite the delegations present to support our application. Bosnia and Herzegovina highly appreciates the role and mandate of the World Heritage Committee in the protection and preservation of the world cultural and natural heritage. We believe that culture is of special importance and we are ready to make our contribution to the enhancement of cooperation among the States Parties to the Convention, with a special emphasis on the exchange of experience and good practice. The value of cultural heritage goes beyond all boundaries and we call for contributing, through joint work in the field of culture, to stronger international cooperation aimed at building lasting peace and dialogue in the world with respect for diversity. It is precisely UNESCO's mission that gives us these guidelines to build a better future through cooperation in education, science and culture. As the UNESCO Constitution reads, "the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man" and it is our obligation to comply. Thank you for your attention.

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to ask the Minister of Culture of Lithuania, His Excellency Mr Arūnas Gelūnas, to make his statement.

54.1 **Mr Gelūnas** (Lithuania):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me start by expressing congratulations to the newly elected President of the General Conference, Ms Katalin Bogyay, and thanking the former President of the General Conference, Mr Davidson Hepburn, for his leadership. It is a great honour for me to represent Lithuania and to address you all today, in the year 2011. This year is special for Lithuania, since we are celebrating this very month of October the 20th anniversary of our membership to UNESCO – the world's leading Organization in promoting dialogue between civilizations, cultures and people. Madam President, a rapidly changing world provides us with more and more arguments that any achievements in whatever sphere of the modern world cannot be taken for granted. The word "crisis" appears as one of the central notions we have to deal with these days. UNESCO is more than ever able to contribute to endorsing common values that make the power of ideas work to implement relevant changes. This common objective needs precise and coordinated action at both the

international and national levels. Governmental efforts are not sufficient to reconcile different interest groups, involve citizens in decision-making processes and promote responsibility among nations for the future of the world. UNESCO is one of the international organizations that have a structure open to citizens. National Commissions are the place where representatives of governmental bodies and of civil society work hand in hand to fulfil their common objectives. We support the delegation of greater responsibility to the National Commissions when, for example, working on UNESCO-linked logos.

54.2 The UNESCO initiatives that we work with at the national level provide us with significant results. For instance, some time ago, UNESCO launched the initiative “Libraries as Gateways to Information Highways”, an initiative which inspired the Lithuanian authorities very much. Consequently, in cooperation with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Lithuania succeeded in initiating the national project “Libraries for the Future”. And today the result is that even in the smallest villages of our country, librarians have become information technology consultants and teachers for those who want to use e-services. Moreover, Lithuania’s experience in the management of libraries has been used in other countries. A public opinion survey on libraries which was conducted in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe this year was based on the methodology developed in our country. Although the world has made tremendous progress in information technologies, we have to work even more on infrastructure, content and competency development. After the 20 years of Lithuania’s membership, the name of UNESCO in our country is strongly associated with the word “heritage”. We associate ourselves as well with the efforts of this Organization to work on raising awareness of the treasures that humanity is responsible for. Sometimes, in the process of safeguarding monuments that date back thousands of years, we need to take immediate action. That is why Lithuania welcomes UNESCO’s action as we have witnessed it these days in Libya, where experts from both inside and outside the country were invited to urgently examine the preservation of national cultural heritage. With regard to the protection of the diversity of cultural expressions, the promotion of youth and civic engagement is indeed of central concern. Digitization continues to bring about real revolution in the domain of access to cultural heritage and this process has a crucial impact on the democratization of society. With reference to achieved results, I would also like to stress the importance of the need to mobilize all relevant stakeholders at different levels to promote sustainable development of cultural tourism, especially at the world heritage sites. Lithuania is part of the network of Baltic and Nordic countries around the Baltic Sea that has been cooperating in the area of coastal and underwater heritage protection for more than 10 years. Education is one of the pillars of UNESCO’s mandate. Therefore, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General for her action, which has given a new meaning to UNESCO’s leadership in education.

54.3 Lithuania values highly the possibilities UNESCO is offering in terms of international cooperation in the fields of education and science. The seal of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network is highly appreciated in our country. Lithuanian scientists support and adhere to UNESCO’s position on the necessity of strong ethical principles in science, and have high expectations with regard to its efforts to promote international cooperation in the fundamental sciences. Ladies and gentlemen, it is true that the current global context is a huge challenge for all of us. But it is also true that this very context provides us with an opportunity to take appropriate measures in order to make our Organization more effective. I believe everybody would agree that we need to follow the path that would lead us to a reformed UNESCO, that is to say, a UNESCO prepared to constructively face today’s challenges. Thank you very much for your attention.

55. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Basic and Primary Education of Benin. Your Excellency Mr Eric Kouagou N’Dah, the floor is yours.

56.1 **M. N’da (Bénin) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, le peuple béninois et son gouvernement, par ma voix, expriment leur vives félicitations à Mme Katalin Bogyay pour sa brillante élection à la tête de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l’UNESCO et saluent toutes les hautes personnalités ici réunies pour prendre part aux travaux de cette 36<sup>e</sup> session. Ces salutations chaleureuses que je vous adresse ne sont pas simplement une formule protocolaire, elles sont l’expression renouvelée de la reconnaissance de mon pays à l’endroit de l’UNESCO pour son action constante en vue de l’édification du monde de paix et de développement solidaire qu’appelle de ses vœux l’Afrique tout entière. C’est aussi un acte d’engagement indéfectible du Bénin en faveur des idéaux et de l’action de l’UNESCO pour la paix à travers l’éducation, la science et la culture.

56.2 C’est pourquoi, Mesdames et Messieurs, la réalisation des objectifs de l’Éducation pour tous, chers à l’UNESCO et qui font partie intégrante des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, constitue une priorité du gouvernement de mon pays, qui a pris d’importantes décisions relatives à la gratuité progressive de l’enseignement maternel et primaire public, à la construction d’infrastructures éducatives et socioéducatives d’accompagnement sur l’ensemble du territoire national et à l’amélioration sensible des conditions de vie et de travail des enseignants. Il convient de souligner le regain d’attention dont bénéficie la formation technique et professionnelle, y compris pour les apprenants du système non formel. L’objectif recherché est de mieux préparer la jeune génération à affronter les dures réalités du monde du travail et à s’ouvrir autant que possible à l’auto-emploi. Sur le plan de l’enseignement supérieur, je voudrais encore, ici, mettre en exergue la contribution de qualité qu’apporte l’UNESCO à la mise en œuvre du Plan d’action consolidé de l’Union africaine pour la science et la technologie, comme en témoigne, par exemple, le projet de Campus virtuel africain, destiné à promouvoir l’éducation à distance, notamment au profit des enseignants, projet dont le volet ouest-africain a été lancé à Cotonou à l’occasion de la consultation régionale des commissions nationales africaines sur le budget 2010-2011.

56.3 En ce qui concerne le secteur de la culture, le Bénin, qui a bénéficié de l'appui constant de l'UNESCO, nourrit l'ambition légitime de procéder à l'inventaire exhaustif de son patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel en vue d'en faire un instrument privilégié de développement durable et d'éveil de la conscience de tous les citoyens aux valeurs de paix, de fraternité et de solidarité à l'échelle universelle. Par ailleurs, le Bénin aspire à être de tous les combats de l'UNESCO. C'est pour cette raison qu'après d'autres pays africains, en écho à l'Année internationale des langues, dont le maître mot est le multilinguisme, le système éducatif béninois expérimentera, dans un proche avenir, l'introduction des langues nationales dans des modules de formation en tant que matières facultatives, dans un premier temps, avant qu'elles ne deviennent des disciplines d'examen. Avec l'UNESCO, le Bénin partage la conviction que la croissance économique n'est pas synonyme de développement. Tout en travaillant donc à créer la richesse et la croissance économique, le Bénin accorde une attention constante aux secteurs sociaux dans leur ensemble, de même qu'à l'autonomisation des femmes par la microfinance comme moyen d'éradiquer la grande pauvreté.

56.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, après soixante-six ans d'existence, l'UNESCO a surmonté beaucoup d'obstacles. Mais il reste encore des défis à relever. Pour affronter ces défis, aussi nombreux que variés, le choix d'un budget à croissance nominale zéro ne peut que susciter l'inquiétude de mon pays et des autres pays africains qui s'interrogent sur l'avenir des programmes de l'UNESCO. Aussi voudrais-je vous inviter à une réflexion approfondie et sereine afin que des moyens conséquents soient mis à la disposition de notre Organisation commune. Ceci, me semble-t-il, nous permettra de consolider les bases de notre Organisation afin que ses idéaux de paix, de solidarité et de bonheur partagé connaissent un grand écho au sein des générations futures. Malgré ces temps de crise et d'austérité, je reste confiant que notre Organisation commune pourra disposer des ressources nécessaires à l'efficacité de sa mission salutaire.

56.5 L'UNESCO veut agir, nous le voyons bien, et elle veut commencer par les plus souffrants. C'est cela, la priorité Afrique. Permettez-moi donc, Mesdames et Messieurs, de dire quelques mots sur cette question récurrente de la priorité Afrique à l'UNESCO. Je voudrais, à cet égard, féliciter la Directrice générale et la Sous-Directrice générale pour le Département Afrique pour les avancées certaines réalisées en ce qui concerne notamment l'identification des problèmes ainsi que la clarification accrue dans la reconceptualisation des enjeux. L'essentiel reste à faire néanmoins. Le Département Afrique devrait avoir une meilleure prise sur les programmes. Ceci suppose une réforme structurelle du Secrétariat qui en fasse un partenaire organique incontournable des secteurs dans la conception et la mise en œuvre des programmes, au lieu du rôle, somme toute honorifique et factice, de coordinateur qui lui est à présent assigné. Ceci suppose également que le Département Afrique soit doté, en priorité, de moyens budgétaires substantiels et de ressources humaines de qualité pour lui permettre de mener à bien cette nouvelle mission. C'est avec ces mots d'espoir que je voudrais conclure mon propos. Il faut absolument que l'espoir continue de triompher. Merci de votre attention.

57. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* Now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Israel. Your Excellency Mr Gideon Sa'ar, the floor is yours.

58.1 **Mr Sa'ar (Israel):**

Madam President, distinguished delegates, three weeks ago Professor Daniel Shechtman of the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry. He became the tenth Israeli to be awarded the Nobel Prize and the sixth in the last nine years. These scientific achievements reflect the very high standards of scientific research and development in Israel. Israeli scientists and researchers are valued contributors to the global achievements in science, research and development. Sixty-three years since its establishment, Israel has shown remarkable achievements in the fields of research and science, culture and arts, advanced technologies, innovative agriculture and more. Time and again, at the same time, we have been forced to protect ourselves, challenged by perpetual threats and battling for our existence while confronted by armed forces of neighbouring countries and incessant terror attacks. Despite this precarious reality, Israel has remained, from its beginnings, a stable and vital democracy. Israel is naturally a Member of UNESCO and an active participant in its core activities. However, some Members of this Organization are diverting it away from its core professional sphere of competence and into the realm of politicization. Israel finds itself consistently being negatively singled out in UNESCO. We and other Members here regret this anti-Israeli obsession. The only country-specific resolutions adopted by the Executive Board for some time now have been against Israel. These resolutions are adopted without consensus, a guiding principle in the work of UNESCO. We are surrounded by countries in our region ruthlessly suppressing their citizens' liberties. The Syrian dictatorship continues to murder its citizens day after day. The Iranian regime is brutally repressing its own people and funding worldwide terror. UNESCO-mandated subjects in many Middle Eastern countries cry out for reform. And yet, they are not debated in this chamber. UNESCO's implementation of its professional mandate in our region is lacking, while it is constantly engaged in a politicized agenda of Israel-bashing. I believe that continuing in this direction will severely undermine UNESCO's effectiveness.

58.2 A few weeks ago, the Executive Board adopted a decision on the admission of Palestine to membership of UNESCO. This is, of course, a political decision which is outside the field of competence of this Organization. It is a bypass. The matter is currently being deliberated in the United Nations Security Council, which is the competent United Nations organ to deal with this issue. Is it the role of UNESCO to make decisions regarding the so-called "creation" of new States? Of course not. A Palestinian State will not be created as a result of such a possible decision. Furthermore, the Palestinians currently fail the most basic legal test of statehood. So it is impossible for them to fulfil the obligations of membership of UNESCO. The Palestinian bid is also a fundamental breach of the agreements between the parties. Madam President, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, expressed publicly our willingness to find a solution which will be based on two States for two nations. Instead of choosing the path of negotiations, the Palestinians have chosen to try to internationalize the conflict. The admission of the Palestinians as Members of UNESCO is inconsistent with international law and contradicts the bilateral legal framework that exists between us and the Palestinians. UNESCO cannot create a viable State by its decision. Such a decision would harm both the Organization and the peace process. The Palestinians have chosen this path for the same reason they have rejected the United Nations resolution of 1947

and the partition into two States. It is due to their profound and uncompromising refusal to acknowledge the Jewish State and end this conflict. They request statehood, a façade of a State, actually. It is not as part of a solution to the conflict, but only to prolong it and use it in their battle against Israel from a more favourable position. Israel wants peace and has paid heavy tolls for achieving peace. But peace can only be achieved through direct negotiation and not by taking advantage of international organizations. Bypassing the route of negotiations will hinder efforts to end the conflict and achieve peace, maybe for many years. Do not harm the chance for peace. Do not harm UNESCO. Do not allow it. Thank you.

59. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. I would like to ask the State Secretary for European and International Affairs of Austria, His Excellency Mr Wolfgang Waldner, to take the floor.

60.1 **Mr Waldner (Austria):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I first, Madam President, extend my congratulations to you on your election as President of this session of the General Conference and assure you of Austria's full cooperation in your endeavours. I would like to focus on three of Austria's priorities in UNESCO: enhancing education for all (EFA), human rights education and promoting intercultural dialogue and religious pluralism. Let me turn first to EFA. The renowned Italian pedagogue Maria Montessori once said "Establishing lasting peace is the work of education". It is EFA, indeed, that leads to respecting diversity in all its expressions. In a nutshell, EFA means peace. EFA is one of UNESCO's main priorities, and, when talking about education, Austria pays particular attention to the quality of education and the promotion of adult literacy. Sustainable development can only be achieved if critical thinking is allowed, which in turn is only possible with the right education. Governments should never be afraid of independent minds since they contribute significantly to society and sustainable development. Fundamental human rights are also directly linked to education and development. I am referring here, for example, to the right to information, the right to freedom of expression and the right to press freedom. We are halfway through the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

60.2 Austria fully supports UNESCO's strategies in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and welcomes the intensifying cooperation between UNESCO and the European Union in this regard. Effective education also includes knowledge about human rights. Education that focuses on tolerance and non-violence has always been a core concern of Austria's foreign policy. Another core concern, particularly with regard to the mandate of UNESCO, is freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Austria is concerned about the worldwide increase of attacks against journalists. These attacks are often a direct response to critical journalistic thinking and critical reporting. Austria stands ready to support UNESCO's work in this area. We will host a consultation with UNESCO experts in Vienna at the end of this month, to be followed up next year. While the protection of journalists is surely one important aspect, the protection of digital information, too, needs to be taken into careful consideration. Austria is a traditional supporter of the Memory of the World Programme and therefore welcomes UNESCO's endeavours towards preservation of traditional as well as digital information. Digital information and new means of electronic communication can be used to the advantage but also to the disadvantage of humankind. Unfortunately, prejudices and ignorance spread easily via new means of communication and can trigger violent conflicts. I am convinced that dialogue is the only way to counter religious and racial upheaval.

60.3 Let me to turn to my third point, intercultural dialogue and religious pluralism. In support of UNESCO's mission, Austria has always been committed to serving as a platform for global dialogue, cooperation and peace. We have a long tradition of intercultural cooperation and respect for religious pluralism. Vienna was the venue of the first Arab-European Young Leaders' Forum 2010 in cooperation with the League of Arab States, which resulted in the creation of a network of young people in leading positions in the Arab world and Europe. The next forum is planned in Cairo in 2012. Only two weeks ago, Austria, Spain and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish a centre for intercultural and interreligious dialogue in Vienna. Austria is also proud to host the Fifth Annual Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in 2013 and we are looking forward to strengthening cooperation with UNESCO on the basis of the existing memorandum of understanding. Ladies and gentlemen, to achieve our objectives we have to keep UNESCO a powerful tool in order to succeed in its mission. Austria fully supports Director-General Irina Bokova's ongoing reform efforts, enabling UNESCO to meaningfully face the challenges of the twenty-first century. We welcome the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 including the proposed zero nominal growth scenario and the plan to bring the programming cycle into line with the general United Nations system of four years. It is a clear signal to Member States that the funds available are managed effectively and efficiently, particularly in times when governments are facing financial restrictions. UNESCO needs to focus on the "big issues" and to develop its partnership capabilities. This entails strengthening the relationship with civil society, in particular through the National Commissions. Austria wants to prove its longstanding commitment to the overall objectives of UNESCO.

60.4 In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, this year we have witnessed a series of tragic events that will remain in our minds: from the incomprehensible murders of young people in Norway, the worsening financial and social crises that have hit various developed States, to the devastating tsunami in Japan and so on, but we have also seen the courageous fight of the people in various Arab societies for their justified aspirations against oppression which will hopefully very soon be crowned with success. All these disasters and events were not limited to a single continent. They once again revealed in unambiguous terms that they concern all of us as a global community. Causes and characters of crises differ. The basis of their successful prevention and management, however, is always the same. It is cooperation and dialogue based on the principles of tolerance, human rights and education. Thanks to its comprehensive mandate, UNESCO offers a unique forum in the United Nations system for an international and all-inclusive dialogue. We will ensure that UNESCO can fully focus on these priorities producing quality results in its mission – peace. Because peace is not only UNESCO's mission – it is the shared responsibility of all of us. Thank you very much for your attention.

61. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now, ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, I would like to welcome the Minister of Education, Youth and Community Life of France, His Excellency Mr Luc Chatel. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

62.1 **M. Chatel (France) :**

Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, tous les deux ans, les nations du monde se retrouvent dans cette enceinte pour y affirmer une conviction commune : le savoir et la culture sont le propre de l'homme. Leur protection, leur transmission et leur partage constituent, pour nous tous, un devoir supérieur et l'UNESCO est précisément l'instance qui témoigne de cet engagement commun. Il y a deux ans, pour la première fois, une femme accédait à la direction générale de l'UNESCO. Vingt ans après la chute du mur de Berlin, elle était la première ressortissante de ce que l'on appelait autrefois le « bloc de l'Est » à accéder à cette fonction. Aujourd'hui, je veux saluer le travail accompli en deux ans par Mme Bokova car il est remarquable. Je pense notamment à la réforme interne de l'Organisation, à la restauration de sa visibilité, à son intégration accrue dans le système des Nations Unies, ou encore à la refonte de ses programmes afin d'intervenir au plus près des priorités internationales. Dans tous ces domaines, les résultats sont tangibles et la France s'en félicite.

62.2 Car, en ces temps troublés, marqués aussi par de formidables espérances – je pense évidemment au Printemps arabe –, les défis auxquels l'UNESCO fait face sont immenses. Vous me permettez, tout d'abord, de rappeler l'attachement de la France à la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, adoptée en 2005. Notre pays plaide aujourd'hui pour le renforcement de ses moyens car les principes que porte ce texte sont essentiels pour enrichir la relation entre culture et développement, pour soutenir la création de l'industrie culturelle dans les pays en voie de développement et pour faire vivre l'idée qu'un accès facilité à la culture est partout une victoire de l'humanité. La France attache également une importance toute particulière à la numérisation des contenus culturels, qui contribue précisément à leur universalité. Préserver, diffuser, partager, voilà ce que permettent aujourd'hui les technologies contemporaines.

62.3 La France s'est d'ailleurs résolument engagée dans cette voie : dans le cadre de son programme d'investissement d'avenir, 750 millions d'euros sont consacrés au financement de la numérisation des contenus culturels, scientifiques et éducatifs. Le ministère dont j'ai la charge veille d'ailleurs à ce que les jeunes générations soient les premières bénéficiaires de ce bouleversement majeur de notre rapport à la culture. Si les innovations technologiques sont désormais matures, si le monde entier a pris conscience de leur intérêt, je crois qu'il est à présent souhaitable de formuler les orientations et les principes qui permettront de définir les lignes directrices d'une numérisation cohérente, bénéfique pour l'ensemble de l'humanité. C'est-à-dire aussi une numérisation qui conduise à résorber la fracture entre le Nord et le Sud, et il me semble que l'UNESCO est précisément l'enceinte dans laquelle ces lignes de force devraient émerger. La France fera, en tout cas, tout son possible pour qu'il en soit ainsi.

62.4 Mais s'il est un défi qui doit aujourd'hui nous rassembler, car il se confond avec tous les autres, c'est bien celui de l'éducation, de l'éducation de chacun de nos enfants. En effet, nos légitimes ambitions culturelles auraient-elles la même signification sans espoir d'en transmettre le sens et le goût aux jeunes générations ? Je ne le crois pas et, dans les fonctions qui sont les miennes depuis 2009 au sein du gouvernement du Président Nicolas Sarkozy, j'ai acquis la conviction que l'éducation était la meilleure réponse à opposer à tous les obscurantismes, à tous les fanatismes, à toutes les crises, qu'elles soient économiques, sociales ou morales. Depuis son origine, au lendemain de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, l'UNESCO n'a cessé d'affirmer, de démontrer que l'éducation était la condition du progrès de l'homme, la clef de diffusion de la culture de la paix. Cette constance inspire le respect et fonde la crédibilité de l'Institution qui nous rassemble aujourd'hui. Les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous dont l'UNESCO est chef de file s'inscrivent précisément dans cette tradition et la France s'en réjouit. Pourtant, aujourd'hui, à mesure que se rapproche l'année 2015, nous mesurons le chemin qu'il reste à parcourir : au rythme actuel, 56 millions d'enfants ne seront pas scolarisés en 2015. Nous mesurons également la pluralité, la complexité, mais aussi l'ampleur des défis à relever sur la voie de l'Éducation pour tous.

62.5 La France invite donc l'UNESCO à promouvoir les formes innovantes de financement qui sont ô combien nécessaires pour soutenir l'action engagée. Elle invite aussi l'Organisation à dessiner, dès à présent, ce que devraient être, en matière d'éducation comme de culture, les objectifs de développement pour l'après-2015 et, dans ce cadre, notre pays ne peut que se féliciter que l'objectif quantitatif de scolarisation primaire universelle s'enrichisse progressivement d'ambitions qualitatives qui touchent à la nature de l'enseignement dispensé, au niveau de formation des professeurs, ou encore à l'inclusion de l'enseignement secondaire et universitaire susceptible de créer des filières de recherche. La France est d'autant plus soucieuse d'accompagner l'UNESCO dans cette définition des objectifs pour l'après-2015 qu'elle est elle-même engagée dans une rénovation en profondeur de son enseignement, dont je veux vous faire part. En moins de 150 ans, l'école française aura connu trois grandes révolutions. La première révolution date de la fin du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle : c'est celle de l'école gratuite, laïque et obligatoire ; la deuxième, de la fin du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle : c'est celle de la démocratisation et de la massification.

62.6 Aujourd'hui, notre révolution en cours est celle de la personnalisation. Personnaliser, pour porter une attention spécifique à chaque élève, lui proposer un parcours adapté à ses talents, à ses besoins, à ses ambitions, car l'uniformité est l'ennemie de l'excellence. Il nous faut au contraire diversifier les voies de l'excellence pour permettre à chacun de nos élèves d'aller au plus loin de ses capacités, de construire son parcours vers la réussite. Et pour cela, Mesdames et Messieurs, il nous faut oser, oser face aux habitudes de pensée ; innover, innover face aux conservatismes ; changer l'école avec les professeurs. Le chemin est difficile mais la conviction que l'éducation est source d'avenir suffit à renforcer la détermination de chacun. L'avenir de l'humanité repose sur sa capacité à transmettre, à éduquer, à partager



le savoir et la culture. Aujourd'hui comme hier, l'UNESCO peut compter sur la présence et le soutien constants de la France pour mener cette mission à bien.

63. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* Now I would like to ask the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam to come to the podium. Your Excellency Mr Thanh Son Nguyen, the floor is yours.

64.1 **Г-н Нгуен (Вьетнам):**

Уважаемая госпожа Председатель 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО, уважаемая госпожа Генеральный директор ЮНЕСКО, дамы и господа, прежде всего, от имени вьетнамской делегации, присутствующей на 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО, я хотел бы выразить г-же Председателю Генеральной конференции наши наилучшие пожелания. Убежден, что работа Генеральной конференции под Вашим председательством будет успешной.

64.2 Уважаемая г-жа Председатель, экономический спад, напряженность и конфликты, охватывающие многие регионы мира, представляют собой с точки зрения дальнейшей деятельности ЮНЕСКО вызовы, которые ставят под угрозу достижение целей тысячелетия в области развития. В этих сложных условиях 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции предстоит определить приоритетные направления деятельности ЮНЕСКО на предстоящие два года, ориентируясь на реально имеющиеся возможности. На основе принятых таким образом решений Организация сможет более эффективно планировать и работать, способствуя дальнейшему глобальному сотрудничеству во имя мирного, стабильного и процветающего будущего человечества.

64.3 Вьетнам отмечает, что в сфере компетенции ЮНЕСКО инвестиции в области образования имеют исключительное значение, поскольку они являются важнейшим фактором устойчивого долгосрочного развития. В этой связи Вьетнам приветствует сохранение бюджетных приоритетов ЮНЕСКО в области образования в отношении наиболее актуальных главных мероприятий и программ. Вьетнам неизменно поддерживает программы, направленные на обеспечение всеобщего образования, реализуя собственные программы в этой области, а также программы в рамках Десятилетия образования в интересах устойчивого развития ООН (2005-2014 гг.) и Десятилетия грамотности Организации Объединенных Наций (2003-2012 гг.).

64.4 В целях выполнения программы по образованию для всех вьетнамское правительство активно реализует национальный план действий по образованию для всех посредством обучения всех членов общества, развивает сеть общественных обучающих центров. Что касается программ в рамках Десятилетия образования в интересах устойчивого развития ООН, то мы разработали и эффективно осуществили план действий на вторую половину Десятилетия 2010-2014 гг. В отношении программ ООН в рамках Десятилетия грамотности мы активно осуществляем проект по борьбе с неграмотностью в бедных районах, рассчитанный на период 2009-2012 гг.

64.5 Вьетнам готов поделиться своим опытом в области образования и надеется, что ЮНЕСКО будет и впредь стремиться к сотрудничеству с крупными международными учреждениями, к расширению технической помощи развивающимся странам и к достижению целей тысячелетия в области развития.

64.6 Уважаемая г-жа Председатель, в области культуры Вьетнам поддерживает роль ЮНЕСКО в области охраны и развития всемирного материального и нематериального наследия. Вьетнам отмечает, что политика в области сохранения всемирного наследия неотделимо связана с целями устойчивого развития. В связи с 40-летней годовщиной подписания Конвенции 1972 г. Вьетнам планирует провести у себя субрегиональную конференцию для стран Юго-Восточной Азии (АСЕАН). Говоря о воздействии Конвенции 1972 г. с точки зрения охраны и развития всемирного наследия и биосферных заповедников в интересах устойчивого развития, следует отметить его сходство с воздействием, оказываемым программой «Человек и биосфера». В рамках этой деятельности Вьетнам намерен сохранить и обеспечить укрепление сотрудничества между ЮНЕСКО и АСЕАН. Мы надеемся также на поддержку со стороны ЮНЕСКО и заинтересованных стран. Что касается культурного разнообразия, то Вьетнам неизменно поддерживал эту инициативу, что нашло выражение в проводимой правительством Вьетнама последовательной политике, основанной на понимании того, что культурное разнообразие является основой культурного равноправия всех наций и условием устойчивого и стабильного развития во всем мире.

64.7 Уважаемая г-жа Председатель, говоря о реформе ЮНЕСКО, Вьетнам поддерживает усилия Организации, направленные на то, чтобы повысить эффективность ее деятельности при сохранении объемов бюджета. Что касается реформы сети подразделений ЮНЕСКО на местах, то, по мнению эта Вьетнама, реформа идет параллельно с инициативой «Единство действий», концепция которой реализуется в восьми пилотных странах мира, в том числе во Вьетнаме. Вьетнамский национальная комиссия по делам ЮНЕСКО тесно сотрудничает с Бюро ЮНЕСКО в Ханое в деле разработки основных направлений и программ сотрудничества в областях компетенции ЮНЕСКО и планов деятельности в рамках инициативы «Единство действий» на период 2012-2016 гг. Спасибо за внимание.

(64.1) **M. Nguyen (Viet Nam) (traduit du russe) :**

Madame la Présidente de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, avant toute chose, au nom de la délégation vietnamienne présente à la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, je souhaiterais adresser nos meilleurs vœux à Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale. Je suis convaincu que sous votre présidence les travaux de la Conférence générale seront fructueux.

(64.2) Madame la Présidente, le ralentissement économique, les tensions et les conflits qui se sont emparés de nombreuses régions du monde représentent, pour l'activité future de l'UNESCO, des défis qui menacent la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Dans ce contexte difficile, la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale doit définir les axes d'action prioritaires de l'UNESCO pour les deux prochaines années sur la base de ses capacités réelles. Les

décisions prises par ce biais permettront à l'Organisation de planifier et de travailler plus efficacement, en améliorant la coopération internationale future au nom d'un avenir pacifique, stable et prospère pour l'humanité.

(64.3) Le Viet Nam souligne que dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO les investissements dans le secteur de l'éducation revêtent une importance majeure, parce qu'ils sont le principal facteur d'un développement stable à long terme. À cet égard, le Viet Nam se félicite que l'UNESCO conserve ses priorités budgétaires dans le domaine de l'éducation concernant les mesures et les programmes principaux les plus pressants. Le Viet Nam soutient sans réserve les programmes ciblant l'Éducation pour tous en menant ses propres programmes dans ce domaine, ainsi que les programmes de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable (2005-2014) et de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation (2003-2012).

(64.4) Dans le cadre de l'Éducation pour tous, le Gouvernement vietnamien met activement en œuvre un plan d'action national en formant tous les membres de la société et développe un réseau de centres éducatifs publics. Dans le cadre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable, nous avons élaboré et efficacement mis en œuvre un plan d'action pour la seconde moitié de la Décennie (2010-2014). Dans le cadre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation, nous menons activement un projet de lutte contre l'illettrisme dans les régions défavorisées portant sur la période 2009-2012.

(64.5) Le Viet Nam est prêt à partager son expérience dans le domaine de l'éducation et espère que l'UNESCO continuera à l'avenir de collaborer avec d'éminents établissements mondiaux, de développer son assistance technique aux pays en développement et d'œuvrer à réaliser les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

(64.6) Madame la Présidente, dans le domaine de la culture, le Viet Nam soutient l'action de l'UNESCO au titre de la sauvegarde et du développement du patrimoine mondial matériel et immatériel. La politique de conservation du patrimoine mondial est indissociable des objectifs de développement durable. Concernant la célébration du 40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Convention de 1972, le Viet Nam prévoit d'accueillir une conférence sous-régionale pour les pays de l'Association des nations de l'Asie du Sud-Est (ASEAN). Concernant l'action de la Convention de 1972 dans le domaine de la conservation et du développement du patrimoine mondial et des réserves de biosphère au service du développement durable, il convient de souligner ses similitudes avec l'action menée au titre du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère. À cet égard, le Viet Nam a l'intention d'entretenir et d'intensifier la coopération entre l'UNESCO et l'ASEAN. Nous comptons également sur le soutien de l'UNESCO et des pays intéressés. En ce qui concerne la diversité culturelle, le Viet Nam apporte son appui constant à cette initiative, comme en témoigne la politique de son gouvernement fondée sur l'idée que la diversité culturelle est le fondement de l'égalité culturelle entre toutes les nations et la condition d'un développement durable et stable dans le monde entier.

(64.7) Madame la Présidente, à propos de la réforme de l'UNESCO, le Viet Nam soutient les efforts de l'Organisation pour accroître l'efficacité de son action sans accroissement de son budget. En ce qui concerne la réforme du dispositif hors Siège, le Viet Nam considère qu'elle avance parallèlement au programme « Unis dans l'action », mis en œuvre dans huit pays pilotes, dont le Viet Nam. La Commission nationale vietnamienne pour l'UNESCO collabore étroitement avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Hanoi en vue de définir des orientations fondamentales et des programmes de coopération dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO ainsi que des plans d'action dans le cadre de l'initiative « Unis dans l'action » pour la période 2012-2016. Merci de votre attention.

**65. The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to ask the Vice-Minister of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology of Japan, His Excellency Mr Kiyoshi Shimizu, to come to the floor.

**66.1 Mr Shimizu (Japan):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, let me express my sincere congratulations on your election, Madam President. Madam President, Japan places a high priority on UNESCO's efforts in a wide range of issues that the international community is facing in an ever more globalized era. We are committed to providing as much support and collaboration as possible to those efforts as well as supporting the Director-General's efforts in UNESCO reforms. Madam President, on 11 March, Japan was hit by a powerful earthquake of 9.0 magnitude in the Pacific Ocean off the Tohoku area, followed by a massive tsunami. The disaster caused tremendous damage, with the loss of about 20,000 lives including missing persons. I would like to take this opportunity to extend once again our deepest gratitude for the great support and solidarity expressed by the Director-General, UNESCO and its Member States in the wake of the earthquake. Our recovery and reconstruction efforts after the earthquake are making great progress. At schools, along with the resumption of classes, we are implementing all the necessary measures including the restoration of facilities and assistance to continue to provide education and post-disaster mental care. In addition, steps are being taken to reduce the radiation dose. With regard to the situation of the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station, we are making steady progress towards convergence. Through measures such as the continuous cooling of the circulating water at the reactor as well as the cooling of the expended fuel pool, the radiation exposure dose at the site boundaries of the power station was recently assessed at maximum 0.2 milli-Sievert per year. Resolving this situation is our top priority and we are making every effort towards convergence as soon as possible. This great disaster brought home to us the importance of sustainable societies. We believe Japan's continuous contribution to sustainable development will be the way in which we will repay our debt of gratitude to the international community for the strong bonds and warm friendship demonstrated through the difficult times recently.

66.2 Madam President, we anticipate UNESCO's further initiatives towards the 2014 World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as a leading agency within the United Nations system in raising awareness of the importance of ESD in the international community. As the first proposer of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), we plan to hold the meetings in Nagoya and Okayama. In Japan, since the unprecedented disaster, we have recognized again the importance of promoting education for disaster risk reduction. For that purpose, we must collaborate not just in the area of education, but also in the fields of scientific research based on natural science, humanities and the social sciences. Japan believes that it is important to promote ESD in conjunction with education for all, to ensure high-quality education for all, while supporting all disadvantaged children including those

who are subject to child labour. It is also essential that we provide educational support to those countries affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

66.3 Madam President, Japan has played a significant role in UNESCO's science activities, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and other areas of disaster prevention aiming to construct sustainable societies. We believe that, in order to solve global-scale issues such as climate change and widespread major disasters, it is indispensable that we take a broad cross-sectoral approach from the perspective of sustainability in various science programmes and the existing initiatives of UNESCO.

66.4 Madam President, we highly appreciate UNESCO's commitment to the protection of the world heritage as well as intangible cultural heritage, which have led to promoting cultural diversity and also to increasing UNESCO's visibility among the international organizations. Japan is committed to continuing to make our international contributions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage, through various forms such as our funds-in-trust and dispatch of Japanese experts to relevant conferences. In 2012, Japan will be hosting a final event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and show that we are determined to make further efforts in this important field.

66.5 Madam President, finally, I hope for UNESCO's further development under the strong leadership of Ms Bokova, so that it can sufficiently fulfil its roles and responsibility for the future. Thank you very much for your attention.

67. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Cecile Humphrey, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Education and Human Resource Development of Barbados.

68.1 **Ms Humphrey (Barbados):**

Madam President, Excellencies, heads of delegation, distinguished delegates, I take this opportunity to offer to you, Madam President, our warmest congratulations on your assumption of the office of President. I also thank your distinguished predecessor, our brother from the Caribbean, for his sterling work during his term in office. Barbados also welcomes its sister small island States Curaçao and Sint Maarten which joined the UNESCO family during the inaugural session of this 36th session of the General Conference.

68.2 Madam President, Barbados had the honour of hosting the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, almost 20 years ago. The nations gathered in Bridgetown adopted the Barbados Programme of Action. We are heartened that the interests of small island developing States (SIDS) have gained greater recognition over the years. We very much appreciate the recognition given in UNESCO's Draft Programme and Budget (36 C/5), to this special group of States, since our commitment to all issues pertinent to SIDS remains the same today as when it was first articulated.

68.3 Madam President, the Government of Barbados is committed to the work of UNESCO across the spectrum of issues on which we deliberate. One area of particular interest to us is the protection and promotion of cultural diversity and heritage. We commend the work being undertaken under the World Heritage Convention, especially as it relates to biological diversity, land degradation and climate change. Barbados wishes to reiterate thanks to the World Heritage Committee for its recent inscription of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison on the World Heritage List. It is a special achievement for a small island developing State. We express gratitude for the acknowledgement and support of the international community. Barbadians, I have to say, have responded warmly to the challenge of protecting their tiny part of the heritage of humanity. We are also heartened by the development of the Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes. Nevertheless, we are concerned that SIDS, notably in the Caribbean region, are underrepresented within the World Heritage system. Barbados is of the view that this aspect of UNESCO's work has the capacity to capture the diversity we seek, celebrating individuality and identity while enabling capacity-building.

68.4 Madam President, Barbados considers that continued national development in a changed and evolving world depends heavily on the contribution of our young people. We provide free education from primary to tertiary levels in Barbados. We are now increasing the number of government-funded nursery schools with a view to providing increased access to education from the nursery level as part of an enhanced early childhood programme. This demonstrates Barbados's commitment to education for all. Barbados would like to use this occasion to express its thanks for the UNESCO Youth Poverty Alleviation through Tourism and Heritage (PATH) project, as we have been able to see the results, and responsible adults now contribute to the development of the cultural and environmental landscape in Barbados. Since the launching of the UNESCO Slave Route Project in 1994, there has been an international effort to undertake research, dialogue and public education about the realities and brutalities of the African slave trade and slavery, in which more than 11 million Africans in the trans-Atlantic slave trade alone were sold into bondage in the Americas. Of course, the virtual erasure of the worst form of human exploitation from global memory resonates strongly with United Nations' ideals and its duty to uphold human rights. We strongly endorse the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, as well as the Memory of the World Programme as invaluable strategies in this regard. Barbados has taken note of an absence of adequate statistics on the culture sectors of the Caribbean region. We are seeking to diversify our economies through the development of the cultural industries. To do this successfully, the collection of comprehensive statistics on this area of activity is critical. We look forward to working with UNESCO to ensure that our countries can take advantage of the recently revised UNESCO Framework on Cultural Statistics. With respect to the natural sciences, Barbados is pleased to note the efforts of the Secretariat in restructuring its activities, and heartily commends the innovative approach to natural sciences for the new biennium. Bearing in mind the limited capacity in SIDS for science, technology and innovation (STI), we strongly support the development of STI policies and capacity-building for small islands within this biennium.

68.5 Madam President, the Government of Barbados recognizes that, like each of our countries, UNESCO faces many challenges. However, that is why we are here, to work together. We all value and are committed to certain fundamental principles such as peace, harmony, fairness, mutual respect, equality and human rights. Barbados, as a small island developing State, is determined to play its part in ensuring the continued success of UNESCO. We are therefore recommending that our representative on the Executive Board, Ms Alissandra Cummins, who has the endorsement of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries and has the requisite skills and competencies, be commended and supported for Chair of the next Executive Board. I thank you for your attention.

69. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, Her Excellency Ms Gunay Efendiyeva.

70.1 **Ms Efendiyeva (Azerbaijan):**

Madam President, Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me start my statement by congratulating Her Excellency Ms Katalin Bogyay from Hungary for her election to the post of President of the 36th session of the General Conference. It is a double pleasure and honour for me since you also represent our Electoral Group II. I am confident that your wise and able guidance will ensure the overall success of the session. At the same time, I would like to emphasize the excellent presidency of Mr Davidson Hepburn, our neighbour here; as he said himself: "I did it my way". Allow me also to extend congratulations and warm wishes on behalf of my Minister of Foreign Affairs, who unfortunately could not attend this august meeting owing to the recent election of Azerbaijan as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. It is indeed an historical achievement and I am using this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all countries that supported us.

70.2 Ladies and gentlemen, Azerbaijan welcomes the reforms undertaken by Director-General Irina Bokova and fully supports her efforts to strengthen UNESCO's programme activities and make UNESCO more efficient and more visible in the international arena. We share the key priorities of the Organization, supporting UNESCO activities to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples. My country is playing an increasing role in ensuring the culture of peace and fostering international security. To this end, it is worthy of note that in the course of this year Baku hosted two major events, namely the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue and the International Humanitarian Forum, with the participation of the international community, including prominent political, scientific, cultural and media representatives, as well as Nobel Prize winners from different parts of the world. With its historically shaped traditions of tolerance and respect for cultural diversity, Azerbaijan has always been and continues to be a strong proponent of promoting mutual understanding and dialogue among civilizations. It is with a great feeling of sorrow, however, that I would like to mention that, being a country which attaches significant importance to the protection of the cultural heritage of humanity, Azerbaijan has no opportunity to protect its own cultural and historical monuments on account of the continuous occupation of its territories by Armenia. As the First Lady of Azerbaijan mentioned in her address here yesterday, as a result of this occupation, followed by ethnic cleansing, about one million persons became refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs). Numerous religious, historical and cultural monuments and objects have been either totally destroyed or illegally appropriated in the occupied lands. In fact, this is also the case with many other countries affected by war and conflicts. That is why Azerbaijan is extremely interested in ensuring the proper and effective implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and the 1970 Convention by revitalizing the work of the relevant intergovernmental committees and by reinforcing its mechanisms. There is much to be done and we believe that UNESCO has an important role to assume in this regard.

70.3 Excellencies, dear friends, making use of UNESCO's global status and rich experience as a unique forum of humanistic values, Azerbaijan actively cooperates with the Organization and takes part in various UNESCO programmes and projects. The 18th session of the International Bioethics Committee, which took place in Baku this year is a shining example of this cooperation. We also sincerely appreciate the fact that the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, made one of her first official visits to Azerbaijan. The personal involvement of the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, to support the Organization's activities and the spread of UNESCO values should also be highlighted. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation under her leadership carries out very important cultural, educational and scientific projects, not only in Azerbaijan, but also in other countries. I am pleased to inform you that Azerbaijan and UNESCO have just signed an agreement on a financial contribution to the project on the restoration of the cultural sector in Haiti. Let me assure you that the Republic of Azerbaijan will continue actively to contribute to the promotion of international security, values of mutual respect and dialogue between civilizations. Thank you for your kind attention.

71. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement. Now I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador of the Netherlands, His Excellency Mr Robert Zeldenrust. The floor is yours.

72.1 **Mr Zeldenrust (Netherlands):**

President of the General Conference, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me start by saying, Madam President, how happy my delegation is to see you in the chair. We wish you every success in the challenging task that is ahead of you. Also I would like to pay tribute to Ambassador Hepburn for the outstanding manner in which he steered us through the opening session on Tuesday and of course through the 35th session of the General Conference.

72.2 Madam President, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has schools, institutes, chairs and cultural heritage sites that bear the name of UNESCO. From the canal district of Amsterdam to the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, where thousands of water managers and experts from all over the world, including by the way our own Crown Prince, have been trained, and the UNESCO Chair on Caribbean Small Island Development: they are all striking examples of the fundamental principle of UNESCO, which has remained unchanged since 1946 – to promote education, the free

exchange of views and understanding between different peoples. If only for this reason, UNESCO carries huge significance for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Unfortunately, the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Ms Van Bijsterveldt, is unable to be present among us today, owing to an accidental fall two weeks ago. She very much regrets not being able to join you because the themes that UNESCO focuses on during the General Conference are close to her heart, in particular gender equality and cultural heritage. For the Kingdom of the Netherlands, this General Conference is an historical one because, as Aruba did in 1987, both Curaçao and Sint Maarten joined the UNESCO community as Associate Members two days ago. This shows that both the European and the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom attach much importance to the work of UNESCO. To remain a leading organization in the field of education, culture and science, UNESCO must continue its reform process. The Director-General started the restructuring of the Secretariat and thus heeded the recommendations of the independent external evaluation. The Netherlands acknowledges and appreciates her efforts. We also applaud the recommendations of Member States, prompted by the same evaluation. In our view, Member States should assume a guiding role in the Organization, with the Secretariat supporting us and keeping us on track. The Netherlands is looking forward to the substantive discussions to be held in the new ad hoc working group of the Executive Board and we expect all Member States to make an active contribution to these discussions.

72.3 One of the big challenges we must discuss is the future of the World Heritage Convention. It is a successful and appealing instrument that has existed for almost 40 years now. But to steer this success in the right direction we must act in the spirit of the original objective: the preservation of heritage that has “outstanding universal value”. This means that we must base our decisions on substantive arguments – not on political or other considerations. The World Heritage List must not be allowed to turn into a prestigious collection of pretty pictures in tourist brochures. It must remain an effective instrument for the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage. We thus set high standards for ourselves. But with the commitment of us all, it should be possible to ensure that the criteria of high quality, sustainability and credibility continue to lead the way. Let us explore together what changes are necessary to accomplish this. Even during times of political unrest, sometimes leading to armed conflict, the world community has a duty to protect heritage sites. When nation-States enter a period of transition, UNESCO often finds itself in a difficult position. Yet we can call for global attention for these problems and, as a United Nations organization, we can make a case for the preservation of heritage as soon as the opportunity arises. Heritage is, after all, an important bearer of our identity and the preservation of heritage contributes to the advancement of a country. This brings me to my final remarks.

72.4 Ladies and gentlemen, together, we are responsible for reforming this wonderful Organization. This will require good collaboration. It will also oblige us to listen to each other and learn from one another. But it also might require of us that we enter into a heavy discussion with one another – such as a discussion on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This is to be expected. It is all a part of the free exchange of views that UNESCO stands for. Let me end therefore with the words of Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see in the world.” Thank you very much for your attention.

73. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to invite to the floor the Ambassador of Brazil, Her Excellency Ms Maria Laura da Rocha.

74.1 **Mme da Rocha (Brésil) :**

*(Intervention prononcée en portugais ; interprétation vers le français):*

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et représentants permanents, Mesdames et Messieurs, des mutations rapides sont à l'œuvre sur la scène mondiale. Certaines d'entre elles sont porteuses d'espoir, d'autres sont teintées d'incertitudes et de menaces. La faim continue d'être une réalité quotidienne pour des milliards d'êtres humains. Nous avons besoin de réponses courageuses, coordonnées, pour lutter à la fois contre les causes et les conséquences de l'instabilité et de la précarité auxquelles nous faisons face aujourd'hui. L'UNESCO doit agir. Il reste beaucoup à faire en matière d'éducation, de coopération scientifique, de promotion du multiculturalisme et de créativité, d'accès aux connaissances et aux nouvelles technologies de la communication et de l'information, en promouvant la prospérité dans un esprit de justice, d'humanisme et de responsabilité environnementale.

74.2 Actif au sein de l'UNESCO depuis sa fondation, le Brésil est présent sur tous ces fronts, sur le plan national et à travers une activité accrue au niveau international. Nous sommes fiers de notre vibrante démocratie et des indices de croissance qui sont un facteur d'inclusion dans notre société : en neuf ans, 40 millions de Brésiliens sont passés de la pauvreté à la classe moyenne. Pour réaliser de tels progrès, nous nous appuyons sur des projets de résolution destinés à octroyer plus de ressources à ce secteur. Le budget de l'éducation au Brésil a triplé en huit ans. Il équivaut aujourd'hui à 5 % du produit intérieur et atteindra au moins 7 % en 2020. La scolarité des enfants entre 4 et 17 ans sera universelle d'ici 2016. Nous parions sur l'enseignement technique et professionnel. Par ailleurs, nous investissons dans les progrès de la science brésilienne au service de la technologie, de l'innovation et de la compétitivité. Le programme « Sciences sans frontières », qui a été récemment lancé par la Présidente, Mme Dilma Rousseff, offrira 75 000 bourses d'étude à l'étranger d'ici 2014, dans le domaine des sciences exactes et biomédicales. C'est dans cet esprit que le Brésil accueillera, pour la première fois en 2013, le Forum mondial de la science.

74.3 Rio de Janeiro recevra, l'année prochaine, la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable (Conférence Rio + 20). Grâce à ses initiatives sur des sujets tels que les océans, le changement climatique, les géosciences et l'hydrologie, l'UNESCO apportera des contributions significatives. Il est aussi un programme très novateur dont nous sommes très fiers, c'est le programme Bolsa Família (Bourse familiale), qui combine transfert de revenus et fréquentation scolaire obligatoire. Plus de 12 millions de foyers en bénéficient. Nous attribuons beaucoup de valeur au sport, car nous y voyons un élément de vie saine, un vecteur d'intégration sociale et de non-violence. Nous

serons le pays hôte de deux grands événements sportifs mondiaux, la Coupe du monde de football en 2014 et les Jeux olympiques en 2016. La lutte contre toutes les formes de discrimination est particulièrement visible dans les politiques de promotion de l'égalité raciale et des genres, dans les mesures de prévention de la violence contre les femmes et dans la mobilisation en faveur des droits et de la dignité des êtres humains.

74.4 Notre pays compte la plus grande diaspora africaine au monde et nous allons célébrer l'Année internationale des personnes d'ascendance africaine au cours d'une semaine de fêtes et de débats. Le 19 novembre prochain aura lieu à Salvador de Bahia un Sommet des chefs d'État et de gouvernement d'Amérique latine, de la Caraïbe et d'Afrique qui rendra hommage aux extraordinaires contributions socioéconomiques, culturelles et politiques de l'Afrique à l'Amérique latine et à la Caraïbe. Preuve de notre engagement à défendre une société multiculturelle, nous consacrons plus de 7 % de notre produit intérieur aux industries culturelles et créatives. Nous sommes tout disposés à partager la riche expérience que nous avons acquise en la matière. Nous saluons les 40 années de la Convention de 1972. Avec 18 sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, nous défendons son orientation pour en faire une véritable représentation de la richesse culturelle et naturelle de l'humanité tout entière. En coordination avec l'Association ibéroaméricaine des musées, nous espérons que l'UNESCO commencera bientôt à réfléchir à un futur instrument normatif dans le domaine du patrimoine muséologique. Nous reconnaissons à l'Internet et aux réseaux sociaux leur valeur d'instruments privilégiés pour le développement humain et social des peuples. Nous encourageons l'UNESCO à œuvrer en faveur de l'accès universel à la connaissance en ligne et de l'ouverture des ressources éducatives et scientifiques en ligne. Nous sommes convaincus que c'est la bonne démarche.

74.5 Madame la Présidente, nous sommes en faveur de la coopération Sud-Sud et Nord-Sud-Sud mais nous ne nous considérons pas comme un bailleur de fonds émergent. Notre coopération est horizontale et n'est pas assortie de conditionnalité. Nous continuerons de travailler au sein de l'UNESCO. Cette Conférence générale est une occasion historique d'admettre la Palestine en tant qu'État membre. La reconnaissance du droit légitime du peuple palestinien à la souveraineté et à l'autodétermination accroît les possibilités d'une paix durable au Moyen-Orient. Seule une Palestine démocratique, libre et souveraine pourra répondre aux désirs légitimes d'Israël de vivre en paix avec ses voisins. Je tiens à féliciter la Directrice générale, Mme Bokova, et son équipe, pour tous les efforts déployés dans le cadre de la réforme qui a été lancée. Il est essentiel que le programme biennal que nous approuverons dans les prochains jours continue de s'inscrire dans la lignée d'une nouvelle UNESCO, d'une UNESCO revivifiée, plus efficace, plus agile, plus utile, plus en phase avec les temps modernes. Je vous remercie.

75. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to give the floor to the Chargé d'Affaires of Madagascar to UNESCO, Mr Ny Toky Andriamanjato. The floor is yours.

76.1 **M. Andriamanjato (Madagascar) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'honneur m'échoit de représenter Madagascar à cette 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO et de vous féliciter, Madame la Présidente, pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette Conférence générale. Permettez-moi, par la même occasion, de rendre hommage à votre prédécesseur, Son Excellence Monsieur Davidson Hepburn, pour l'excellent travail qu'il a réalisé avec rigueur et perfection. Madagascar approuve la proposition alternative de budget à croissance nominale zéro pour le biennium 2012-2013, qui tient compte des priorités globales de l'UNESCO. Nous louons ici les efforts de la Directrice générale qui, malgré les contraintes dues à la crise financière internationale, n'a de cesse de chercher et mettre en œuvre les solutions appropriées pour rendre l'UNESCO plus efficace, percutante et visible.

76.2 Madame la Directrice générale, Madagascar apprécie à leur juste valeur les réformes de l'UNESCO que vous avez engagées suivant votre plan d'action et conformément aux recommandations de l'Évaluation externe indépendante. Nous avons la certitude que, sous votre direction et à travers votre vision d'un nouvel humanisme pour le XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle, ces réformes donneront à notre Organisation la force et les moyens nécessaires pour mener à bien les tâches qui lui incombent. Madame la Présidente, Madagascar constate avec satisfaction de nombreuses réalisations positives dans le domaine de l'éducation. Cependant, beaucoup reste à faire, en particulier en matière d'éducation des filles et des femmes, d'éducation préventive relative au VIH/SIDA, d'éducation aux valeurs, à la citoyenneté et au civisme, aux droits de l'homme, à la tolérance et au dialogue, afin de promouvoir la réconciliation et la paix. Madagascar appuie les démarches de l'UNESCO pour la recherche de financement en vue de renforcer la réalisation de l'EPT et d'atteindre les six objectifs de Dakar et les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

76.3 Madame la Présidente, Madagascar est favorable à l'initiative de l'UNESCO relative aux sciences de l'ingénieur et demande le renforcement des programmes relatifs aux réserves de biosphère pour contribuer à l'éducation en vue du développement durable ainsi qu'à l'atténuation du changement climatique. La gestion de l'eau, deuxième ressource stratégique au niveau mondial, fait partie des priorités gouvernementales malgaches. Aussi sollicitons-nous le soutien de tous les États membres à la candidature de Madagascar au Conseil intergouvernemental du PHI. Madame la Présidente, le Programme MOST reçoit également un appui particulier de Madagascar. Les recommandations du septième Forum des jeunes, qui avait pour thème « Comment les jeunes conduisent le changement », ainsi que les décisions prises lors de la 17<sup>e</sup> Conférence de l'Union africaine, engagent l'Afrique, et en particulier Madagascar, dans un processus de progrès social pour le bien d'un peuple majoritairement jeune. Nous demandons à l'UNESCO d'accroître ses efforts dans la mise en œuvre de sa Stratégie pour la jeunesse africaine et invitons tous les bailleurs potentiels à y contribuer. Madagascar entend mettre en œuvre, à partir de 2012, sa Politique nationale des sports et souhaite l'accompagnement de l'UNESCO.

76.4 Madame la Présidente, tout en saluant la décision du Conseil exécutif relative à la redynamisation du Fonds international pour la promotion de la culture (FIPC), Madagascar se félicite de la formalisation du lien entre culture et développement au niveau des Nations Unies. Elle appuie les activités relatives au renforcement des capacités en matière de protection, de sauvegarde et de gestion du patrimoine culturel et naturel, sans oublier la tradition artisanale qui constitue à la fois une richesse culturelle et un vecteur de développement durable. Madame la Présidente, Madagascar estime qu'il est capital de renforcer les capacités endogènes en matière d'information et de communication pour la promotion des droits de l'homme, de la démocratie et de la paix et d'appliquer la dépénalisation des délits de presse. Le lien entre communication et développement est indéniable. C'est pourquoi nous soutenons le Programme international pour le développement de la communication (PIDC) et le Programme Information pour tous (PIPT) et félicitons l'UNESCO pour la mise en place d'une nouvelle plate-forme de formation des journalistes dans le cadre de ses ressources éducatives libres. Par ailleurs, nous nous prononçons en faveur de la proclamation d'une Journée mondiale de la radio car ce média reste aujourd'hui incontournable, et réaffirmons notre attachement au Programme Mémoire du monde, qui est un outil essentiel de préservation du patrimoine documentaire universel pour les sociétés de tradition orale comme Madagascar.

76.5 Madame la Présidente, l'intervention très remarquée de Son Excellence Monsieur Andry Rajoelina, Président de la Haute Autorité de la transition malgache, lors de la dernière Assemblée des Nations Unies à New York, a marqué le retour incontestable de Madagascar dans le concert des nations, après une période de crise de deux ans et demi. Conformément à la feuille de route de sortie de crise de Madagascar, le gouvernement de transition a déposé sa démission le 18 octobre dernier et la nomination d'un Premier Ministre de consensus, ainsi que la mise en place d'un gouvernement d'union nationale qui aura pour mission de préparer des élections législatives et présidentielles libres et transparentes, auront lieu très prochainement. Mesdames et Messieurs, tout en réitérant nos remerciements aux pays amis qui ont fermement soutenu le processus de sortie de crise à Madagascar, nous demandons la mise en place d'un bureau national de l'UNESCO à Madagascar pour piloter un programme multisectoriel d'appui spécial post-crise. Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

#### 77. The President:

Thank you very much for your statement. Now I would like to give the floor to the Deputy Permanent Delegate of Jordan, Mr Mohammad Okour.

٧٨،١ السيد أوکور (الأردن):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، بداية، أتوجه إليك سيدي الرئيسة بالتهنئة الخالصة على انتخابك رئيسة لهذه الدورة متمنيا لك التوفيق والنجاح في أعمال هذا المؤتمر. السيدات والسادة، يحظى التعليم الذي هو أساس التنمية في بلدي الأردن باهتمام بالغ من أعلى المستويات؛ إذ يقع الأردن في ففة الدول ذات الاحتمالية العالية في تحقيق أهداف التعليم للجميع، وتؤدي المدرسة دوراً أساسياً في بناء الشخصية الإيجابية وتوفير المنابر الحرة للعقل والفضاء الرحب لممارسة الديمقراطية والحث على التفكير الناقد المبدع والحر وتوفير المعلمين والمعلمات بشتى الوسائل المتاحة وتحقيق العدالة والمساواة في تقديم الخدمات التربوية وتطوير المناهج التعليمية لتلبي متطلبات سوق العمل. وقد تبنت وزارة التربية والتعليم في الأردن الرؤى الملكية للإصلاح والتطوير ودعم التميز والإبداع من خلال عدد من المبادرات أهمها مبادرة "مدرستي" التي تعتبر نموذجاً ريادياً لتجسيد مبدأ التعاون والشراكة بين القطاعين العام والخاص.

٧٨،٢ ومن هذا المنبر، لا بد من أن نشير إلى المبادرة التي أطلقها جلالة الملك عبد الله الثاني أمام الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة في عام ٢٠١٠، لإقامة أسبوع عالمي للوثائق بين الأديان في الأسبوع الأول من شهر شباط/فبراير من كل عام وإصدار الجمعية العامة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة قراراً جمعياً بهذا الخصوص، وذلك تجسيداً لنشر الحوار بين الأديان والتسامح بين الشعوب، ودعماً لرسالة عمان التي تُعتبر مثلاً حقيقياً للتعايش السلمي والتسامح الإنساني ونموذجاً للوسطية والاعتدال، ودعوة صادقة للسعي إلى تحقيق السلام.

٧٨،٣ وأغتنم هذه المناسبة لأؤكد على دور المنظمة في إحلال السلام والديمقراطية في منطقة الشرق الأوسط، من خلال التربية والعلوم والثقافة، متطلعين إلى اليوم الذي ينتهي فيه الصراع العربي الإسرائيلي ويزول بذلك أحد أعمق جذور العنف في المنطقة والعالم وتحظى دول العالم وشعوب المنطقة بمستقبل مشرق يعمه السلام والتعاون. ونحن في الأردن جزء من الموقف العربي المساند والداعم للمسعى الفلسطيني بالانضمام إلى منظمة اليونسكو، تجسيداً لطموحات الشعب الفلسطيني بالحفاظ على تراثه وثقافته وتحقيق تقدم في مجال التعليم والتنمية المستدامة، الأمر الذي سيساهم في تحقيق دفعة دولية قوية وبداية جديدة للسلام. وأود أن أؤكد هنا على ضرورة الاستمرار في تقديم الدعم الفني والمادي للمحافظة على مدينة القدس القديمة الواقعة تحت الاحتلال الإسرائيلي منذ عام ١٩٦٧، وهي رمز السلام ومهبط الأديان السماوية السمحة. ولا بد من أن أشير هنا إلى دور الرعاية والحماية الهاشمية الذي يقوم به جلالة الملك عبد الله الثاني ابن الحسين للقدس ومقدساتها المسيحية والإسلامية وحماية أهلها وهويتها.

٧٨،٤ السيدات والسادة، لا بد من الاعتراف بالدور المتزايد لوسائل الإعلام الاجتماعية في العملية الديمقراطية، فما تشهده بعض دول المنطقة العربية منذ نحو عام خير مثال لدور هذه الوسائل في التعبير عن مطالب الشباب، وفي إرساء قواعد الديمقراطية والنضال من أجل تحقيق العدالة الاجتماعية وحرية التعبير، ونحن في الأردن نرى في الربيع العربي فرصة لتسريع الإصلاحات الشاملة لمأسسة التغيير الإيجابي لبناء مستقبل منيع وآمن ومزدهر مبني على الانجازات الرائدة للحضارة العربية الإسلامية بما تحمله من قيم جوهرية كالتعاطف وتحمل المسؤولية والتسامح إضافة إلى تقبل الآخر واحترام الغير.

٧٨،٥ إن الفجوة ما بين الأجيال واقع لا يمكن إنكاره، فقد أدرك الشباب أن الكبار تركوا لهم إرثاً اقتصادياً وبيئياً متفلاً، غير أننا مطالبون بصياغة السياسات والاستراتيجيات الجديدة التي تعتمد على الأنشطة الإبداعية والتجديدية والترفيهية والتطوعية، وعلى تسخير العلوم والتكنولوجيا لمعالجة التحديات الملحة التي تواجه عالمنا اليوم، واستثمار التقدم في مجال الحوسبة لتمكين البلدان النامية من القيام بقفزة نوعية إلى تكنولوجيا غير مكلفة ونظيفة، من ناحية تأثيرها على البيئة، لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة والقضاء على الفقر.

٧٨،٦ وفي النهاية أكرر شكري وتقديري لكم جميعاً، وأؤكد أن الأولوية تبقى للتعليم الذي إن تم تحقيقه للجميع، ستمكّن الدول من ممارسة النهج الديمقراطي بروح عالية وشعور بالمسؤولية وفهم عميق لمعنى الحرية المسؤولة التي تخدم سيادة القانون وقيم المجتمع وثقافته ومبادئ التسامح والمساواة والتعددية. وفي هذا السياق، أؤكد على مقولة جلالة الملك عبد الله "إننا في الأردن ندرك أن الخطوة الأولى لإحياء شجرة زيتون تكمن في زراعتها، تليها بعد ذلك مئة عملية أخرى نشطة من أجل خلق الخلايا الحيوية التي تعينها في أن تتجذر وتنمو وتكون فيما بعد عناصر القوة التي تضمن بقاءها، ومن الخارج يأتي انسياب الماء

والدعم اللازم لاستمرارية الحياة وإنتاج ثمرة جديدة ". فمن هذا المنظور، نأمل أن يتم في كل لحظة زرع غصن زيتون جديد، لأنه لا بدّ للعمل الحقيقي أن يبدأ كي نمضي قدماً إلى مستقبل مشرق للبشرية جمعاء، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(78.1) **M. Okour** (Jordanie) (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Je m'adresse tout d'abord à vous, Madame la Présidente, pour vous féliciter sincèrement de votre élection à la présidence de la présente session, en vous souhaitant tout le succès possible s'agissant des travaux de la Conférence. Mesdames, Messieurs, l'éducation, qui est à la base du développement dans mon pays, la Jordanie, jouit d'une grande attention à tous les niveaux. La Jordanie se trouve dans la catégorie des pays qui ont une bonne probabilité de pouvoir atteindre les objectifs de l'éducation pour tous (EPT). L'école y joue un rôle fondamental dans la construction d'une personnalité positive, des tribunes libres stimulent l'esprit, un vaste espace existe où pratiquer la démocratie et où encourager la pensée critique, créateur et libre, où augmenter le nombre des enseignants et des enseignantes par tous les moyens disponibles et où réaliser la justice et l'égalité grâce à des services éducatifs et à des programmes scolaires conçus pour satisfaire aux demandes du marché du travail. Le Ministère de l'éducation jordanien a adopté les recommandations royales sur la réforme et le développement et sur le soutien de l'excellence et de la créativité grâce à un certain nombre d'initiatives, dont la plus importante est intitulée « Mon école », modèle d'avant-garde concrétisant le principe de la coopération et du partenariat entre les secteurs public et privé.

(78.2) À cette tribune, il faut que j'attire l'attention sur l'initiative de Sa Majesté le Roi Abdallah II, qu'il a présentée à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en 2010, à savoir la proclamation d'une semaine mondiale de l'harmonie interconfessionnelle, qui aurait lieu chaque année la première semaine de février; l'Assemblée générale a adopté une résolution en ce sens, afin de favoriser le dialogue entre les religions et la tolérance entre les peuples, en soutien au Message d'Amman, qui est un véritable idéal de coexistence pacifique et de tolérance humaine, un modèle de modération, et une invitation sincère à travailler pour la paix.

(78.3) Je saisis cette occasion de rappeler le rôle que joue l'Organisation dans l'appui à la paix et à la démocratie dans la région du Moyen-Orient grâce à l'éducation, à la science et à la culture, en attendant le jour où le conflit arabo-israélien sera terminé, où disparaîtront ainsi les racines les plus profondes de la violence dans la région et dans le monde et où les pays du monde et les peuples de la région jouiront d'un avenir rayonnant fait de paix et de coopération. En Jordanie, nous partageons la position arabe et soutenons les espoirs palestiniens d'adhérer à l'UNESCO, concrétisant ainsi les aspirations du peuple palestinien – préserver son patrimoine et sa culture et réaliser des progrès dans le domaine de l'éducation et du développement durable – ce qui contribuera à l'apparition d'une impulsion internationale forte et à un nouveau départ pour la paix. J'aimerais rappeler ici qu'il est nécessaire de continuer à fournir un appui technique et matériel à la préservation de la Vieille Ville de Jérusalem, occupée par les Israéliens depuis 1967, le symbole de la paix et la terre d'ancrage des trois nobles religions révélées. À cet égard, permettez-moi de souligner que Sa Majesté Abdallah II, fils d'Hussein, confère le patronage et la protection hachémite à Jérusalem et aux lieux saints chrétiens et islamiques, et qu'il confère cette protection aux habitants et à l'identité de ce lieu.

(78.4) Mesdames, Messieurs, il faut reconnaître le rôle croissant des médias sociaux dans le processus démocratique. Ce que vivent certains pays arabes depuis environ un an est la preuve la plus éclatante du rôle de ces médias à divers titres : expression des demandes de la jeunesse, consolidation des règles démocratiques, lutte pour la justice sociale et liberté d'expression. En Jordanie, nous voyons dans le Printemps arabe une occasion d'accélérer les réformes d'ensemble afin d'institutionnaliser le changement positif aux fins de l'édification d'un avenir solide, sûr et florissant, bâti sur les réalisations de pointe de la civilisation arabe et musulmane, avec pour socle ses valeurs essentielles de compassion, de responsabilité et de tolérance, mais aussi d'acceptation et de respect d'autrui.

(78.5) L'écart entre les générations est une réalité indéniable. Les jeunes ont compris que les plus anciens leur avaient laissé un lourd héritage économique et écologique. Nous sommes donc amenés à élaborer de nouvelles politiques et stratégies axées sur des activités créatrices, innovatrices, récréatives et volontaristes, à exploiter les sciences et la technologie afin de relever les défis pressants auxquels fait face le monde d'aujourd'hui, et à exploiter les progrès de l'informatique pour permettre aux pays en développement de faire un bond en avant en utilisant des technologies non coûteuses et propres du point de vue de leur impact sur l'environnement, et ainsi de parvenir au développement durable et d'éliminer la pauvreté.

(78.6) En conclusion, je vous renouvelle à tous mes remerciements, et je souligne que la priorité doit être l'éducation. Si tous y accèdent, cela permettra aux pays de pratiquer l'approche démocratique dans un grand esprit de responsabilité et avec une compréhension profonde du sens de la liberté, au service de l'état de droit, des valeurs et de la culture de la société, et des principes de tolérance, d'égalité et de pluralisme. À cet égard, je rappelle les paroles de Sa Majesté le Roi Abdallah : « En Jordanie, nous savons parfaitement que le premier pas pour faire vivre un arbre, c'est le fait de le semer, suivi de cent autres opérations dynamiques visant à engendrer des cellules vivantes qui permettent à l'arbre de s'enraciner, de pousser et de former par la suite des éléments vigoureux qui garantissent sa survie. De l'extérieur coule l'eau et le soutien nécessaires à la pérennité de la vie et à la production de nouveaux fruits. » À cet égard, nous espérons qu'à chaque instant une nouvelle branche d'olivier sera semée, car il faut travailler sérieusement pour aller de l'avant vers un avenir rayonnant pour l'humanité toute entière. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient avec vous.

79. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Finally, ladies and gentlemen, we were asked for a right of reply by Mr Vahram Kazhoyan, the Secretary-General of the Armenian National Commission. Sir, from the floor, you have two minutes.

80. **Mr Kazhoyan** (Armenia):

Thank you, Madam President. Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time during this General Conference, allow me to start by congratulating you upon your election as the President of the 36th session of the General Conference. It was 65 years ago that UNESCO emerged in order to promote the shared values of democracy and freedom to unite the peoples of the world around the ideas of rapprochement of cultures, enhancing education and furthering the development of science. Armenia has always meticulously preserved all the historical, architectural and religious monuments situated in the country and within Armenian jurisdiction. The misinterpretations from the Azerbaijani side are aimed at deliberately misleading the international community and representing the reality in a totally distorted manner. How can a delegation speak about the destruction of its cultural heritage on Armenian territory when there is no proof whatsoever? There is no proof because there is nothing to prove. Meanwhile, however, the authorities of



Azerbaijan have destroyed the Armenian historical heritage in today's Azerbaijan, where thousands of cultural monuments that were of universal value have been lost forever. Examples are the annihilation of the medieval Armenian cross-stones and the destruction of a seventh-century Armenian church in Nakhchivan, for no other reason than to wipe out anything Armenian from the areas where Armenians constituted the majority just decades ago. This, Madam President, is well documented and it is painful proof of the demolition of cultural heritage every time one watches a video documentary of this destruction or visits the site. We do believe that the annihilation of the civilization of any people, any culture, any religion or any group is incompatible with UNESCO membership and unallowable for any UNESCO Member State. Thank you, Madam President.

81. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am sorry, there is no right of further reply in respect of this statement. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, that was the first day of our national statements. Now I would like to ask you to meet again here tomorrow at 10 o'clock. The General Committee will meet tomorrow at 9 o'clock. Thank you very much.

*The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 19 h 40*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 19.40*  
*Заседание закрывается в 19.40*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٩,٤٠ بعد الظهر*  
*会议于 19 时 40 分结束*

# Seventh plenary meeting

Friday 28 October 2011 at 10.15 a.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

later: **Ms da Rocha** (Brazil)

later: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

later: **Ms Nibbeling-Wrießnig** (Germany)

# Septième séance plénière

Vendredi 28 octobre 2011 à 10 h 15

Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

puis : **Mme da Rocha** (Brésil)

puis : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

puis : **Mme Nibbeling-Wrießnig** (Allemagne)

# Séptima sesión plenaria

Viernes 28 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.15

Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

después: **Sra. da Rocha** (Brasil)

después: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

después: **Sra. Nibbeling-Wrießnig** (Alemania)

# Седьмое пленарное заседание

пятница 28 октября 2011 г. в 10.15

Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

затем: г-жа **da Rocha** (Бразилия)

затем: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

затем: г-жа **Ниббелинг-Рисних** (Германия)

# الجلسة العامة السابعة

الجمعة ٢٨ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً

الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

ثم: السيدة **دا روشا** (البرازيل)

ثم: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

ثم: السيدة **نيبلينغ فريزنينغ** (ألمانيا)

# 第七次全体会议

2011年10月28日星期五10时15分

主席：Bogyay女士(匈牙利)

随后：da Rocha女士(巴西)

随后：Bogyay女士(匈牙利)

随后：Nibbeling-Wrießnig女士(德国)

**Report of the General Committee**  
**Rapport du Bureau de la Conférence**  
**Informe de la Mesa de la Conferencia**  
**Доклад Президиума**  
**تقرير مكتب المؤتمر العام**  
**总务委员会的报告**

**1. The President:**

Your Excellencies, good morning. Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I declare open the seventh plenary session of the General Conference. Before we continue with the national statements that we started yesterday, I would like to inform the plenary that the General Committee had its second meeting this morning. The Committee discussed the proceedings of work in the commissions and committees, as well as the agenda for plenary meetings. We are still in the first week of our session, but I am pleased to inform you that the work of subsidiary bodies is fully on schedule. Later this morning we will have the pleasure of hearing from the Chairperson of one of these bodies, just before we break for lunch. Ms Alessandra Cummins will present her oral report on item 4.4, which was discussed in the Administrative Commission she is chairing. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give the floor to the Secretary of the General Committee, Mr Millward, to summarize what we did in the General Committee this morning. Thank you.

**2. The Secretary:**

Thank you, Madam President. The first point I would like to make is that the General Committee recommends that three items of the agenda, which have already been examined by the Legal Committee, should also be referred, for examination, to two programme commissions. The items are 8.5 "Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education" and 8.7 "Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education", which would be placed on the agenda of the Education Commission. Furthermore, item 8.4 "Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace" would be placed on the agenda of the Communication and Information (CI) Commission. The General Committee also decided to recommend to the General Conference that item 5.18, "Climate Change: mitigation and adaptation policy development and implementation in the Caribbean region", given its intersectoral nature, be withdrawn from the agenda of the Science Commission and attributed, for examination, to the joint meeting of commissions. The General Committee also recommends that item 5.21, "Promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, their protection, and the combat of Internet piracy", currently attributed to both the Culture (CLT) and CI Commissions, be examined exclusively by the CLT Commission. And lastly, concerning the scheduling of the examination by the plenary of item 9.1, "Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO", the General Committee has agreed by consensus to schedule this item for Monday morning, at the end of the national statements. Thank you, Madam President.

**General policy debate (continued)**

**Débat de politique générale (suite)**

**Debate de política general (continuación)**

**Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (продолжение)**

**مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)**

**总政策辩论 (续)**

**3. The President:**

Thank you Mr Secretary. And now, dear Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, the whole day today will be dedicated to national statements, and we will listen to 29 speakers this morning, so we again need to be punctual and really bear in mind the six-minute limit. As I said yesterday, we have the same visual and sound system as yesterday, with a piece of world music playing in crescendo after the allotted time limit. And now, Your Excellencies, I have the honour of calling on our first speaker of this morning, the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan. Your Excellency Mr Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov, the floor is yours.

**4.1 M. Aripov (Ouzbékistan) (discours prononcé en ouzbek ; texte français fourni par la délégation) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, les chefs de délégation et les représentants d'organisations internationales, Mesdames et Messieurs, Madame Katalina Bogyay, permettez-moi de m'associer aux félicitations qui vous ont été adressées à l'occasion de votre élection aux fonctions de Présidente de la Conférence générale, et de vous souhaiter sincèrement le plein succès dans l'exercice de ces fonctions. Je tiens aussi à remercier M. Davidson Hepburn pour le travail qu'il a accompli ces deux dernières années.

Au cours de ces deux années, la mise en place de conditions préalables à des réformes importantes au sein du système des Nations Unies a commencé. Ces réformes sont conçues pour appliquer le principe d'une action concertée à l'échelle du système. Nous appuyons en particulier le passage à un cycle de planification quadriennal pour le programme de l'UNESCO, avec adoption du budget tous les deux ans. La République d'Ouzbékistan soutient la version alternative du budget et le programme pour 2012-2013 proposés par la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO. Les priorités globales et l'orientation des programmes présentées dans la version alternative doivent guider et garantir la réussite de la mise en œuvre de la phase finale de la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013. À cet égard, il est nécessaire

d'introduire le principe qui consiste à exécuter davantage de programmes avec moins de frais administratifs et à s'employer activement à attirer des fonds extrabudgétaires pour la mise en œuvre des principaux domaines d'action, en partenariat étroit avec les organisations internationales, régionales et nationales. Nous exprimons notre gratitude à la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, pour son action décisive en matière d'harmonisation et de collaboration intersectorielle au sein du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et de ses bureaux hors Siège.

4.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, en 2012, l'Organisation des Nations Unies organisera une conférence sur le développement durable (Rio + 20). Cette même année, nous célébrerons le 40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Programme de l'UNESCO sur l'Homme et la biosphère. Il est important que notre Organisation présente, lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies, les meilleurs exemples de mise en œuvre de programmes spécifiques dans le cadre d'Action 21. Je voudrais d'ailleurs attirer votre attention sur le problème de la catastrophe écologique globale liée à l'assèchement de la mer d'Aral. Aujourd'hui, la région de la mer d'Aral est en proie à des problèmes non seulement environnementaux, mais aussi socioéconomiques et démographiques, qui ont des conséquences planétaires. Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Ban Ki-moon, a pu lui-même constater la situation lors de sa visite en 2010.

4.4 Dans le discours qu'il a prononcé en septembre 2010 à la séance plénière du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, le Président de l'Ouzbékistan, M. Islam Karimov, a défini la sauvegarde du fonds biologique naturel de la région de la mer d'Aral comme l'un des devoirs les plus importants dont il faut s'acquitter aujourd'hui, en réduisant l'impact néfaste de la crise de la mer d'Aral sur l'environnement, et surtout sur la vie de centaines de milliers d'habitants de la région. Il est important de prendre en considération le fait que la région de la mer d'Aral est alimentée en eau par deux grands fleuves : l'Amou-Daria et le Syr-Daria, et que toute réduction de l'apport d'eau de ces fleuves porte fondamentalement atteinte à l'équilibre écologique de cette vaste région déjà fragile. À cet égard, l'UNESCO mène une initiative importante à travers un projet multidisciplinaire à long terme sur les formes novatrices de gestion des ressources en eau et des terres dans la région de la mer d'Aral. Ce projet extrabudgétaire de l'UNESCO est mis en œuvre en Ouzbékistan avec le concours du Gouvernement allemand.

4.5 Au cours des dix dernières années, ce projet a permis de former une cinquantaine de titulaires de doctorat et de master, et plus d'une centaine de spécialistes de divers domaines (éducation, sciences exactes et naturelles, sciences sociales et humaines, culture), ce qui a donné lieu à la création de la Chaire UNESCO en éducation pour le développement durable à l'Université d'Ourgentch. Parallèlement aux recherches interdisciplinaires et à l'intégration du développement durable dans le cursus, ce centre de recherche mène des activités concrètes visant à promouvoir l'innovation pour les agriculteurs, ce qui offre un bon exemple des réseaux de coopération mis en place avec divers organismes locaux de la région. Actuellement, d'autres organismes des Nations Unies ont lancé des projets similaires dans d'autres régions du bassin de la mer d'Aral. Ce projet en lien avec une décennie de l'UNESCO est le meilleur exemple de la contribution qu'apporte l'Organisation à la mise en œuvre d'Action 21. J'espère que l'expérience de l'Ouzbékistan sera mise à profit dans le cadre de la plate-forme intersectorielle de l'UNESCO sur le changement climatique. Je vous remercie.

## 5. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, the next speaker on our list is His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammad Al Saud, Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia. Before I give the floor to His Highness, I wish to extend to him my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz al Saud. Crown Prince Sultan was a strong leader who served his country as Minister for almost half a century and as Deputy Prime Minister for almost 30 years. Among other duties, he also chaired the Supreme Committee for Educational Policy. My condolences go to his family and to the people of Saudi Arabia. Your Highness, Prince Faisal, you have the floor.

### ٦,١ الأمير فيصل آل سعود (المملكة العربية السعودية):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، الحمد لله رب العالمين، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي السيدة المديرة العامة لليونسكو، السيدات والسادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود المحترمين، جنتكم من أرض السلام ومنع الإسلام الذي علمنا أن تكون أول كلمة نحيي بها الناس حين نلقاهم هي "السلام"، فالسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. إنه من حُسن الطالع أن مؤتمراً ومنظمتنا أصبحت السلطات الثلاث فيها تحت رئاسة ثلاث سيدات قديرات، ويعكس ذلك مبدأ توازن الكفاءات وتساوي الفرص، فالمرأة عندنا أيضاً في المملكة العربية السعودية بدأت تأخذ مكانتها في صنع القرار بفضل إدراك خادم الحرمين الشريفين الملك عبد الله بن عبد العزيز، الذي أعطى الضوء الأخضر لكثير من القرارات الإصلاحية في شأن المرأة السعودية مثلما فعل أيضاً. حفظه الله. في شؤون أخرى إصلاحية محلية وإقليمية ودولية.

٦,٢ السيدات والسادة، نحتفل هذا العام بمرور عقد من الزمن على إعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي الذي أطلق عام ٢٠٠١، وتلك خطوة كبيرة، لكننا بحاجة إلى مضاعفة الجهد لتحقيق حضور هذا التنوع في المحافل الدولية. وتسعد المملكة العربية السعودية باهتمام اليونسكو بثقافة السلام والحوار من خلال العديد من البنود التي يناقشها المؤتمر، ومنها إعلان عقد دولي للتقارب بين الثقافات، والمندى العالمي للثقافات، وتعزيز تنوع أشكال التعبير الثقافي وحماتها. والمملكة ظلت داعمة لهذا التوجه بشكل فاعل، ويأتي ذلك ضمن تعاونها مع اليونسكو في إطلاق "برنامج الملك عبد الله بن عبد العزيز الدولي لثقافة السلام والحوار". وقبل أسبوعين فقط، في الثالث عشر من تشرين الأول/أكتوبر، تم في فيينا توقيع إنشاء "مركز الملك عبد الله بن عبد العزيز الدولي للحوار بين الأديان والثقافات" بالتعاون مع مملكة إسبانيا وجمهورية النمسا.

٦,٣ السيدات والسادة، في الثامن والعشرين من شهر أيلول/سبتمبر الماضي، انطلق في المملكة العربية السعودية مشروع "رسل السلام" برعاية خادم الحرمين الشريفين وبحضور جلالة الملك كارل جوستاف السادس عشر ملك السويد، الرئيس الفخري للمؤسسة الكشفية العالمية، وبمشاركة أكثر من ٨٠٠٠ كشاف، جاءوا من مختلف أنحاء العالم، لا ينشدون ولا يحملون سوى رسالة واحدة مشتركة بينهم جميعاً هي "السلام"، ولذا أسماهم خادم الحرمين الشريفين "رسل السلام" وانطلق المشروع بعد تخصيص سبعة وثلاثين مليون دولار للسنوات العشر القادمة، برعاية ملكين جمعا العمل التطوعي والحوار أملاً في توصيل الرسالة إلى أكثر من ثلاثين مليون كشاف. ولقد جئت إلى مؤتمركم هذا ويحدوني أمل سأناقشه مع معالي المديرة العامة للمنظمة سعياً إلى كسب اليونسكو شريكاً ثالثاً مع مشروع

"رسُل السلام" الذي نطمح أن يكون ممكناً للشباب من مختلف أنحاء العالم لترسيخ مفهوم الحوار مع العمل التطوعي للتعايش رغم الاختلاف، والتجاوز من دون خلاف.

٦,٤ السيدات والسادة، عندما نتحدث عن "السلام" تبرز دوماً القضية الفلسطينية التي كلما تأخرنا في حلها، تعطل إحلال السلام الذي ننشده للمنطقة وللعالم أجمع. كيف نتحدث عن السلام ونحن نغمض أعيننا عن أعدل القضايا: قضية الشعب الفلسطيني الذي يريد فقط أن يكون له وطن مثل سائر البشر. هل تخيلتم مشاعر إنسان بلا وطن؟ ومن هذا المنطلق، أؤكد هنا دعم المملكة المستمر وتأييدها المطلق لقبول دولة فلسطين كدولة كاملة العضوية في منظمة اليونسكو، لما لهذا من دور في تكريس الحقوق الفلسطينية المتعلقة باختصاصات المنظمة، وخصوصاً مجالات الحق في التعليم للجميع، وحماية التراث والآثار التاريخية الإسلامية والمسيحية في مدينة القدس وسواها من المدن الفلسطينية. ويجب أن نقف أمام أي تضليل بشأن تسجيل المسجد الإبراهيمي ومسجد بلال بن رباح في قائمة التراث الإسرائيلي. إن المملكة العربية السعودية، أيها السيدات والسادة، تؤيد اعتماد القرار الذي اتخذته المجلس التنفيذي الشهر الماضي بقبول عضوية دولة فلسطين الكاملة وتحت الدول الأعضاء في المؤتمر العام على اعتماده إقراراً بحق الإنسان الفلسطيني في وطنه، وخدمة للسلام الإقليمي والعالمي الذي ننشده جميعاً.

٦,٥ اسمحوا لي أن أقدم، باسم حكومة خادم الحرمين الشريفين والشعب السعودي، بخالص الشكر والامتنان إلى معالي المديرية العامة للمنظمة، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، وإلى معالي السيد دافيدسون هيورن، رئيس المؤتمر العام الأسبق، على مبادرتكما النبيلة في افتتاح المؤتمر بتقديم العزاء في وفاة الأمير سلطان. وأخيراً أود أن أجدد التقدير والامتنان للمديرية العامة لليونسكو، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، نظراً إلى الأداء المتميز والعمل الصادق الذي تبذله من أجل وضع منظمنا هذه في مكانة أكثر تأثيراً في خدمة أهداف السلم البشري والرفي الإنساني، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(6.1) **Prince Faisal Al Saud (Saudi Arabia) (translation from the Arabic):**

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Clement; praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds. Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen, heads of delegations, I have come to you from the land of peace, the land where Islam arose, the land where the first word we greet people we meet with is "peace". Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. It is indeed fortunate that our General Conference and the three organs of our Organization are now all headed by three capable women, which reflects the principle of a balance of competencies and equality of opportunities. Women in Saudi Arabia have begun to take their place in decision-making thanks to the perceptiveness of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, who has given the green light to numerous reformist decisions with respect to Saudi women, as he has also done, may God preserve him, with respect to other reform matters at the local, regional and international levels.

(6.2) Ladies and gentlemen, we celebrate today the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was adopted in 2001 – a great step; but we need to redouble our efforts to achieve such diversity in international fora. Saudi Arabia is pleased with UNESCO's interest in the culture of peace and dialogue as witnessed by the numerous items to be debated by this General Conference, including the proclamation of an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures, the Universal Forum of Cultures, and the strengthening and protection of the diversity of cultural expressions. Saudi Arabia has remained actively supportive of this trend, as part of our cooperation with UNESCO in launching the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for the Culture of Dialogue. Only two weeks ago, on 13 October, an agreement was signed in Vienna for the establishment of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, in cooperation with the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Austria.

(6.3) Ladies and gentlemen, on 23 September last in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Messengers of Peace project was launched under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in the presence of His Highness King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, Honorary Chair of the World Scout Foundation, with the participation of 8,000 scouts who came from all over the world to proclaim and bear a single common message to them all, which is "peace", which is why the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques named them Messengers of Peace, and allocated to the project some \$37 million for the next ten years, under the patronage of two kings, who have joined efforts in voluntary work and dialogue in the hope of bringing the message to more than 30 million scouts. I have come to this General Conference with the hope of discussing with Her Excellency the Director-General of UNESCO the possibility of adding a third partner to the Messengers of Peace project, whereby we hope it will be possible for young people from various parts of the world to inculcate the concept of dialogue and voluntary work for co-existence despite differences, and dialogue without divergences.

(6.4) Ladies and gentlemen, when we speak of "peace", the Palestinian question always comes to the fore: the more we delay in solving it, the more difficult it becomes to bring the peace we desire to the region and to the entire world. How can we speak of peace when we avert our eyes from the justest of causes: the cause of the Palestinian people, who only want to have their own homeland, like the rest of humankind. Can you imagine the feelings of a person without a homeland? On this basis, here reiterate the absolute, unfailing support of Saudi Arabia for Palestine to be admitted to UNESCO as a full Member State, and for the role that will play in consecrating the rights of the Palestinians within the spheres of competence of the Organization, and especially the right to education for all, to the protection of the heritage and the historical Islamic and Christian antiquities in Jerusalem and other Palestinian cities. We must remain vigilant against any disinformation concerning the inscription of the Ibrāhīmī Mosque and the Mosque of Bilāl ibn Rabāh on the Israeli Heritage List. Saudi Arabia, ladies and gentlemen, supports the adoption of a resolution as recommended by the decision adopted by the Executive Board last month to recognize the State of Palestine as a full Member State of UNESCO, and urges the Member States to adopt that resolution at the General Conference, and thereby to uphold the right of Palestinians to their homeland, in the service of the regional and world peace to which we all aspire.

(6.5) Allow me to offer on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Saudi people, sincere thanks and gratitude to Her Excellency the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, and to His Excellency Mr Davidson Hepburn, the previous President of the General Conference, for their gracious joint initiative, when opening the General Conference, of offering condolences on the death of Prince Sultan. Finally, allow me to renew my thanks and appreciation to the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, for her outstanding performance and sincere efforts to ensure that our Organization attains a more influential status in the service of the goals of human peace and progress. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

7. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. And now it is a great pleasure for me to welcome the Minister of Education of Nigeria. Your Excellency Ms Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i, the floor is yours.

### 8.1 **Ms Rufa'i (Nigeria):**

Madam President, distinguished delegates, let me first of all convey to all of you who are assembled at this august occasion, the greetings and goodwill of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, and the entire people of Nigeria for a successful conference. Madam President, a large number of momentous events have occurred in various parts of the world since the 35th session of the General Conference. These events include, *inter alia*, devastating natural disasters, terrorist activities, and political movements, many of which were driven by youth and via information and communication technologies. Nigeria wishes to reiterate its solidarity with and condolences to all the nations that were adversely affected by these unfortunate events. Madam President, it is in this light that Nigeria wishes to acknowledge the solidarity of the international community following the unfortunate bomb blast at the United Nations building in Abuja, Nigeria, on 26 August this year. The Government and people of Nigeria sympathize with the global United Nations family and the immediate families of the victims. Let me reiterate here that Nigeria aligns with the United Nations in the cause of achieving global peace. The bomb blast incident has only strengthened our resolve to ensure the achievement of this noble objective. In line with the Government's resolve to provide temporary accommodation to the United Nations body, the Federal Ministry of Education has relocated the UNESCO Office in Abuja to other office accommodation. Nigeria strongly supports the ongoing reform programme of UNESCO at all levels, which, as stated by the Director-General, constitutes a key element and strategy for the improvement of UNESCO's delivery and visible participation at the country grassroots level. Referring specifically to the UNESCO field office reform, Nigeria supports the replacement of the current three-tier structure of the field offices by a simplified two-tier structure comprising a multisectoral regional presence and a flexible country presence, with an appropriate complement of staff comprising high-level professional experts.

8.2 Madam President, Nigeria is satisfied with the priorities and main lines of action of Major Programme I, as they cover the key areas of concerns and needs specific to sub-Saharan Africa in general, and Nigeria's transformation agenda in particular. You will recall that Nigeria, having hosted the Eighth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting in June 2010, is currently the Chair of the Nine High-Population Countries (E-9) forum. Since we assumed the chairship of the E-9, Nigeria has been engaged in a number of activities to demonstrate our resolve and commitment to take literacy to the next level and to ensure that Nigeria meets the internationally agreed targets. One major achievement is the institutionalization of a self-benefiting Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO to the tune of \$6.4 million to carry out the programme on revitalizing adult and youth literacy in Nigeria. Allow me to express our appreciation to the Executive Board for adopting the reports on the feasibility study for establishing two category 2 centres in Nigeria. It is our belief that the establishment of the regional centre for integrated river basin management and the international centre for biotechnology would provide the impetus for thorough institutional research and capacity building. Nigeria notes that the priorities in Major Programme III reaffirm UNESCO's role in supporting Member States' responses to social transformations, notably to promote democracy and sustainable development for the consolidation of a culture of peace and non-violence. In keeping with the UNESCO framework, we intend to achieve our goal, not only by popularizing science but also through indigenous culture and language. Madam President, efforts are being made to harness our vast multicultural potential for investment purposes, wealth creation and empowerment of youth and women, using UNESCO instruments as guides for implementation. We are giving attention to strengthening national legislation on copyright to protect intellectual property rights in order to strengthen the fast-growing entertainment and movie industry in Nigeria. In recognition of the importance of freedom of expression and universal access to information and knowledge, Nigeria has enacted the Freedom of Information Act to promote good governance and has also liberalized the issuance of licences for community radio and multimedia centres.

8.3 Madam President, Nigeria supports the main thrust of the Director-General's proposed budget, which encapsulates our vision of the expected results of the ongoing "root-to-apex" reform. Nigeria has carefully considered the merits and demerits of the two budget scenarios presented by the Director-General. Although Nigeria prefers the zero real growth option over zero nominal growth, in order that the Director-General may be enabled to reasonably deliver on the multifaceted and complex tasks of UNESCO, we will join the consensus that seems to have emerged from the consideration of the Director-General's assurance that in her view this alternative option, zero nominal growth, will provide alternatives to support her. Thank you.

### 9. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now it is a great honour for me to welcome the Minister of Education and Culture of Uruguay. Your Excellency Mr Ricardo Ehrlich, the floor is yours.

### 10.1 **Sr. Ehrlich (Uruguay):**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, excelencias: vivimos tiempos de cambio civilizatorios, de aceleración de los movimientos de personas y comunidades, de los encuentros de culturas y de multiplicación de los nuevos territorios a explorar. Los vertiginosos avances en el conocimiento acrecientan las promesas de futuro en todos los órdenes. Al mismo tiempo, persisten desequilibrios y factores desequilibrantes en el orden mundial: en distintas latitudes, por diferentes razones, una y otra vez son las nuevas generaciones las que cargan sobre sus hombros el impacto de esos procesos, marcando sus historias de vida. Reaparecen una y otra vez los mecanismos que generan exclusión, que elevan murallas en nuestras sociedades. Cual la generación de las hojas, así la de los seres humanos, se recordaba en la *Iliada*. Sin embargo, cuando se pierden generaciones se afecta a todo el entramado social, su continuidad y su fuerza, y se requieren largos años de firme y sostenido esfuerzo para recuperar las capacidades de la sociedad. Así, los jóvenes son el espejo de una sociedad y de su historia. Para el Uruguay, es la hora de las nuevas generaciones, es hora de la educación, de la cultura, del conocimiento. El camino marca la necesidad de un encuentro de la sociedad con la educación, de un nuevo contrato de la educación con la sociedad. Los grandes desafíos de la hora pasan por asegurar la continuidad educativa, por lograr que la totalidad de nuestros jóvenes puedan terminar sus ciclos educativos a nivel secundario, por generalizar las oportunidades de acceso a la formación terciaria y garantizar el

acceso a oportunidades de aprendizaje durante toda la vida. Entendemos que nuestro futuro depende de nuestra capacidad de convertirnos en un país de educación, de cultura, de conocimiento.

10.2 Vamos avanzando, pero estamos muy lejos aún. Debemos señalar que los avances logrados por la iniciativa de una computadora por alumno son significativos. Se ha completado el programa hace pocos años a nivel escolar y avanza a nivel de la enseñanza media. No se ha tratado solo de una herramienta, sino que implica cambios de paradigmas educativos y sobre todo ha impactado como señal de construcción de equidad. Los objetivos que nos proponemos hoy solo se pueden alcanzar construyendo un país abierto: abierto a su gente, a nuestra región y al mundo; construyendo contextos de equidad e igualdad en derechos como pilar de un entramado social sostenible. Los desafíos del presente son los de construcción de una sociedad con calidad. Ese concepto implica cohesión social –deuda persistente en América Latina, donde seguimos presentando como continente las mayores desigualdades – implica acceso democrático a calidad de vida, construcción de contextos de convivencia y fundamentalmente, fortalecimiento de referentes de identidad y pertenencia con bases solidarias.

10.3 En ese sentido nuestros rumbos confluyen totalmente con los cometidos y vocación de la UNESCO: combatir la inequidad en el acceso al conocimiento y alcanzar los mayores niveles de calidad en la formación de las nuevas generaciones; fortalecer los referentes de pertenencia a una comunidad, a una sociedad. De ahí la importancia del patrimonio material e inmaterial, del legado que debe recibir cada generación para permitirle construir sus vínculos de pertenencia a una comunidad y a un lugar en el mundo. La cultura como espacio de encuentro de una sociedad en su diversidad y soporte del sentido de pertenencia. El desarrollo de las capacidades endógenas de creación de conocimientos como clave de crecimiento y desarrollo con libertad y soberanía. Finalmente, la permanente expansión de los derechos humanos. El Uruguay, uno de los ocho países donde se ha puesto en marcha el programa “Unidos en la acción” de las Naciones Unidas, y sede de la Oficina Regional de Ciencias y de la representación ante el MERCOSUR, Argentina y Paraguay, considera que la reforma del dispositivo fuera de la Sede debería consolidar la presencia de la UNESCO sobre el terreno a través de un proceso creciente de eficaz descentralización. En ese sentido, la Oficina de Montevideo ya funciona en los hechos como una oficina multisectorial. Entendemos que en el siglo XXI la UNESCO está llamada a asumir responsabilidades crecientes y centrales como gran espacio internacional. Eso requiere lograr la confluencia de nuestras naciones y alcanzar mayores niveles de visibilidad y presencia en nuestras sociedades. Finalmente, queremos expresar nuestro apoyo a la agenda presentada por la Directora General, a la firme apuesta al multilateralismo y a la propuesta de incremento presupuestario para este período. El Uruguay renueva en esta oportunidad su compromiso con la UNESCO. Muchas gracias.

(10.1) **Mr Ehrlich (Uruguay)** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, we are living in times of civilizational change, with accelerating migrations of peoples and communities, meetings of cultures and increasing numbers of new places to explore. The rapid advances in knowledge are fuelling promises for the future in all spheres. At the same time, imbalances and destabilizing factors are persisting in the world order: in different parts of the world, for different reasons, and once again it is the new generations that must bear the impact of these processes, marking their life stories. The mechanisms that generate exclusion recur again and again, raising barriers in our societies. As is the generation of leaves, so is that of humanity, as evoked in the Iliad. However, the loss of generations affects the whole social fabric, its continuity and its strength, and long years of hard and sustained effort are required to recover society's capacities. Thus, young people are the mirror of a society and its history. For Uruguay, it is time for the new generations, time for education, culture and knowledge. There is a need for society to convene with education, for society to enter into a new contract with education. The major challenges of the time must be met by ensuring educational continuity, by ensuring that all our young people can finish secondary education, by mainstreaming opportunities for access to higher education and guaranteeing access to lifelong learning opportunities. We believe that our future depends on our ability to become a country of education, culture and knowledge.

(10.2) We are making progress, but we still have far to go. We must emphasize that the progress made by the “One Laptop per Child” initiative is significant. The programme was completed a few years ago at the primary school level and is progressing at the secondary school level. It has not only provided a tool, but has involved changing educational paradigms and, above all, has made an impact as a sign of building equity. The objectives that we are currently proposing can only be achieved by building an open country: open to its people, to our region and to the world; building contexts of equity and equality in rights as pillars of a sustainable social fabric. The challenge today is to build a society with quality. This concept implies social cohesion – Latin America continues to be the continent with the greatest inequalities – it involves democratic access to quality of life, building contexts of coexistence and fundamentally strengthening points of reference of identity and belonging, on mutually supportive foundations.

(10.3) In this sense, our paths converge fully with UNESCO's mission and vocation: fighting inequality in access to knowledge and achieving the highest quality in the education of new generations; strengthening the reference points of belonging to a community and a society. Hence the importance of tangible and intangible heritage, the legacy that each generation should be given in order to be able to build ties of belonging to a community and a place in the world; culture as a meeting point for a society in its diversity and supporting the sense of belonging; the development of endogenous abilities to create knowledge as the key to growth and development with freedom and sovereignty; and lastly, the ongoing development of human rights. As one of the eight countries that has launched the United Nations programme “Delivering as One” and home to the Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean, representing UNESCO at MERCOSUR and before the governments of Argentina and Paraguay, Uruguay considers that the field network reform should consolidate UNESCO's presence in the field through a growing process of effective decentralization. In that sense, the

UNESCO Office in Montevideo already operates as a multisectoral office. We believe that in the twenty-first century, UNESCO is called upon to assume increasing key responsibilities as a major international forum. This requires obtaining the confluence of our nations and achieving higher levels of visibility and presence in our societies. Lastly, we would like to express our support for the agenda presented by the Director-General, the firm commitment to multilateralism and the proposed budget increase for the period. Uruguay takes this opportunity to renew its commitment to UNESCO. Thank you very much.

#### 11. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. And now I would like to ask the Minister of Education of Iraq to come to the floor. Your Excellency Mr Tamim, the floor is yours.

١٢,١ السيد ماتمين (العراق):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام المحترمة، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي المحترمة، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو المحترمة، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء الوفود وأعضاءها المحترمين، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. من أرض الحضارات وموئلتها، ومن أرض أول شريعة سنّت وحققت للإنسان حرّيته وإنسانيته، ومن أرض حُطّ أول حرف على أديمها ومنهل المعارف والعلوم جنتكم محملاً بأزكى التحيات من شعب العزيمة والعطاء، من شعب عاني الحرمان والألم فانفض يزيع عنه أدران القهر مستشرقاً آفاق مستقبل أفضل وحكومة تقدر وتشيد بمجهود المجموعة الدولية وتثمن جلياً ما تقدمه منظمتمكم الموقرة، منظمة اليونسكو، من مساعي خير، كما تثمن جهود كل الصدور الواسعة والأيدي المساندة التي وقفت إلى جانب العراق وهو يواجه المحن التي طالت مؤسساته، وأهل التحيات إلى كل من ساعد وشدّ أزر العراقيين وهم يعيدون بناء وطنهم ويواصلون السير في طريق الحضارة والتقدم.

١٢,٢ السيد الرئيسة، السيدات والسادة، كما تعلمون إن العراق كان ولا يزال منارة الثقافة والإبداع، أشرقت منه شمس الحضارة وسطعت على المعمورة. وإن بغداد كانت على مر العصور محط ومجمع العلماء والأدباء والباحثين عن المعرفة من جميع بلدان العالم فأينعت ثمار عقولهم فكراً وعلماً وثقافة رفدت الحضارة الإنسانية بمنجزات فذة ساهمت في البناء الحضاري العالمي وأنارت سبل الحياة. وفي الوقت الذي نقيّم فيه عالياً التاريخ التربوي المشرف لبلدنا، نتقدم بإصرار وخطوات ثابتة على طريق التغيير الجذري البناء للأنظمة التربوية والتعليمية والثقافية والاستفادة القصوى من التقنيات التربوية الحديثة للمناهج والخبرات، فنسعى إلى توفير بيئة حضارية صحية لمجتمعنا باستشراق آفاق الغد الواعد لبلدنا لنساهم في تطوير الركب الحضاري للإنسانية. فالعراق الآن يضع نفسه على أعتاب مرحلة جديدة من البناء والتحديث فيسعى إلى بناء الإنسان بتحديد المحتوى العلمي والعقلي وتنمية قدراته ليكون عنصراً فاعلاً إيجابياً في المجتمع باعتباره القيمة العليا والهدف الأسمى وإن هذه المهمة الشاقة تحتاج إلى جهد كبير ومتواصل بمؤازرة منظمتمكم الموقرة ومساندتنا لنا لتحقيق الأهداف المنشودة لرأب الصدع الذي أصاب بلدنا نتيجة انقطاعنا عن العالم في فترة ليست بالقصيرة لتتواصل في التنمية الشاملة التي يشهدها البلد. إن ما نسعى إليه، أيها السيدات والسادة، هو تعليم تتجسد فيه الأسس الإنسانية ويقوم على مبدأ الحب والتعايش السلمي لبناء مجتمع إنساني فاضل متكامل، فليس من العدل والحق أن يعيش البعض في ظلمة التخلف والجهل والآخرون يعمون بما منحتهم الحضارة والتقدم من رفاهية وسعادة وخير، وعليه ندعو إلى انتهاز سياسة تربوية تؤسس للتكامل والتكافل والمسؤولية التضامنية والأخوة الحقيقية، ومن ثم العيش بسلام وأمان. إن التعليم هو مشروع بناء للإنسان وإعمار للبنى التحتية وغرس قيم الإنسان في نفوس أبنائنا وبناتنا، فهم قادة المستقبل وعليهم تقع عملية البناء فينتصر بخيرهم على قوى الشر والعدوان ويحقق السلام والوفاق ولا يتحقق ذلك إلا بعد أن يتبنى القادة التربويون منهاجاً يفضي إلى المودة والانسجام والتعاون، فما نريده من التعليم هو زرع الأمل في النفوس لتتحول إلى مادة للبناء، فالنوايا الطيبة والأهداف والمنهج العلمي والإرادة الجادة في منظمتمكم معهما كل الحريز والباحثين عن الخير للجميع وعن الحق والعدل، فهي العناصر الرئيسية في تحقيق هذا الهدف الإنساني.

١٢,٣ وختاماً، دعوني أقدم لكم أزهار حب وتقدير ونسائم اعتزاز جئت أحملها من أرض الرافدين مرّيةً بآيات الشكر والامتنان لما قدمتموه من دعم وإسناد ونحن نعيش محنتنا ولكن أريد أن أطمئنتكم أن العراق وأهله بخير وهم يحملون عدة البناء والإعمار مزودين بالإيمان بالله والوطن. دمتم فناراً يستهدي به رجال الخير ومثابة حب وانطلاق إلى التقدم والرقي للإنسانية ولكم ولكل من مدّ يد العون مسانداً ومعيناً بالقول والعمل كل التحية المكلفة بالعرفان. وفي الختام نأمل مساندتكم في قبول عضوية فلسطين في منظمتمكم الموقرة تواصلوا مع الجانب الحضاري والثقافي لكل شعوب الأرض، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

#### (12.1) Mr Tamim (Iraq) (translation from the Arabic):

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Clement. Esteemed Madam President of the General Conference, esteemed Madam Chair of the Executive Board, esteemed Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellencies heads and members of delegations, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. From the land and cradle of civilizations and from the land of the first law revealed unto humankind, bringing freedom and humanity, and from the land where the first written symbols were inscribed and the first knowledge and sciences were pursued, I come to you bearing sincerest greetings from the people of determination and giving, from a people which has suffered deprivation and pain, but which has risen up and shaken off the shackles of oppression and turned towards the bright horizons of a better future, with a government which appreciates and commends the work of the international community and which values highly the noble efforts exerted by your esteemed Organization, UNESCO. It also appreciates the efforts of the generous breasts and supportive hands that have stood by Iraq in its hour of need and the trials afflicting its institutions. I bear greetings to all those who have helped and supported Iraqis as they rebuild their homeland and pursue their course towards civilization and progress.

(12.2) Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, as you know, Iraq has been, and continues to be, a lighthouse of culture and creativity, from which has shone the sun of civilization, spreading its rays over the entire inhabited world. Baghdad has been, over the ages, the lodestar and gathering-place of scientists, writers and pursuers of knowledge from all over the world, and the intellectual, scientific, and cultural fruit of their minds has blessed and enriched human civilization with rare achievements which have contributed to the building of world civilization and enlightened life itself. At a time when we are proudly assessing the honourable educational history of our country, we are proceeding with determination and with firm steps on the path of the constructive and radical change of our educational and cultural institutions, seeking to reap maximum benefit from modern educational techniques for curricula and expertise. We strive to provide a sound civilizational environment for our society, with shining horizons for a promising tomorrow for our country so that we may contribute to the development of the civilizational progress of humanity. Iraq is now placing itself on the threshold of a new phase in construction and modernization by striving to build human beings, by renewing scientific and intellectual content and developing individuals' capacities so that they may become effective and positive elements in society, since human beings are the highest value and the loftiest goal. This delicate task requires a strong and continuous effort with the support and assistance of your esteemed Organization in order to achieve the desired objectives and to fill the gap that has affected our country as a result of our being cut off from the rest of the world over quite a lengthy period, so that we may pursue the comprehensive development under way in the country. What we are striving for, ladies and gentlemen, is education in which humanitarian foundations are manifest and which is based on the principle of love and peaceful co-existence and the construction of a virtuous and



integrated humanitarian society; it is neither just nor right that some should live in the shadow of backwardness and ignorance while others are blessed with the wellbeing and happiness that civilization and progress have conferred upon them. We therefore urge that an educational policy be pursued which provides for integration, mutual responsibility, solidarity and true fraternity, and hence living in peace and security. Education is a project which entails constructing human beings, rehabilitating infrastructures, inculcating human values in our sons and daughters, and understanding the leaders of tomorrow, and it is on them that falls the responsibility for the process of construction. The best of them shall conquer the forces of evil and aggression and achieve peace and harmony; that may be brought about only when the educational leaders have adopted a methodology which leads to friendship, harmony and cooperation. What we want from education is to sow hope in people's souls so that they may be transformed into construction materials, good intentions, objectives, the scientific method, and serious will in your Organization and with it all the good-hearted seekers of wellbeing for all and for truth and justice, for these are the chief elements for the achievement of this humanitarian goal.

(12.3) In conclusion, allow me to convey to you flowers of love and appreciation and breezes of pride which I bear to you from Mesopotamia, adorned with expressions of thanks and gratitude for the support you provide to us in our hour of need. I wish to assure you that Iraq and its people are well, carrying on the work of reconstruction and rehabilitation full of faith in God and the motherland. May you remain a beacon guiding noble-minded individuals, a source of love and élan towards progress and advancement for humankind. And to all those who extend the hand of assistance, as a solid mainstay, in word and in deed, best greetings and gratitude. Finally, we hope for your support in admitting Palestine to your esteemed Organization as a Member State, in accordance with the civilizational and cultural aspirations of all the peoples of the Earth. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

**13. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now it is a great pleasure for me to welcome the Minister of Education of Kenya, His Excellency Mr Samson Kegeo Onger. The floor is yours, Sir.

**14.1 Mr Onger (Kenya):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Madam President, allow me to congratulate you most sincerely on your election as President of the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. We are confident that your able leadership will effectively discharge the onerous business of the 36th session of the General Conference. Kenya is committed to the realization of peace, security and sustainable development through UNESCO's programmes. Therefore, in this regard, Kenya recently adopted a new Constitution, which provides for the promotion of essential values of human rights, equality, freedom and democracy. These values are expected to be embedded in the social fabric of every aspect of national affairs. We shall continuously be guided by UNESCO's principals and expectations in the realization of the foregoing.

14.2 Madam President, despite challenges affecting the Education Sector, much progress has been made, with particular focus on the realization of education for all (EFA). We have recorded enrolment growth at all levels since the Dakar Forum in 2000. Gross enrolment rates in early childhood care increased from 41.4% in 2000 to 60.9% in 2010. Enrolment for free primary education rose from 5.9 million to 9.4 million in the same years, and the introduction of free day secondary education (FDSE) in 2008 increased total enrolment from 1.3 million to 1.8 million in 2011. The transition rate from primary to secondary schools has also improved tremendously, and currently stands at about 72.5%. Enrolment in adult education centres also increased significantly from 93,903 in 2000 to 172,156 in 2010, an increase of 83.3%.

14.3 Madam President, as the Minister in charge of Education, Chair of the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF) and Co-Chair of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), I am committed to steering the achievement of international obligations in education in Africa and the African Union plan of action on education. Since assuming chairship, we have achieved the following milestones: (1) establishing the Pan-African University; (2) convening several regional fora to review progress in education within the African continent; (3) coordinating the conduct of research in education through sponsorship from ADEA and UNESCO, and (4) spearheading the development and hosting the ADEA Inter-Country Quality Node on Peace Education under my chairship. Madam President, at the higher-education level, we have raised women's participation to 33%. However, we are working towards increasing their participation in engineering and science programmes at both university and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) levels. The recent rapid growth in the number of universities requires corresponding capacity building and increased investment in infrastructure and equipment.

14.4 Madam President, we are deeply concerned with climate change, particularly as rising temperatures are leading to increased droughts, desertification and food insecurity in Kenya and the Horn of Africa. In this regard, Kenya has developed and implemented policies for efficient water resource planning and management and put in place vigorous programmes for afforestation and reclamation of threatened water towers. In the same spirit, the Government of Kenya, in collaboration with UNESCO, is committed to the establishment of a category 2 regional centre on groundwater resources education, training and research for East Africa in Nairobi. Madam President, Kenya supports the establishment of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States. I wish to express our sincere gratitude to UNESCO for proposing that Kenya host the Sub-Commission. Madam President, in Kenya we have recognized that increased inclusion of youth and women in the country's development agenda will enhance social and economic progress. The creation of a Ministry of Youth and Youth Enterprises will be able to meet these expectations. We are grateful to UNESCO for having held the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Nairobi in November 2010 in the area of culture. Let me also say that in information and communication technologies (ICT) we have made tremendous progress with home-grown innovations and we are using these innovations even in money transfers. Finally, we are confident that in our Government's renewed resolve and these partnerships, we shall continue to make great strides in the social transformation of our citizens. I thank you.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, Minister of Education of Kenya. And now it is my pleasure to welcome the Minister of Education of Trinidad and Tobago. Your Excellency Mr Tim Gopeesingh, the floor is yours, Sir.

16.1 **Mr Gopeesingh** (Trinidad and Tobago):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers and heads of delegations, delegates, other invitees, ladies and gentlemen. Trinidad and Tobago applauds the current Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her call for a new humanism, a development paradigm that is people-centred. We also thank the outgoing President of the General Conference, Ambassador Davidson Hepburn of the Bahamas, for his work and contribution and his share in the success of the 35th session of the General Conference. I look forward to continued positioning and representation by the Caribbean region at the highest levels of the UNESCO decision-making machinery and supporting mechanisms.

16.2 We welcome the new President, Ms Katalin Bogyay, and her declaration of the dawn of a new poetry of diplomacy. Madam President, while UNESCO has shown an extraordinary ability to adapt to and meet the challenges of a changing environment, we believe that much more is needed to facilitate and accommodate the special and particular realities of the Caribbean. At a time when there is particular focus on the challenges facing small island States, we note an ongoing struggle for a region in the configuration of the United Nations system and its division by geography that places us at particular disadvantages. Containment within the Latin America and the Caribbean region skews many of our realities. How we are represented in UNESCO-generated data skews our different historical, cultural and economic realities to the larger continental norms that are not necessarily our own. This continues to challenge our researchers and decision- and policy-makers looking for realistic statistical support to more closely inform decision-making. We also believe UNESCO's system may yet recognize and accommodate in substantial and significantly meaningful ways our peculiar historical, ancestral relations with our diasporas, which include English-, French-, Spanish-, Dutch- and Portuguese-speaking Europe indeed, but also our ancestral links with Africa, India and China, as well as with our indigenous peoples.

16.3 Madam President, although just over 5,000 square kilometres in size, we in Trinidad and Tobago are already in many ways a microcosm of the interculturality and diversity which UNESCO is aiming for universally. Because of this we believe our experiences of social cohesion and managing diversity gleaned from a 500-year-old globalization of integrating and accommodating peoples of many of the major ethnicities and cultures of the world, can substantially inform some of your directions at a time when so many of our Member States battle with ethnic strife and tensions being generated in this new period of accelerated globalization.

16.4 Madam President, we are also making rapid strides in our quest to achieve your stated goal of universal early childhood care and education. We already have fulfilled a mandate of universal primary and secondary education. In tertiary education we have achieved a 45% fulfilment, moving quickly to 60%. We have introduced a programme to provide every child entering secondary school with a fully loaded laptop computer to catapult entry into a technologically driven world. We are working towards strengthening and reforming our curriculum, towards holistic development of each child, with programmes in sports, physical education, science, the creative and visual arts, moral and civic education, citizenry and character development.

16.5 We are already reaping the benefits of success of our efforts at gender parity and equity education for women and girls, who are now in large numbers high achievers at all levels of our education system. As you know, Madam President, this has been well-signified in the ascension to office in Trinidad and Tobago of our first woman Prime Minister in the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, and around this period in Australia, she is currently chairing the Commonwealth of Nations' 57 States. We are now moving towards similar parity in all other spheres of national life, with education and culture as core areas of social investment, and having introduced gender mainstreaming in our national budget processes this year.

16.6 In keeping with UNESCO's vision to build a free, open and just society that creates opportunities for all, regardless of individual circumstance, Trinidad and Tobago's history of diversity in a context of peace has formed a foundation for social and economic development, and remained part of the intellectual capital that we can offer to you during this time of global and economic turmoil.

16.7 Madam President, here is an invitation. We open our doors to you and all Member States as we begin a year of celebration to mark our Golden Jubilee year of independence and 50 years of UNESCO, which will continue into our joint celebrations with UNESCO, in 2015, of the tenth anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and just-concluded first decade of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions to which Trinidad and Tobago has just become a signatory.

16.8 Trinidad and Tobago applauds UNESCO's efforts to promote the use of media and information and communication technologies as a multiplier for action by the entire Organization. For all of us, Madam President, and certainly for us in the Caribbean, UNESCO is an essential partner for empowerment of our communities and individuals. Thank you very much.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. And now it is a great honour for me to welcome the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, His Excellency Mr Nikoloz Rurua. Sir, the floor is yours.

18.1 **Mr Rurua** (Georgia):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates to UNESCO. It is both a privilege and an honour to address the 36th session of the General Conference of the Organization which, for

more than six decades, has retained its enduring significance in addressing global challenges. Over the past 65 years UNESCO has played a motivating role in the advancement of the sense of moral solidarity of mankind, aiming to achieve lasting peace and freedom throughout the world. Sadly, in the twenty-first century, in spite of all the efforts of the global community, those goals are yet to be attained. Still, there are nations which must rise up to demand the realization of their basic human rights. In 2011 we have all witnessed the dramatic and extraordinary changes taking place in the Middle East and North Africa. We have all seen the devoted men and women acting with resolve to ensure a free and dignified life for themselves and their children. Together with the free world we welcome the spectacular democratic developments that are currently taking place throughout that region, and would gladly share our successful experience of modernization and democratic transformation with those nations.

18.2 Without exaggeration, an Arab Spring can be considered the natural continuation of the coloured revolutions that occurred in the post-Soviet area, the standard-bearer of which Georgia remains until now. It was only seven years ago that, after the Rose revolution, the new Georgian Government launched quick, radical and comprehensive reforms aimed at the “de-Sovietization” and modernization of the Georgian State and society. According to the World Bank, “the process since the start of the reforms in Georgia can be qualified as unique in terms of speed of reforms, degree of innovation, and extent of the institutional restructuring.” The array of successful reforms has been conducted in all walks of life, including education and science systems as well as in the cultural field.

18.3 We acknowledge the paramount role of culture for development, social cohesion and peace and eagerly express our support for the priorities of the UNESCO culture programme. World heritage and intangible heritage are the most notable and visible domains of UNESCO activities. On the eve of the fortieth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, I would like to take the opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the World Heritage Centre for its continued efforts at preserving world cultural inheritance for future generations. We are fully committed to the task of safeguarding Georgia’s rich and diverse cultural heritage as proved by our efforts with regards to the improvement of the conservation status of the List of World Heritage in Danger. We will further accelerate our efforts to give implementation of the Convention the highest priority at the policy-making and administrative levels. Let me emphasize that Georgia attaches great significance to the issue of managing disaster risks at world heritage sites. Moreover, as a country with rapidly growing touristic potential, we strongly support the culture programme activities targeted at cultural and natural heritage conservation in the context of profound, sustainable tourism – promotion of sustainable tourism.

18.4 We note with satisfaction the strengthening of UNESCO’s global leadership in the field of education for all, and envisage attaining quality education for all as a central factor for promoting sustainable livelihoods, economic prosperity and human development.

18.5 Georgia fully supports the UNESCO Engineering Initiative. In this regard, let me inform you that on the initiative of the President of Georgia, engineering, IT and applied sciences are named as the priority areas of our targeted efforts. To further that goal, my Government has begun the establishment of a new world-class technological university in the Black Sea resort city, Batumi, to contribute to solving rapidly changing technology-oriented global problems facing the society of my country as well as that of neighbouring States.

18.6 Distinguished delegates, sadly, in the twenty-first century, in spite of all the efforts of the global community, lasting and stable peace is also a goal which still needs to be achieved. Even on the European continent there are areas where violence and aggression prevail over the concept of peace and freedom; there are places where children are robbed of the most basic and fundamental rights, such as the right to receive education in their mother tongue, where cultural heritage is being relentlessly destroyed in an attempt to justify forced demographic changes, and ethnic cleansing. To many of you in this respected audience this may sound surprising. However, this is the case of my country. As a result of the August 2008 Russian military assault on Georgia, two parts of my homeland remain occupied by this foreign power. In addition to brutally enforced de facto cultural and linguistic apartheid in these occupied territories, the Georgian Government is also deprived of the possibility of protecting invaluable cultural heritage sites located in Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali Region, South Ossetia, Georgia. In most cases these masterpieces of Georgian architecture are being deliberately destroyed and damaged with the aim of eradicating the signs of Georgian historic and cultural presence in the occupied territories. Last year the eleventh-century Church of Ilori Saint George, located in Abkhazia, Georgia, completely lost its authenticity after so called “rehabilitation” works, which resulted in the pre-conceived obliteration of all the characteristic features of the traditional Georgian architecture, and the reshaping of it after the Russian architectural model. As a State Party of the 1972 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol to which my country acceded last year, we once again reiterate our appeal to UNESCO to employ all the instruments at its disposal to halt the policy of deliberate cultural destruction of Georgian cultural and historical heritage in occupied territories.

18.7 In conclusion, I hope that we, as responsible global citizens inspired by the “new humanism” – this phrase so timely coined by Director-General Irina Bokova – will work hand in hand to promote the moral and intellectual harmony of mankind for achieving lasting peace and freedom for every human being with whom we share this Earth of ours. Thank you so much.

*Ms da Rocha (Brazil) takes the Chair.*

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, and I am now happy to welcome the Minister of Education of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Your Excellency Mr Patrice Nisbett, the floor is yours.

20.1 **Mr Nisbett** (Saint Kitts and Nevis):

Madam President of the General Conference, Honourable Ministers, Madam Director-General, Distinguished Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis is honoured to be attending the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. It comes at a pivotal time when UNESCO seeks to galvanize us all in a search for sustainable levels of economic, social and cultural development. Developed and developing-world States alike are struggling with the many new challenges of an international nature, with huge implications for peace and sustainable development. We support the Director-General in her task to identify and focus on the appropriate activities and secure resources to ensure that the Organization is optimally deploying its distinct core competencies and expertise. This would not be a threat, but a compelling opportunity to bring about further meaningful reform and visionary thinking within UNESCO – including in the regional cluster offices – to implement timely and relevant work programmes in vulnerable small island developing States (SIDS) like ours. My Government continues to enjoy a fruitful, productive and long standing relationship with UNESCO, which has enabled us to raise its profile, and carry out the Organization's mandate on the ground via its National Commission as well as other government ministries and NGOs.

20.2 Madam President, we do not need reminding that small States face serious obstacles in pursuing social and economic ambitions. This is not limited to balancing finances; equally, we face challenges associated with diminished levels of morality, humanism and dignity, which have declined to unprecedented and sometimes dangerous levels among our young people. Consequently, we are tackling increasing crime and violence in society today.

20.3 My Government fully supports UNESCO's action to promote quality education for all. We continue to relentlessly explore alternative means for our young people by delivering alternative methods of education. As a result, my Government has prioritized a policy focus in the field of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). I believe UNESCO can further significantly complement our efforts by providing upstream policy advice and related capacity institutional development assistance.

20.4 Recently, my Government ratified the International Convention against Doping in Sport, partly because we are convinced that UNESCO's input at the development level in sports, for our youth or our young people, has a role to play. The achievements of local, but world-renowned athletes, such as Usain Bolt of Jamaica and Kim Collins of Saint Kitts and Nevis, are an inspiration to the youth in our islands and an example of what small States can do to empower young people to pursue alternative and less socially damaging activities.

20.5 My Government notes with pleasure that SIDS remains the priority group within its new programme and budget cycle and the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, especially taking into consideration the ever-present danger of climate change. Madam President, our key challenge, however, remains finding ways to adapt and mitigate climate change, so destructive for crops, habitation and lives in our small islands. Living conditions and tourism rely on our natural beauty and our ecological system is one of our most precious assets. But I am encouraged by the outcome of a UNESCO ministerial-level climate change conference held in Saint Kitts in March of this year. The conference recognized the three key priorities and called upon UNESCO's expertise and competencies in helping us to: improve our preparedness ahead of imminent natural disasters through early-warning systems; identify and strengthen scientific communities across the Caribbean region; and support our efforts in promoting education for sustainable development at all levels, including informal education. Madam President, in partnership with UNESCO and the Caribbean States, we can achieve substantial improvements for citizens carving out a living in the Caribbean islands.

21. **The President:**

Thank you Minister. I would like to call His Excellency Mr Serguei Ignatov, Minister of Education, Sciences and Youth of Bulgaria. Minister, you have the floor.

22.1 **Mr Ignatov** (Bulgaria):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. May I take this opportunity, Madam President of the General Conference, to congratulate you on your election. My delegation associates itself with the statement to be made on behalf of the European Union. Two years after our Director-General took office we witness remarkable efforts and tangible results in achieving the goal of a reformed UNESCO, more focused on its core activities and values. The revised budget proposal duly reflects that, and Bulgaria supports the zero nominal growth option.

22.2 My delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General for her strong commitment to the increased visibility of UNESCO and for her efforts towards more coordinated interaction with other United Nations agencies, which is crucial in obtaining the required impact of our actions. We also commend her for the courageous decisions she has made in difficult moments when the credibility, image and values of UNESCO were at stake. Bulgaria renders its unreserved support for all her endeavours.

22.3 We all recognize that the world is facing challenging economic times and we realize that the way forward to stability, which relates to more sustainability, to prosperity as well as to life in dignity, is through investment in education, scientific research and more socially beneficial innovations. Here I would like to inform the membership of UNESCO that my Government has decided, in a moment of reduced budgetary spending, to increase the budgets for education and culture for 2012. While that investment is essential for strengthening the global economy in order to remain true to the vision and values that lie at the heart of UNESCO, we cannot but recognize and highlight the pivotal role of science and technologies in the pursuit of a more equitable, sustainable and humane society in the twenty-first century.

22.4 We are of the opinion that sustainable development requires holistic approaches that make the most of synergies between cross-disciplinary and policy domains, relying on proper education for a change. Education is a key

instrument and a powerful tool for bringing about changes in values and attitudes, skills, behaviours and lifestyles. These can only be achieved by encouraging critical, creative and innovative thinking in the educational process from an early age. Hence the need to focus on promoting science education at all stages and levels in increasingly knowledge-based societies in order to strengthen the capacity in young people to contribute to contemporary society. It will also help to raise youth's understanding of global challenges such as climate change, the limits to energy resources, the need to protect the cultural heritage and biodiversity. Fostering education in tolerance and respect for different cultural values and manifestations is a prerequisite to building a culture of peace. In all our activities in the field of education we need to further sharpen the focus on the priorities Africa and gender equality.

22.5 Cultural innovations and products provide for economic growth and support social cohesion, alleviating social disparities. Concentrating investments in the field of culture will enhance sustainable development. My delegation warmly welcomes the initiative of the Director-General for South-East Europe to use culture as a bridge to and accelerator of development.

22.6 Excellencies, my delegation subscribes to the appeal of the Director-General to act in unity. Let us sustain our common vision for the future of our Organization and strengthen our mutual cooperation. The rapidly changing world needs UNESCO more than ever before. Thank you for your attention.

23. **The President:**

Thank you Minister. I would now like to invite His Excellency Mr Raymond Sapoen, Minister of Education and Community Development of Suriname. You have the floor, Minister.

24.1 **Mr Sapoen (Suriname):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government and the people of Suriname, and on my own behalf, I would like to add my voice to those who have congratulated you on your election as President of the General Conference. Given your track record, we cannot but express our confidence in your leadership of this governing body of the Organization for the period ahead. We would like to thank the outgoing President Mr Hepburn, whose tenure filled the Caribbean peoples with a sense of pride – his election was unprecedented in the Caribbean subregion. We would also like to thank the Director-General for her management of UNESCO during the past two years. We wish her much wisdom and good judgement for the years ahead. I would like to welcome the new Associate Members, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, for their membership and for enriching the Dutch-speaking Caribbean. We are looking forward to working closely with them. We thank the Director-General and her staff for the Draft Programme and Budget which continuously testifies to the unflinching effort of the Organization to achieve the ideals it envisaged at its inception 65 years ago. Unfortunately, we are faced time and time again with global threats that jeopardize the realization of these ideals. International security and the culture of peace continue to be pivotal issues that require innovative approaches from us, the international community.

24.2 Madam President, as we announced at a previous session of the General Conference with regard to the education for all (EFA) goals for the 2015 deadline and beyond, we have launched a major educational reform project which involves a basic education cycle, integrating kindergarten and primary education. The project aims, among other things, at improved quality and increased efficiency of the basic education system by updating the education content processes and supporting institutional reforms, including teacher training, to strengthen the management and administrative capacities both within the ministry and at school levels. This innovation is widely expected to increase the human capital of our country. At the same time, we have continued to implement activities within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), notably regarding early childhood development and gender equity. Although Suriname has an increased education enrolment, we are yet dealing, as are many developing countries, with a challenge to improve education quality and relevance. Madam President, we are pleased to inform you that with a view to regulating our standards of higher education, we have established an accreditation council, following the Law on the National Agency for Accreditation. In cooperating with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), educational standards and quality have now been set for the recognition of higher education institutions. An educated population is the greatest wealth of a nation. It is necessary that education responds to the increased diversity of pupils and rapid technological developments. Our society demands more from individuals and expects a productive contribution to society from all the people. The quality of the individual teacher and the school team is almost everything. It is therefore worth investing in our staff in a planned and fundamental way. Quality is preservation of work; professional development should be seen as a continuum, as a part of lifelong learning. The Institute for Training and Professional Development will commence its activities in November 2011. In concrete terms, we will start with in-service training for teachers in Paramaribo and step by step extend the activities to the districts. The status and readiness of ICT in education varies greatly throughout the world and specifically the Caribbean region. Policy directions and implementation strategies have to be in place in Suriname so as to be developed to ensure the impact of ICT in improving teaching and learning goals. We all acknowledge the use of ICT to enhance access to and equality of education through all levels. We therefore welcome all support from the international community to assist in the strengthening of ICT in education in Suriname.

24.3 Madam President, given that sport, youth and culture are among Suriname's portfolio within CARICOM, I am pleased to inform you about the following. A regional sports academy (RSA) will be established in Suriname. The regional sports academy will play a crucial role, for example, in the development of a healthy lifestyle of citizens, both at national and regional levels. The establishment of a regional sports academy in Suriname will also be beneficial and strategic for providing alternatives for young people and contributing to a healthy and balanced population. Suriname will be the host country for important regional meetings, namely the regular meeting of ministers of education of the Organization of American States (OAS) addressing teachers' capacities to respond to the needs of twenty-first century

students, a high-level meeting regarding youth, and for the first time in the Caribbean, Virtual Eduka. These meetings will take place in our capital Paramaribo from 27 February to 2 March 2012.

24.4 In conclusion, Madam President, we would like to express our hope that UNESCO will continue to make its presence felt in the face of the current global challenges and that the international community will be able to stem the tide of global insecurity and human rights violations. I thank you very much.

25. **The President:**

Thank you. Now I have the great pleasure to call on His Excellency Mr Lionel Jansen, Minister of Education, Science and Culture and Export of Curaçao. It is for us a real pleasure to admit the Minister in this room for the first time. Welcome, Minister, to the UNESCO family.

26.1 **Mr Jansen (Curaçao):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Government of Curaçao congratulates you, Madam President, on being elected to preside over the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and I wish you sustained success in the following proceedings. This UNESCO General Conference is of historical value for our country. It is a great achievement and an honour to become an Associate Member during this Conference. In the near future we will stand here as a full-fledged member. One day our nation will choose to be independent, but now we are very glad with this acknowledgement as an Associate Member. Every country deserves to be represented at the highest level, thereby actively contributing to global peace, as UNESCO stands for peace and righteousness. Madam President, money, power or historical scale should never ever hinder or stand in the way of global peace. With great pride, we will contribute to prosperity. We are a small island, but we have achieved and we will continue to achieve great things globally. Please witness our history. Our country is a melting pot consisting of people who take pride in their cultural background and believe one of the main tools to achieve peace and combat division is training people in their own country or region as much as possible. By doing this, we can contribute to the completion and further advancement of our country and others. Here, all countries need to stand together.

26.2 Madam President, we regret the fact that some countries will refuse to contribute or stop their contribution to the education for all programmes. Their support for training, education and economic development in developing countries is very important. We reluctantly see the emigration of youngsters to other countries in these societies. At the global level, we are witnessing another phenomenon which has unprecedented consequences, which is the digital divide. We urge UNESCO to pay attention to this emerging trend. Because of poor development opportunities, countries on the rise also experience the negative consequences of brain drain. With this in mind, we call upon you to reconsider your decisions to stop or reduce your support.

26.3 Madam President, we are grateful for the assistance and support offered by UNESCO through training courses, information exchange and networking. Through dedication, perseverance and commitment we will continue to develop, free our people and increase our feelings of self-worth and pride. Madam President, *nos ta orguyoso di ta forma parti di e gran famia di UNESCO i KORSOU lo hasi bon uso di e oportunitatnan ku UNESCO ta ofresé.* We will succeed, because we believe in ourselves and in the support of UNESCO. *Biba Korsou, biba UNESCO. Masha danki, dank u, thank you, muchas gracias, Merci beaucoup.*

27. **The President:**

*Muito obrigada.* I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Nuro Crato, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Science of Portugal.

28.1 **M. Crato (Portugal) (discours prononcé en portugais ; texte français fourni par la délégation) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, le Portugal souscrit pleinement à la déclaration qui sera prononcée par la Pologne au nom de l'Union européenne. Permettez-moi, avant tout, de féliciter la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour les initiatives de réforme des structures et des procédures de l'Organisation qu'elle a entreprises. Le Portugal est entièrement disposé à aider l'UNESCO à accompagner les changements politiques, sociaux, environnementaux, culturels et économiques du monde. Ces derniers mois, nous avons assisté à de profonds bouleversements politiques et sociaux dans le monde arabe. En raison de leur dimension civilisationnelle, ces bouleversements constituent des moments uniques ou rarement égalés par le passé. Les mesures prises par l'UNESCO dès le début de ce qu'il a été convenu d'appeler « le Printemps arabe » illustrent bien l'engagement de l'Organisation, que nous avons particulièrement apprécié.

28.2 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, mon Gouvernement observe avec attention les réformes qui ont été lancées par la Directrice générale au sein du Secteur de l'éducation. Le programme du Gouvernement portugais établit un certain nombre de priorités fondamentales en matière d'éducation, notamment : l'autonomie des écoles, qui passe par un engagement accru des communautés dans les projets éducatifs et l'octroi d'une plus grande autonomie et davantage de responsabilités aux écoles ; une politique rigoureuse d'évaluation des élèves, des enseignants, des écoles et des programmes d'enseignement ; la promotion de la véritable réussite scolaire, et non pas de la réussite uniquement sur le plan statistique, ainsi que la lutte contre l'abandon scolaire ; le perfectionnement des enseignants du futur, afin qu'ils soient mieux préparés dans leurs matières respectives ; la création d'un système d'enseignement secondaire qui articule la formation scientifico-humaniste traditionnelle avec la formation des écoles professionnelles, en lien avec le monde de l'entreprise. La réforme du système éducatif implique aussi une restructuration des programmes, à travers la réduction du nombre et de la diversité des disciplines dans la scolarité obligatoire, et par le renforcement de l'enseignement fondamental : la langue portugaise et les mathématiques. Toujours dans le domaine de l'éducation, le Portugal soutient de longue date la priorité accordée au continent africain, et maintient une étroite coopération avec les

pays de langue officielle portugaise, notamment avec l'établissement d'écoles portugaises au Mozambique et en Angola. Je note avec satisfaction que la proposition faite par la Directrice générale pour le budget 2012-2013 renforce la dotation attribuée à la priorité Afrique. Nous nous réjouissons aussi de la coopération avec le Timor-Leste, pays avec lequel nous venons d'établir un protocole dans le domaine de l'éducation, lequel prévoit l'envoi d'enseignants portugais pour travailler dans des écoles de référence dans le pays, et accompagner les stages des futurs enseignants timorais.

28.3 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, la science, la technologie et l'innovation sont des priorités pour mon Gouvernement. L'année 2012 a été proclamée par les Nations Unies « Année internationale de l'énergie durable pour tous ». Nous sommes certains qu'elle permettra à l'UNESCO de sensibiliser les États membres et la société civile. Le Portugal investit avec conviction dans l'étude des énergies renouvelables. Mon pays se réjouit de la récente approbation, à Dresde, de deux nouvelles réserves de biosphère portugaises (Santana Madeira et Berlengas), ainsi que du partenariat de l'UNESCO avec le réseau mondial des géoparcs. Par sa participation au Conseil exécutif de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale, le Portugal continuera de contribuer à asseoir le rôle de cette dernière, dont il salue la contribution à la préparation de la Conférence Rio + 20. Nous sommes convaincus que la Conférence générale approuvera à sa présente session la création, à Lisbonne, d'un centre de catégorie 2, projet d'excellence appuyé par tous les pays de langue portugaise. Ce centre aura pour mission d'assurer la formation avancée en sciences fondamentales dans l'espace de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise (CPLP). L'investissement durable dans la recherche scientifique et dans la formation de techniciens et de chercheurs est sans aucun doute l'un des piliers du développement pour lequel le Portugal déploie le plus d'efforts.

28.4 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, le Portugal a coparrainé le projet de résolution qui insiste sur le renforcement des moyens financiers alloués à l'application de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, afin de combler les insuffisances qui subsistent encore concernant le Fonds international pour la diversité culturelle, auquel le Portugal a eu le plaisir de contribuer. La défense du patrimoine matériel de l'humanité est un objectif à viser. Mon pays espère que le plan d'action qui doit accompagner la Recommandation concernant le paysage urbain historique sera bientôt prêt afin de protéger de la dégradation un patrimoine riche et irremplaçable. Le patrimoine immatériel doit voir sa protection garantie. Le Portugal est en train d'achever l'inventaire du patrimoine culturel immatériel national. Mon pays considère que la conservation et la préservation du patrimoine culturel subaquatique sont de la plus haute importance et, à cet égard, accorde une valeur cruciale à la Convention de 2001. Le Portugal dispose d'une vaste expérience dans le domaine de l'archéologie sous-marine en coopération avec d'autres États, et recommande à tous de promouvoir la ratification de la Convention sur la protection du patrimoine culturel subaquatique, ou l'adhésion à cette Convention.

28.5 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, le dernier sujet que je souhaite aborder dans mon intervention concerne la satisfaction qui est la mienne de pouvoir m'adresser à vous en portugais. Le portugais est, de nos jours, parlé par plus de 250 millions de personnes sur Terre, ce qui en fait la huitième langue la plus parlée de la planète, et la troisième langue européenne la plus parlée au monde. La langue portugaise est chaque jour davantage employée dans les domaines du commerce et de l'économie par les puissances émergentes, en particulier en Amérique du Sud et en Afrique subsaharienne. Le Portugal soutiendra le renforcement du rôle de la langue portugaise en tant que langue de communication internationale auprès des instances internationales, et cela en concertation étroite avec les autres pays de la CPLP.

28.6 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, je saisis l'occasion qui m'est offerte de vous remercier et de réitérer l'engagement du Portugal aux côtés de l'UNESCO en faveur de la promotion et du maintien de la paix, objectif primordial de cette Organisation. Je vous remercie.

29. **The President:**

*Muito obrigada Senhor Ministro.* I would like to call Her Excellency Ms Roser Suñé Pascuet, Minister of Education and Youth of Andorra. Madam, you have the floor.

30.1 **Mme Suñé Pascuet (Andorre) :**

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter, Madame la Présidente, pour votre élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Je vous présente tous mes vœux de succès dans l'accomplissement de cette haute mission. Le 13 septembre 2000, l'Andorre a adopté les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. À cet égard, je tiens à saluer l'engagement de l'UNESCO en faveur de l'alphabétisation dans le cadre du programme « Éducation pour tous » (EPT), mais les efforts déployés ne sont certainement pas suffisants. Il sera en effet difficile, d'ici à 2015, de rendre universelle la scolarisation des enfants dans le primaire, ce qui était pourtant l'un des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Force est de constater que les populations victimes de conflits violents et les peuples les plus vulnérables aux catastrophes naturelles sont exclus du circuit du développement. À ce titre, le Rapport mondial de suivi sur l'Éducation pour tous publié en 2011 témoigne du fait que les conflits armés sont un obstacle majeur à la réalisation de l'EPT. Il est essentiel de préserver les droits des enfants et de promouvoir l'aide au développement dans les pays touchés par un conflit. À cet égard, la coopération andorrane définit ses priorités en s'inspirant des huit Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, et en orientant ses ressources vers des secteurs d'activité très concrets. Un de ces secteurs auxquels l'Andorre porte une attention toute particulière est la protection des personnes vulnérables, plus particulièrement celle des enfants et des femmes.

30.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'Andorre, blottie au cœur des Pyrénées, dispose d'un système éducatif tout aussi particulier que son histoire. À la fin du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle, les enfants de ce petit État peuplé de 5 500 habitants recevaient des rudiments d'instruction liés à l'éducation religieuse. Ce n'est qu'en 1900 que l'enseignement français laïc a fait son apparition dans nos vallées, avant d'être rejoint par l'enseignement espagnol en 1930. Ainsi, nos deux coprincipes, le

Président de la République française et l'évêque de la Seu d'Urgell, ont toujours essayé de maintenir dans notre pays les influences française et espagnole aussi bien à travers l'éducation que dans d'autres domaines. L'Andorre leur en sait gré car ils ont permis à un territoire, où la vie était rude à bâtir, d'avoir une excellente instruction et un équilibre entre les influences de nos deux pays voisins. Ces deux systèmes scolaires perdurent de nos jours. Ce n'est qu'en 1982 que l'École andorrane est née ; depuis, notre population scolaire est répartie entre trois systèmes éducatifs. La coexistence de ces trois enseignements – gratuits pour tous – dans un territoire si restreint se passe très bien et nous avons toujours considéré cette pluralité comme une richesse, les parents pouvant librement choisir l'école de leurs enfants.

30.3 Madame la Présidente, nous sommes un pays de grande immigration (nous avons multiplié par 12 notre population en tout juste 50 ans) et nos jeunes doivent trouver, à travers l'enseignement, leurs repères : connaître l'histoire du territoire d'accueil, sans pour autant oublier leurs origines. Et cela se fait essentiellement à travers l'école, qui doit permettre la difficile fusion dans le pays de groupes ethniques et culturels les plus divers. Cinq écoles de la Principauté d'Andorre font partie du Réseau du système des écoles associées de l'UNESCO et œuvrent en faveur de la compréhension internationale, de la paix, du dialogue interculturel, du développement durable et de la qualité de l'éducation. Il est prévu que des élèves des écoles associées participent, en janvier 2012, à la Rencontre de jeunes scientifiques au Portugal. En ce qui concerne l'enseignement supérieur, l'Université d'Andorre et l'UNESCO ont signé, en 2006, un accord créant une Chaire UNESCO intitulée « les technologies de l'information : formation et développement solidaire ».

30.4 Madame la Présidente, il est important de promouvoir la participation active des jeunes dans notre société, et le Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO offre un cadre privilégié à cette fin. Nous saluons l'engagement de l'UNESCO envers les jeunes et nous nous félicitons de l'organisation de la 7<sup>e</sup> édition du Forum des jeunes, tenue du 17 au 20 octobre au Siège de l'UNESCO, à Paris, et à laquelle deux jeunes Andorrans ont participé. L'Andorre accorde une importance toute particulière à la participation de jeunes de tous les États membres de l'UNESCO au Forum, afin qu'ils puissent échanger et débattre sur les questions d'actualité. C'est la raison pour laquelle le Gouvernement andorran fournit, lors de chaque édition du Forum des jeunes, une contribution volontaire visant à permettre la participation d'un jeune délégué d'un pays en développement. À ce propos, il est important de souligner le rôle que jouent la Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO et le Département de la jeunesse andorran pour promouvoir la participation et l'engagement de jeunes Andorrans à des manifestations consacrées aux jeunes.

30.5 Madame la Présidente, l'Andorre a participé activement à la célébration de l'Année internationale du rapprochement des cultures en 2010. À cet égard, la deuxième édition de l'Art Camp a été organisée en Andorre par la Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO, en collaboration avec la société civile andorrane et les autorités locales et gouvernementales. La Principauté d'Andorre, Madame la Présidente, se réjouit de faire partie de l'UNESCO, organisation qui œuvre encore et toujours en faveur d'une éducation pour tous dans toutes les parties de la planète afin de contribuer à l'édification d'un monde plus juste, dans la paix. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

### 31. La Présidente :

Je vous remercie, Madame la Ministre, et j'ai le plaisir d'inviter maintenant S. E. M. Boubekour Benbouzid, Ministre de l'éducation de l'Algérie. Monsieur le Ministre, vous avez la parole.

٣٢،١ السيد بن بوزيد (الجزائر):

السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي، أيتها السيدات والسادة، في البداية أود أن أهنئ السيدة كاتالين بويغياي على توليها رئاسة هذه الدورة للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو بكفاءة واقتدار وهذا أمر ليس بغريب لما تبديه من استعداد تجاه الغير ولما لها من رصيد ثقافي كبير.

٣٢،٢ في مطلع القرن الحالي حيث يشير كل شيء إلى أنه سيحمل العديد من المخاطر التي تهدد السلم في العالم، فإنه يتوقع أن تكون التحديات، التي يتعين على اليونسكو مواجهتها مستقبلاً، أكثر تعقيداً من تلك التي تعمل على حلها اليوم. فبالإضافة إلى عالم محفوف بالنزاعات المسلحة التي تندلع هنا وهناك فتريد الجو توتراً، ثمة عولمة شرسة للاقتصاد الدولي وإفقار مطرد لجماعات بشرية مجردة من كل شيء، ناهيك عن العواقب المتوقعة من كل الأزمات المالية المتكررة، التي تضاف إلى هذا المشهد البائس والتي تقض مضجع المجتمعات المتطورة.

٣٢،٣ أيتها السيدات والسادة، لا شك أن جدول أعمال الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو يترجم بوضوح مستوى الوعي الراقى الذي تتحلى به اليونسكو إزاء الرهانات الجديدة المرتبطة بالتحول السريع للعالم، حيث نجد محاور تخصص التعليم الجامع ذي الجودة للجميع والتربية المسطرة كاستراتيجية من أجل تنمية متناسقة ومستدامة وتقدم الطفولة الصغرى وأخيراً تنشئة المتعلمين على قيم التسامح الحميمة فيما بين الثقافات.

٣٢،٤ وهكذا يتبين لنا جيداً أن الخبرة التي اكتسبتها اليونسكو، من خلال تنوع خطط عملها النابعة من أهداف الألفية وبمكّم توسع مداها، لا تقتصر على الجانب التربوي، حيث إن هذه الخبرة تقوم جلياً على قدرة فائقة، تُعد ضرورة أكثر من أي وقت مضى، لاستشفاف واستشراف العوامل السياسية والثقافية التي ينطوي عليها عالم دائم الغليان.

٣٢،٥ ويتعلق الأمر اليوم باعتماد مقاربة شمولية بشأن القضايا التربوية بدلاً من المساءلات القديمة والانزواء القطاعي، وذلك حتى تتسم السياسات التربوية بمزيد من الوجاهة والفعالية. ويستنتج من ذلك أن حق الجميع في التربية ضمن هذه البوتقة الجديدة، يصبح حتمية لا تنفصل عن تلك التي تخص التنمية وأن اقتران هاتين القيمتين لا يتم إلا إذا ارتكز على إرادة سياسية كبيرة للاستثمار الاقتصادي في الرهان الاستراتيجي الجدير حقاً بالاهتمام، ألا وهو المورد البشري.

٣٢،٦ أيتها السيدات والسادة، إن السؤال المطروح اليوم على المشرفين على التربية يتمثل قطعاً في كيف نفعّل أكثر موارد أقل بكثير من أجل ضمان تكوين مستمر للمعلمين والمربين بغية تحقيق نجاعة وحدانية البرامج ومحتويات التعليم وقيادة النظام والمبتكرات البيداغوجية.



٣٢,٧ وفيما يخص الجزائر التي آلت على نفسها بكل شجاعة أن تبني نظام إدارتها التربوية استناداً إلى المبادئ العالمية للحدائق الفكرية والاجتماعية، فإنها عازمة على مواصلة سعيها في هذا النهج. ولن تترك أبداً مجالاً لأي إجراء اقتصادي ومالي يكون على حساب حق كل جزائري في تربية ذات نوعية؛ إذ يتعلق الأمر بالنسبة إلينا بخيار سياسي لا رجعة فيه.

٣٢,٨ ومن جانب آخر، تجدر الإشارة، في المجال الثقافي، إلى أن الجزائر التي يوجد فيها حتى الآن سعة مواقع للتراث العالمي، قد استكملت ترسانتها القانونية الوطنية. وعليه، ترى بلادي أنه حان الوقت لتقديم ترشحها في انتخاب لجنة التراث العالمي، ولذا فأنا أهيب بكم، سيداتي وسادتي، لدعم هذا الترشيح.

٣٢,٩ أيتها السيدات والسادة، قبل أن أختتم هذه النظرة السريعة، لا بد من أن أحيي التوصية التي اعتمدها المجلس التنفيذي بشأن ترشيح فلسطين في تطلعها المشروع إلى أن تكون عضواً كاملاً ضمن العائلة الكبرى لمنظمتنا، وإني أهيب بكم، سيداتي وسادتي أعضاء المؤتمر العام، أن تكونوا كرجل واحد لمساعدة فلسطين، أي مساعدة العالم، أي مساعدة السلم. سيداتي وسادتي، أشكركم على حسن الإصغاء والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله.

(32.1) **Mr Ben Bouzid (Algeria) translation from the Arabic:**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me at the outset to congratulate Ms Katalin Bogayay on her election as President of the current session of the General Conference of UNESCO, a task which she will assume with competence and ability in view of her readiness to engage with the Other and her great fund of cultural knowledge.

(32.2) At the beginning of the present century, with all the indicators pointing to its being replete with dangers threatening world peace, we expect that the challenges facing UNESCO in the future will be more complex than those it is seeking to meet today. In addition to a world full of armed conflicts flaring up here and there, making the climate tenser, there is a ferocious globalization of the international economy and an ongoing impoverishment of human communities which are stripped of everything, not to mention the expected consequences of all the repeated financial crises which are added to this desperate scene and which are undermining the foundations of the developed societies.

(32.3) Ladies and gentlemen, there is little doubt that the agenda of the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO clearly reflects UNESCO's advanced awareness of the new challenges relating to the rapid transformations under way in the world, including the themes of inclusive quality education for all, "ruler-approach" education as a strategy for harmonious and sustainable development, and early childhood education, and finally, ensuring that learners take in the deep-seated principles of tolerance among cultures.

(32.4) It thus seems clear to us that the expertise acquired by UNESCO through the diversity of its plans of action rooted in the Millennium Development Goals with their expanded scope, is not confined to the educational aspect alone; it is also clearly based on an outstanding ability, which is more than ever necessary, to perceive and foresee the political and cultural factors shaping a world in constant ebullition.

(32.5) It is a matter today of adopting a global approach towards educational issues rather than asking the same old questions in sectoral isolation, such that educational policies are characterized by greater validity and effectiveness. Consequently, the right of all to education within this new paradigm becomes inevitable and inseparable from the right to development, and the conjunction of these two values can only be effected if based on strong political will for economic investment in a strategic wager on what is truly worthy of attention, in other words, human resources.

(32.6) Ladies and gentlemen, the question being asked today of those in charge of education is most emphatically: how can we do more with fewer resources in order to ensure continuing education to teachers and trainers in order to achieve beneficial and modern educational programmes and content, leadership of the educational system, and pedagogical innovations.

(32.7) Algeria, which has courageously undertaken to renew the administration of its educational system based on global values of intellectual modernity and socialism, is determined to pursue its course in this direction. It will never leave any room for any economic or financial temptations which come at the expense of the right of every Algerian to quality education, this, for us, is a political option from which there can be no turning back.

(32.8) Turning to the cultural field, it should be noted that Algeria has seven world heritage sites, for which the national legal arrangements have been completed. This is why my country believes that the time has come for it to stand for election to the World Heritage Committee, and I therefore appeal to you, ladies and gentlemen, to lend us your support for this candidature.

(32.9) Ladies and gentlemen, before concluding this rapid review, I am bound to salute the recommendation adopted by the Executive Board concerning the candidature of Palestine in its legitimate aspiration to become a Member State and part of the great family of our Organization. I urge you, ladies and gentlemen, Members of the General Conference, to act in unison to help Palestine, nay to help the world and to help peace. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

### 33. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Ministre.* Now I would like to call His Excellency Mir Changez Khan Jamali, Minister of Science and Technology of Pakistan.

#### 34.1 **Mr Khan Jamali (Pakistan):**

*Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm* (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate). Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, *as-salāmu 'alaikum* (Peace be upon you). Madam President, in congratulating you on your election to this prestigious office, allow me to avail of this opportunity and congratulate Member States on the election of the three eminent women to lead the three bodies of UNESCO. I also thank the outgoing President Mr Davidson Hepburn for his excellent handling of this responsible position. At the outset, Pakistan offers its deep condolences to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the sad demise of Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz. Pakistan is mourning the death of Madam Nusrat Bhutto, the wife of our ex-Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the mother of Pakistan's first woman Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto. We share the pain of Turkey that was struck by a massive earthquake a few days ago. Our heartfelt sympathies go to Thailand, which is suffering from unprecedented floods.

34.2 Madam President, climate change is causing natural disasters, the more devastating impact of which is on developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). In this regard, Pakistan calls for the merging of education for all (EFA) and education for sustainable development (ESD) so that an essential synergy is created. Pakistan believes that the investments in disaster risk reduction through education can result in changes in perception and behaviour that reduce the risk and cost of environmental crisis. There is also a multisectoral dimension which needs to be taken into account: for example, Pakistan's Moenjodaro, the 4,500-year-old heritage, was recently damaged by unprecedented rain. We would like to specifically refer the matter to the World Heritage Committee and the Intersectoral Platform on Climate Change.

34.3 Madam President, the volatile financial markets, unemployment and rising food and commodity prices are putting a strain on national budgets. Relevant to UNESCO is that the risks to both economic and social development threaten the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly those of EFA, which we know is not on track. Pakistan therefore feels it is necessary to begin work on an agenda beyond 2015, and for the donors to honour their financial commitments made in 2005. Further donor cooperation needs to be strengthened; we recommend a pool-funded mechanism such as a global fund for education. Madam President, allow me to inform you that according to Article 5(a) of the 18th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, education has become a fundamental right. Pakistan's strong political commitment is reflected in the Prime Minister's decision to declare 2011 as a Year of Education in Pakistan.

34.4 Pakistan welcomes the successful convening of the Youth Forum. We believe that youth must be included in the mainstream process of UNESCO. Unemployment of educated youth is a recognized problem; therefore, there is a special need for programmes that build twenty-first century skills and offer technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Madam President, let me bring to your kind attention a very important issue. There is a very critical energy deficit in many countries. More than 80% of Africa's population are without electricity. Pakistan also suffers from a huge energy deficit, which retards economic growth. UNESCO needs to assist developing countries in the use of solar and other renewable energies through sharing experiences and expertise. Madam President, the world is witnessing the rise in extremism and incidences of terrorism. Pakistan firmly believes that respect for cultural diversity brings the fruit of peaceful coexistence. We need to harness the potential of education by inclusion of respect for other cultural values in the curriculum.

34.5 Pakistan endorses the Director-General's policy statement and particularly commends her proposed reform of the field network action plan. We wish her God Speed in the attainment of reform to perform.

34.6 Pakistan keenly awaits the Palestinian Spring through the realization of the independent State status. We support the entry of Palestine to UNESCO as a Member State. We expect this will allow for a constructive participation in UNESCO to promote peace through dialogue among civilizations and cultures.

34.7 I would like to conclude with the words of Benazir Bhutto, the martyred former Prime Minister of Pakistan, who stated in her speech as far back as 2005 on the issue of averting the clash of civilizations through justice and human rights: "Justice is economic independence; justice is social equality. Nations make choices and choices lead to consequences, and these consequences are intertwined. They are difficult to separate. The girl who is illiterate has no future – fundamentally not free. Irrespective of constitutions and elections, the cause of human rights must begin with us, within our individual communities and within our own nations". Many thanks for your attention. May Allah bless you all. Thank you.

35. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. May I now welcome the Minister of Education of Angola. Your Excellency Mr Mpinda Simão, the floor is yours, Sir.

36.1 **M. Mpinda Simão (Angola)** (*discours prononcé en portugais ; texte français fourni par la délégation*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, chers collègues, Distingués délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je commencerai par saluer et féliciter Son Excellence, Madame la Présidente, pour son élection. Elle va conduire les travaux de cette session et je lui souhaite plein succès dans cette mission. J'aimerais aussi saisir cette occasion pour féliciter particulièrement la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mme Irina Bokova, pour son action globalement audacieuse dans la conduite de cette haute institution du savoir universel, et plus particulièrement pour ses initiatives novatrices visant à intégrer objectivement les besoins et les priorités des États membres dans chacun des grands programmes sectoriels, selon une approche holistique et orientée vers des résultats visibles sur le terrain.

36.2 L'Angola prend acte des efforts qui ont conduit au maintien d'un équilibre relatif entre une option budgétaire fondée sur une croissance nominale zéro et le besoin de mettre en œuvre des programmes stratégiques et des projets prioritaires ciblés pour l'exercice biennal 2012-2013. L'Angola souscrit à ces efforts. Nous aimerions attirer l'attention sur la nécessité de mieux prendre en considération le contenu et les moyens à mettre en œuvre pour assurer le lancement de programmes chers à l'Afrique, tels que les priorités Afrique et Égalité des genres. Il nous semble essentiel que soit observé le principe de hiérarchisation des actions qui renforce de manière durable les capacités des États membres en matière d'exécution. Le Gouvernement angolais est fortement engagé en faveur de la création de conditions structurelles nécessaires pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et ceux fixés à Dakar en 2000 pour l'Éducation pour tous. Cet engagement s'inscrit dans le cadre d'un processus de partenariat multisectoriel et pluridisciplinaire qui englobe plusieurs acteurs tels que le gouvernement et les administrations locales, le secteur privé, la société civile et les organismes des Nations Unies, en particulier l'UNESCO. À ce jour, nos langues nationales constituent un instrument de la stratégie pour l'alphabétisation et l'accélération scolaire.

36.3 Dans le cadre de la réforme éducative conduite par le Gouvernement depuis 2004 au niveau des sous-systèmes d'enseignement primaire, secondaire et professionnel, et dont les objectifs couvrent l'expansion du réseau scolaire, l'amélioration de la qualité de l'enseignement et la valorisation du corps enseignant, nous pouvons vérifier que le nombre d'élèves a augmenté de manière considérable, passant de près de 2,6 millions en 2002 à plus de 6 millions en 2010, soit un taux de croissance annuel de 2,9 %, qui s'est accompagné de la construction de 54 000 nouvelles salles de classe. Pendant la même période, le taux de réussite a augmenté, de 46 % à 80 %, et la croissance des effectifs de l'enseignement a été de l'ordre de 80 %, passant de 115 000 à plus de 200 000 enseignants. L'enseignement supérieur a connu ces derniers temps une croissance notable. En 2005, le pays ne comptait qu'une seule université et quelques établissements d'enseignement supérieur privés accueillant quelque 40 000 étudiants. Actuellement, on dénombre 17 établissements d'enseignement supérieur publics, et 22 privés, fréquentés par environ 150 000 étudiants.

36.4 Au titre de l'initiative UNESCO d'éducation aux sciences de la Terre en Afrique, le Gouvernement angolais s'apprête à créer un centre d'excellence pour la formation doctorale en sciences de la Terre aux fins du développement durable. Ce centre sera chargé d'assurer la formation des jeunes scientifiques angolais et de ceux de la région dans le cadre d'un partenariat stratégique entre le Gouvernement, des universités du monde entier et le secteur privé, qui en assure le financement. Le projet est conçu en conformité avec les critères définis par l'UNESCO en vue de sa désignation comme centre de catégorie 2. S'agissant du défi lié au changement climatique, nous mentionnerons ici le grand projet Angola LNG en cours dans la ville portuaire de Soyo, au nord-ouest du pays, qui désigne l'un des plus grands producteurs de gaz naturel liquéfié. L'usine entrera en fonctionnement au premier trimestre 2012 avec une capacité de production installée de l'ordre de 2,5 millions de tonnes par an, et une capacité de stockage de 360 000 m<sup>3</sup> de gaz naturel liquéfié, ce qui devrait permettre de réduire considérablement la production de gaz à effet de serre.

36.5 En ce qui concerne la préservation et la protection de la biodiversité, l'Angola participe, en partenariat avec quatre pays voisins (Botswana, Namibie, Zambie et Zimbabwe), au développement du grand projet environnemental nommé Kaza-Okavango, dont les caractéristiques écologiques et humaines sont exceptionnelles. La superficie de paysage protégé sur le territoire angolais est de l'ordre de 70 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

36.6 On fait souvent référence au potentiel de l'éducation et de la culture pour le développement durable de nos pays, dans le but d'atteindre pleinement le bien-être, condition nécessaire à un climat de paix universelle. Aussi, réjouissons-nous de la tenue d'un Forum des dirigeants qui interpelle l'UNESCO sur sa contribution à l'édification d'une culture de la paix et au développement durable. Mon Gouvernement se félicite par ailleurs de l'inscription des archives de Dembos au Registre de la Mémoire du monde de l'UNESCO. Il se félicite également de la recommandation adressée par le Conseil exécutif à la présente session de la Conférence générale concernant l'inclusion du nom de la reine Ginga Mbande dans le calendrier commémoratif des anniversaires des personnalités ayant marqué l'histoire de l'humanité.

36.7 J'aimerais porter à votre connaissance le fait que le Parlement angolais a déjà approuvé l'adhésion de la République d'Angola aux conventions suivantes liées au Secteur de la culture : Convention pour la protection des biens culturels en cas de conflit armé ; Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel ; Convention d'UNIDROIT sur les biens culturels volés ou illicitement exportés ; Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles.

36.8 Enfin, permettez-moi de conclure en remerciant l'UNESCO de son engagement croissant dans divers programmes et projets angolais relevant de ses domaines de compétence, et en l'assurant du renforcement de notre coopération. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

*Ms Bogyay resumes the Chair.*

**37. The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. And now I would like to welcome to the floor the Minister of Education of Namibia, His Excellency Mr Abraham Iyambo. The floor is yours, Sir.

**38.1 Mr Iyambo (Namibia):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies. Madam President, Namibia congratulates you on your election and wishes you every success. The Draft Programme and Budget before us come at a critical moment in the history of UNESCO and of the United Nations system. The year 2015 set for the achievement of education for all (EFA) and internationally agreed upon goals and commitments is approaching very fast, almost at supersonic speed. In 2000 in Dakar we collectively promised humanity that each and every person on planet Earth would have the right to inclusive, equitable and quality education. This was a firm affirmation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted way back in 1948. Madam President, if contemporary generations fail, we would have betrayed future generations. The UNESCO family has a noble global duty to provide sharpened, focused resolved leadership and effective coordination to accelerate the achievement of EFA and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Quality teachers' preparation guarantees quality education; therefore continuous professional development of teachers at all phases of education and their welfare remain our urgent responsibility. In the same vein, we must harness and leverage the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve the quality of education.

38.2 The forces of climate change and their negative impacts are a real threat to humanity. No nation is spared from it, and no nation can face it alone. Namibia therefore expresses its profound gratitude to UNESCO for its swift response when a flood hit Namibia this year. We are confident that with the scientific support of UNESCO, we will find mitigating measures to the persistent calamities of floods and droughts.

38.3 Culture is a key element for sustainable development. Namibia therefore applauds this positive move and encourages UNESCO to continue providing technical support and building capacity in this critical area. Much attention, Madam President, has been paid recently to the reform with respect to the field network. Madam President, judicious attention must be made to ensure the meaningful and vibrant presence of UNESCO in the field. Namibia highly values the role of National Commissions. They enhance and accentuate the visibility and viability of UNESCO in Member States. We should therefore ensure that their role is not reduced or marginalized.

38.4 The dawn of the next Medium-Term Strategy for this Organization is imminent. Madam President, we must therefore re-position ourselves. Our common strength lies in our deep solidarity to share in the richness of our knowledge, our common heritage. Let us reach out to each other. Let us listen to each other, but with a genuine view to understanding one another. We have the capacity to make life worth living for all of us. All that is required from us is to rededicate and recommit ourselves to the living ideals and values of our forerunners, the founders of our great UNESCO. I thank you very much.

39. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education and Sports of Uganda. Her Excellency Ms Jessica Rose Epel Alupo, the floor is yours, Madam.

40.1 **Ms Alupo (Uganda):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Madam President, I congratulate you upon your election to the Chair of this session of the General Conference and I bring you greetings from the Pearl of Africa. Madam President, the global economic downslide that hit the world two years ago has been worsened by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides. These calamities have negatively impacted on the aspirations of many countries to attain the internationally agreed goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and education for all (EFA) goals. These are some of the challenges UNESCO, with the support of Member States, must grapple with in the next biennium. The challenges must be taken head on if UNESCO must remain faithful to the spirit of its founders, and also fulfil its mandate and contribute to the entrenchment of a culture of peace and non-violence, eradication of poverty as well as the promotion of sustainable development in the world.

40.2 Madam President, my delegation appreciates document 36 C/5, the Draft Programme and Budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, and my delegation also commends those who prepared it. The document clearly outlines the needs and aspirations of our Organization in the next biennium. We note the effort to rationalize resource allocation and to avail more resources to programme activities. We also appreciate the response in the document to the needs of the less developed countries, and in particular the African continent. In this connection, Madam President, my delegation endorses the proposed priorities and main lines of action in all the major programmes. The proposals are in tandem with the aspirations of the Organization expressed in the Medium-Term Strategy, document 34 C/4, which we hope will be anchored and rolled on into document 37 C/4.

40.3 In Major Programme I, we note that issues of inclusive education, quality education, teachers, HIV/Aids and so on and so forth have been addressed. We urge that these activities related to accelerating progress towards attaining EFA goals at country level by 2015 be fast-tracked. In Uganda, universal primary education (UPE) and universal secondary education (USE) have enabled us to advance towards attaining some of the EFA goals. We have recorded increase in access to primary education and secondary education as well as tertiary. The main challenges at all levels are quality and relevance. Quality is the catchword of our education sector's strategic plan whose quest is the provision and the foundation of functional skills to learners, particularly at primary and secondary levels. In Major Programme II, Madam President, we acknowledge the role of science and technology in improving the quality of life of our people. We support the UNESCO engineering initiative which will accentuate the role of engineering in tackling the various challenges in life. We would like to see more support to the involvement of girl children and women in science, technology and innovation (STI). Madam President, we recognize the focus in Major Programme III on the promotion of ethics of science and technology as well as social transformation and the delivery of sustainable development. We support these particularly at this time when we are constituting our national bioethics and management of social transformation committees to champion issues of ethics and development in Uganda. We will also create awareness of issues of ethics and science, human rights, HIV/Aids and other social services. Madam President, development must not only have a human face; it must also be anchored in the cultures of the people it serves. The attention on the conventions on culture in Major Programme IV underscores the importance of the promotion, preservation and development of culture and heritage. Uganda's policies on culture, tourism and education commit us to conservation and promotion of heritage, involvement of community museums, promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. In this respect, in addition to the conventions we are party to, we are in advanced stages of becoming party to the 2005 Convention. In Major Programme V, Madam President, we support the focus on the promotion of freedom of expression and information, and fostering communication. We have created a suitable environment for growth in the communication and information sector, particularly private sector participation. We plan to expand our community multimedia centres network to reach out to larger communities with messages on sustainable development.

40.5 Madam President, the Director-General needs our support to implement the 2012-2013 programme. She has given us the argument to support both zero real growth and zero nominal growth options. Because of the dire global economic situation we are faced with, my delegation painfully supports the zero nominal growth option. Madam President, reform in UNESCO is an ongoing process. The Director-General has argued for reform to perform. We look forward to reform that will enhance the relevance, visibility and impact of the Organization to do this. The review of collaboration with the National Commissions is a reaffirmation of their importance as gateways of UNESCO in Member States. Madam President, as I conclude, allow me to express our appreciation to the Director-General, the Secretariat

both at Headquarters and in the field, for the support extended to Uganda during the last biennium through the regular budget participation. Madam Chairperson, finally I thank you for supporting our Organization and for your attention. For God and my country.

**41. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. And now I'm very happy to welcome to UNESCO the Minister of Education of Haiti. Your Excellency Mr Réginald Paul, the floor is yours, Sir.

**42.1 M. Paul (Haïti) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, chers collègues, Distingués délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'aimerais en tout premier lieu vous adresser mes félicitations, Madame la Présidente, pour votre élection à ce poste, en vous souhaitant du succès dans votre mission et en saluant Mme la Présidente du Conseil exécutif ainsi que les membres de cet organe, au nom du Président de la République, S. E. M. Michel Joseph Martelly, et du Premier Ministre, S. E. M. Garry Conille, ainsi qu'en celui du peuple haïtien. Je voudrais remercier la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour la grande mobilisation qu'elle a orchestrée en faveur de notre pays au lendemain du séisme du 12 janvier 2010. La nomination de l'ex-Gouverneure générale du Canada, Mme Michaëlle Jean, comme envoyée spéciale de l'UNESCO pour Haïti représente tout un symbole dans le cadre de cette mobilisation. Aujourd'hui, face à cette auguste assemblée, c'est un grand honneur pour moi de prendre la parole en tant que chef de délégation de mon pays, à la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, la première après le séisme du 12 janvier 2010. Le peuple haïtien a apprécié l'élan de solidarité des États membres de notre Organisation qui, dès l'annonce de cet événement et de ses effets, ont volé au secours de la nation, victime du déchaînement des forces naturelles. Je saisis cette occasion, au nom de mon peuple, pour adresser mes vifs remerciements aux membres de toutes les délégations présentes à la Conférence générale. Vous toutes et tous qui, de loin, avez souffert avec nous ; qui, de près, avez bravé les dangers des secousses à répétition pour nous porter secours et qui avez consenti à nous accompagner dans la difficile reconstruction. Et je saurais gré à chaque délégation de transmettre nos remerciements à son peuple pour la solidarité manifestée envers mon pays. Dans ce contexte, nous avons une pensée toute particulière pour le peuple turc qui vient d'être frappé par un fort séisme. Ces moments de grande détresse nous rappellent le rôle de l'UNESCO, qui s'est toujours montrée présente et active. Il nous faut donc croire en notre Organisation, et continuer à serrer les rangs autour d'elle.

42.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, la République d'Haïti a toujours été engagée, et continuera de l'être, aux côtés de l'UNESCO. Malgré les profondes crises sociopolitiques du passé et plusieurs catastrophes naturelles qui ont accentué l'affaiblissement de l'État, la détermination du gouvernement actuel laisse augurer des progrès dans les domaines d'action de l'UNESCO. Ainsi, grâce à la ferme volonté et au dynamisme du Président haïtien, sans oublier l'appui des partenaires, l'éducation pour tous (EPT) vient de connaître un nouvel élan en Haïti. En effet, le processus d'accès gratuit à l'école, que prône le Président de la République, a permis à 772 000 enfants de bénéficier de services éducatifs gratuits, dont 142 000 ont eu accès à l'école pour la première fois. Dans cette optique, nos efforts seront concentrés vers la scolarisation gratuite de 1 500 000 enfants au terme du quinquennat, ce qui devrait permettre à Haïti d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement dans ce domaine. Toujours dans le cadre des initiatives en faveur de l'Éducation pour tous, l'État haïtien a assuré l'accès gratuit à l'école de 235 000 enfants, avec l'appui de la Banque mondiale, de la Banque de développement des Caraïbes, la Coopération canadienne et la Banque interaméricaine de développement. Parallèlement, les efforts pour l'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation et le renforcement de la gouvernance du système se poursuivent, avec l'appui de nos partenaires internationaux.

42.3 Pour faire face à l'ensemble des problèmes qui se sont aggravés sous l'effet du séisme du 12 janvier 2010, le Ministère a élaboré un plan opérationnel de refondation de notre système éducatif, qui est en cours de mise en œuvre. De même, nous maintenons les jeunes mobilisés, à travers le réseau haïtien des écoles associées de l'UNESCO, autour de la reforestation, des problèmes liés à l'eau et de l'éducation au changement climatique, en vue de leur contribution au développement durable du pays. Durant ces deux dernières années, le Gouvernement haïtien a déployé de nombreux efforts pour développer les programmes scientifiques. Outre le Programme hydrologique international, nous avons concentré les énergies sur la mise en œuvre des activités du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère. Aussi sommes-nous heureux d'annoncer ici que, au terme d'un long processus, nous avons finalisé la proposition concernant la création de notre première réserve de biosphère en Haïti. C'est l'occasion pour nous de remercier l'UNESCO et le Gouvernement espagnol de leur précieuse contribution au projet de création de cette réserve. Grâce à l'appui de l'UNESCO, nous avons également entrepris de grands efforts au niveau du Secteur de la culture, surtout dans le domaine du patrimoine, en termes d'inventaire, de récupération, de protection, de sauvegarde et de transmission.

42.4 Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégation, Distingués délégués, nous sommes conscients des limites de notre Organisation, mais nous devons demeurer tout aussi conscients du fait que l'UNESCO est un organisme indispensable à la poursuite des idéaux de paix, de tolérance, de respect de l'autre, de dialogue et de protection de l'environnement par la promotion de l'éducation, de la culture, de la science et de la technologie. Ce sont aussi les principales voies pour faire face aux différentes crises qui nous menacent, car c'est grâce à elles que les individus développeront les aptitudes nécessaires pour relever les nouveaux défis, amélioreront le vivre-ensemble, feront émerger les comportements propices à l'épanouissement tant individuel que collectif et, enfin, instaureront des pratiques salutaires pour le développement humain. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

**43. The President:**

*Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Ministre.* May I ask the Minister of External Relations of Monaco, His Excellency Mr José Badia, to take the floor. *Monsieur.*

44.1 **M. Badia** (Monaco) :

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord, Madame la Présidente, de vous féliciter pour votre récente élection. Soyez assurée de la confiance que mon pays vous porte pour appréhender avec efficacité le très dense ordre du jour de cette Conférence générale. Permettez-moi ensuite, Madame la Directrice générale, de vous renouveler le soutien plein et entier de la Principauté de Monaco pour le travail que vous effectuez au sein de l'UNESCO. Nous vous félicitons pour la réforme que vous avez entreprise dès votre élection et nous nous réjouissons du vent d'humanisme qui inspire cette institution. Vous êtes judicieusement parvenue à faire de l'UNESCO un partenaire qui compte lors des grandes rencontres internationales et dans le changement qui s'opère dans nos sociétés. Par ailleurs, nous ne saurions assez souligner votre combat pour protéger l'intégrité morale de l'Organisation.

44.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, face à l'ensemble des événements extraordinaires qui se sont produits cette année, le mandat de l'UNESCO continue de nous apparaître fondamentalement important. En premier lieu, cet élan démocratique venu de la jeunesse, qu'il s'agisse du « Printemps arabe » ou du mouvement des « Indignés » du Nord comme du Sud, nous démontre la nécessité de tenir un Forum des Jeunes en marge de la Conférence générale. Le thème choisi pour cette 7<sup>e</sup> édition, qui vient d'avoir lieu, est particulièrement en phase avec les préoccupations des jeunes. Nous nous réjouissons d'ailleurs de l'inscription du rapport de ce forum à l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence. En second lieu, la Principauté de Monaco réitère son soutien aux deux priorités transversales de l'UNESCO que sont l'Afrique et l'égalité entre les sexes. Nous espérons que l'adoption et la mise en œuvre de la réforme du dispositif hors Siège, notamment en Afrique, permettront d'accroître l'efficacité de l'action de l'UNESCO sur le terrain. Le Forum de haut niveau sur l'efficacité de l'aide, qui aura lieu prochainement à Busan, en République de Corée, devrait en ce sens nous donner de nouveaux outils.

44.3 Le thème de l'égalité entre les sexes a été placé en haut de l'agenda politique international avec la création en janvier dernier d'ONU-Femmes, l'entité des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes. À cet égard, je tiens à rappeler l'engagement de la Principauté de Monaco en faveur des femmes, dont le rôle est essentiel pour le développement et la pacification de nos sociétés. Les discriminations à l'égard des femmes et des filles doivent à ce titre être combattues. Son Altesse Royale la Princesse de Hanovre, Ambassadrice de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO, s'engage depuis de nombreuses années en faveur de l'éducation des femmes et des jeunes filles en Afrique. Dans le cadre de l'initiative « Unis dans l'action », nous encourageons le Secrétariat à collaborer étroitement avec ONU-Femmes sur cette question, les deux institutions ayant des compétences propres, mais complémentaires.

44.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'éducation constitue pour nous un programme phare de l'UNESCO. Ainsi, les six objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous restent notre préoccupation. Malgré des résultats encourageants, de nombreux problèmes persistent. Le fait qu'il y ait 793 millions d'adultes analphabètes dans le monde démontre malheureusement bien l'ampleur du défi qu'il nous faut relever. Pour y parvenir, une programmation stratégique et rigoureuse, ainsi que des moyens budgétaires adaptés sont nécessaires, mais une politique de résultats ne doit pas faire passer au second plan la qualité de l'enseignement et la formation des maîtres. Il est vital d'appuyer l'enseignement technique et professionnel ainsi que l'éducation au développement durable afin de renforcer la compétence des jeunes et de les aider à préparer leur avenir. La pratique du sport doit également être promue et intégrée dans les programmes d'éducation, tant pour la santé physique des jeunes que pour les valeurs de tolérance qu'elle véhicule.

44.5 Les diverses catastrophes naturelles que nous avons pu observer ces deux dernières années, ainsi que les avancées scientifiques n'ont pu que nous convaincre du dérèglement climatique qui est en train de se produire, et dont certaines populations subissent déjà les effets. Le prochain Sommet « Planète Terre » qui aura lieu à Rio en juin 2012 doit être l'occasion de jeter des bases solides pour le développement global d'une économie verte. Son Altesse Sérénissime, le Prince Albert II de Monaco, a d'ailleurs annoncé la tenue en Principauté d'une réunion d'experts de haut niveau sur la gestion durable des océans, du 28 au 30 novembre prochain, qui apportera sa contribution aux travaux préparatoires de Rio + 20. En effet, le Prince Souverain forme le vœu que la communauté internationale place les mers et les océans en tête de l'agenda politique du prochain Sommet « Planète Terre ». Sur un autre plan, le 40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Convention du patrimoine mondial nous démontre la pertinence et l'efficacité du mandat de l'UNESCO en ce qui concerne la culture. La coopération culturelle est un facteur de paix et ses implications dans le tissu économique sont notamment illustrées par la Convention de 2005 sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. En ces temps de restrictions budgétaires, l'application efficace des instruments normatifs déjà existants doit constituer notre priorité, car la capacité normative de cette Organisation est ce qui fait sa force ; la gestion et le suivi des conventions actuelles doivent donc faire l'objet de notre plus grande attention.

44.6 Mesdames et Messieurs, nous tenons encore une fois à saluer l'effort de rationalisation entrepris par la Directrice générale au sein de cette Organisation. Nous saluons tout spécialement l'Évaluation externe indépendante qui a été réalisée et nous espérons que ses recommandations seront appliquées avec force et diligence. Nous nous félicitons également du Projet de programme et de budget (C/5) fondé sur une croissance nominale zéro. Toutefois, ces efforts doivent être conjugués avec la poursuite de l'évaluation des activités, l'abandon des programmes qui ne sont plus pertinents, et l'utilisation de la langue française dans les travaux de cette Organisation. Vous avez souligné, Madame la Directrice générale, le lien étroit et essentiel entre culture et développement. Il nous faut en effet penser la culture de manière globale et l'envisager comme un « accélérateur du développement ». Culture, éducation et droits de la personne constituent les piliers fondamentaux d'une véritable culture de paix et d'un « humanisme concret ». Je vous remercie de votre attention.

45. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Ministre.* May I now ask the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of Morocco to come to the podium. Her Excellency Ms Latifa Akharbach, the floor is yours.

#### ٤٦،١ السيدة أحراباش (المغرب):

السيدة الرئيسة، السيدة المديرية العامة، السيدات والسادة الوزراء، حضرات السيدات والسادة، عمل المغرب في السنوات الأخيرة، تحت القيادة الرشيدة للملك محمد السادس، بنفس إصلاحي متواصل وبحرص على تناغم سياساته العمومية وقوانينه الداخلية مع التزاماته الدولية، على تأهيل منظومته التربوية والتكوينية وفق رؤية استراتيجية تحترم حق المواطن المغربي في التربية والتكوين والانتفاع بالمعرفة، بما يتلاقى مع عقيدة اليونسكو في مجال ترسيخ القيم الإنسانية السامية للحرية والمساواة والتسامح. وقد انضبت جهود المغرب في هذا المضمار بوجه خاص على تكريس حق التربية والتعليم لجميع الأطفال، بمن فيهم ذوو الاحتياجات الخاصة، والمساواة بين الجنسين وغرس قيم المواطنة وإشاعة روح التعاون وترسيخ ثقافة الامتياز. وفي هذا السياق، تم مؤخراً إنشاء "المنتدى الوطني للتربية للجميع" كإطار تعبوي وتعاوني جديد يجمع كل الفاعلين المعنيين للرفعي بمستوى التعليم في المغرب وتحقيق أهداف التعليم للجميع في أفق سنة ٢٠١٥. ويجدر الإشارة هنا أيضاً إلى أن المنظومة التعليمية في المغرب تولي اهتماماً خاصاً للتربية على حقوق الإنسان، وهو موضوع عمل لصالحه المغرب على المستوى الدولي أيضاً إذ إن مجلس حقوق الإنسان التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة اعتمد في آذار/مارس ٢٠١١ قراراً بعنوان "إعلان الأمم المتحدة للتثقيف والتدريب في ميدان حقوق الإنسان"، كان المغرب قد صاغ بمعية سويسرا مشروعه وتعباً لاعتماده والتصديق عليه من طرف أكبر عدد من الدول.

٤٦،٢ سيداتي وسادتي، يصر المغرب، إيماناً منه بفضائل التعاون فيما بين بلدان الجنوب كتدخل ناجح في إطار التضامن والتكامل لمواجهة التحديات التنموية، وانطلاقاً من انتمائه الأفريقي، على إرساء علاقات تعاون وشراكة مع دول القارة تركز بصفة خاصة على تدريب وتكوين الأطر والموارد البشرية. وهكذا يستقبل المغرب حوالي ١٢٠٠٠ من الطلبة الأجانب جلهم أفارقة، ويحظى أكثر من ٧٠٠٠ منهم بمنحة دراسية مغربية.

٤٦،٣ سيداتي وسادتي، نحن مطالبون جميعاً، كمؤمنين على مستقبل هذا الكوكب، بمواجهة معضلات تدهور الموارد المائية واستفحال التلوث وتغيرات المناخ وأزمة الطاقة والغذاء. وبالنظر إلى حسامة هذه الرهانات فإن المغرب اعتمد خطة وطنية يتبوأ فيها إنعاش الطاقة الخضراء مركزاً محورياً. وفي إطار استراتيجية المغرب الوطنية، التي تعول أيضاً على التعاون الدولي، تم الاتفاق بين المغرب واليونسكو في شهر آب/أغسطس ٢٠١١ على إنشاء مركز إقليمياً لمصادر الطاقة المتجددة واستغلال الطاقة بفعالية في مراكش.

٤٦،٤ سيداتي وسادتي، دخل المغرب، في سيرورة مساره الديمقراطي، مرحلة نوعية أخرى في فاتح تموز/يوليو الماضي، باعتماد دستور جديد بعد استشارات واسعة واستفتاء شعبي ناجح. ومن أهم عناوين هذا الإصلاح الدستوري العميق التنصيب على الحقوق الثقافية ورعاية التنوع وتعريف مفهوم الهوية الوطنية عبر مكوناتها العربية والإسلامية والأمازيغية والصحراوية الحسانية والغنية بروافدها الإفريقية والأندلسية والعبرية والمتوسطية. كما يرسخ الدستور الجديد الجيل الثالث من حقوق الإنسان الذي يشمل الحق في حياة محمية من كافة أشكال التلوث ومن كل أنواع المخاطر البيئية، انسجاماً مع المواثيق والمعاهدات الدولية المرتبطة بهذا المجال.

٤٦،٥ سيداتي وسادتي، لقد اتخذ المجلس التنفيذي لليونسكو في اجتماعه الأخير، من خلال توصيته بمنح العضوية لفلسطين في اليونسكو، خطوة إيجابية في درب التحاق فلسطين بالمنظومة الأممية، وهو هدف يسانده المغرب ويتطلع إلى أن يتحقق لإخواننا الفلسطينيين بشكل سيادي ثابت وعلى النحو العادل الذي يرتضونه في أعقاب مفاوضات تستند إلى مرجعية دقيقة وأجندة شاملة. ومن هنا تجدد المملكة المغربية، بقيادة صاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس رئيس لجنة القدس، موقفها الثابت من أجل إقامة الدولة الفلسطينية وعاصمتها القدس الشريف، ولن تدخر جهداً في هذا الإطار.

٤٦،٦ سيداتي وسادتي، رغم كل منجزات اليونسكو، لا تزال هناك في أجندة المنظمة رهانات آنية ومستقبلية بالغة الأهمية من قبيل دعم الأخلاق والمثل في العلاقات بين الدول والشعوب، واعتبار الأمن الإنساني خيراً عاماً وجب تعميمه وتحسينه ورعايته، والمساهمة في إرساء حكمة عالمية ثقافية واقتصادية. ولكل هذا نحتاج كلنا إلى أن تكون اليونسكو قوية وحلاقة وقادرة بفضل دعمنا لها على استشراف الآفاق المستقبلية. ومن أجل كل هذا أيضاً، تجدد المملكة المغربية لليونسكو كامل دعمها وجميل شكرها وأطيب أمنياتها، وشكراً على إصغائكم.

#### (46.1) Ms Akhbarbach (Morocco) (translation from the Arabic):

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies ministers, ladies and gentlemen, in recent years, Morocco has endeavoured, under the wise leadership of King Mohammed VI, in a spirit of ongoing reform and with a view to ensuring the consistency of his public policies and national laws with his international commitments, to shape its education and training system in accordance with a strategic vision which respects the right of Moroccan citizens to education and training and access to knowledge, which is in tune with UNESCO's firm belief in inculcating the lofty human values of freedom, equality and tolerance. Morocco's efforts in this field have been directed in particular at consecrating the right of education for all children, including those with special needs, gender equality, inculcating the values of citizenship, spreading a spirit of cooperation, and consolidating a culture of excellence. In this connection, the National Forum for Education for All was recently held as a new framework for mobilization and cooperation bringing together all players concerned with enhancing the level of education in Morocco and achieving the education for all (EFA) goals by 2015. Here it should also be pointed out that the educational system in Morocco devotes particular attention to human rights education, a subject that Morocco has worked in favour of at the international level: the Human Rights Council of the United Nations adopted in March 2011 a resolution entitled "United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training". Morocco drafted this resolution, together with Switzerland, and worked to get support for it from the greatest possible number of countries.

(46.2) Ladies and gentlemen, believing in the advantages of South-South cooperation as an beneficial approach, within the framework of solidarity and integration with a view to meeting the challenges of development, and on the basis of its African identity, Morocco is keen to pursue relations of cooperation and partnership with the countries of the continent, focusing in particular on the training of managers and human resources. Morocco also receives 12,000 foreign students, mostly African, of whom some 7,000 receive Moroccan study grants.

(46.3) Ladies and gentlemen, we are all called upon, as the trustees of the future of this planet, to grapple with the problems of water-resource depletion, worsening pollution, climate change, and energy and foodstuff crises. In view of the magnitude of these stakes, Morocco has adopted a national plan which has the revival of green energy as one of its main planks. In the framework of Morocco's national strategy, which also relies on international cooperation, an agreement was concluded between Morocco and UNESCO in August 2011 for the establishment of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Marrakech.

(46.4) Ladies and gentlemen, as it advances along its democratic course, Morocco entered a fresh qualitative phase last July by adopting a new constitution following broad consultations and a successful popular referendum. One of the most important elements in this deep constitutional reform was legislation on cultural rights, the sponsorship of diversity, definition of the concept of national identity in its various streams: Arab, Islamic, Amazigh, Sahraoui, and Hassaniya, enriched with

additional African, Andalusian, Hebrew and Mediterranean tributaries. The new constitution consecrates the third generation of human rights, which includes the right to life protected from all forms of pollution and all kinds of environmental dangers, in line with international conventions and instruments relating to that field.

(46.5) Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO's Executive Board, at its most recent meeting, through its recommendation that Palestine be granted full membership in UNESCO, took a positive step on the path to having Palestine join the United Nations system. This is an objective which Morocco supports and looks forward to seeing come true for our Palestinian brethren in a sovereign, permanent and just fashion of which they approve, following negotiations based on a precise authority and a comprehensive agenda. On this basis, the Kingdom of Morocco, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chair of the Jerusalem Committee, renews its firm position in favour of the establishment of a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital, and vows to spare no effort to that end.

(46.6) Ladies and gentlemen, despite all its achievements, UNESCO still has on its agenda extremely important current and future issues, such as support for ethics and ideals in relations between States and peoples, considering human security as a common good which should be generalized, preserved and sponsored, and helping to introduce world cultural and economic governance. But for this to happen, we all need UNESCO to be strong, creative and capable, thanks to our support for it, of looking to the horizons of the future. For the sake of all this, the Kingdom of Morocco renews its full support, its sincere thanks and its best wishes to UNESCO. Thank you for your attention.

#### 47. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup, Madame.* And now I would like to ask the Vice-Minister of Education of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Your Excellency Mr Lytou Bouapao, the floor is yours.

#### 48.1 **M. Bouapao** (République démocratique populaire lao) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, au nom de la délégation de la République démocratique populaire lao et en mon nom personnel, permettez-moi, Madame la Présidente, de vous féliciter pour votre élection. Mes félicitations s'adressent également à tous les membres du bureau. Nous voici de nouveau réunis dans l'enceinte de l'UNESCO pour débattre des questions éducatives, scientifiques et culturelles, de leur rapport avec le développement global et du lien étroit entre toutes ces questions et la situation internationale, marquée en ce début de siècle par une succession de crises et de catastrophes. L'UNESCO, de par son mandat et ses fonctions, est l'institution la mieux placée pour contribuer avec conscience et efficacité aux efforts internationaux visant à relever les défis du monde moderne, selon ses moyens et dans les domaines de sa compétence. Notre pays renouvelle sa confiance aux personnes qui assurent la direction des trois organes de notre Organisation, à savoir, vous, Madame la Présidente, ainsi que la Présidente du Conseil exécutif et la Directrice générale.

48.2 Madame la Présidente, la préparation du Projet de programme et de budget de l'UNESCO pour 2012-2013 s'est déroulée dans un contexte particulier ; le premier Programme et budget préparé par Mme la Directrice générale ne s'inscrit pas moins dans la permanence puisqu'il est aligné sur les grandes priorités globales et les objectifs stratégiques énoncés dans la Stratégie à moyen terme. À cet égard, nous tenons à dire combien nous apprécions les efforts consacrés à la préparation du document 36 C/5, fruit d'une coopération étroite et d'un dialogue constructif entre le Conseil exécutif et la Directrice générale. Ce Programme et budget, révisé à la demande du Conseil exécutif sur la base d'une croissance nominale zéro, retient l'attention de notre Délégation, qui en a pris bonne note. Cependant, nous constatons avec regret que les coupures proposées affectent nombre d'activités et de programmes tels que le Programme de participation, qui constitue pour notre pays l'une des ressources inestimables nous permettant de participer à la mise en œuvre des activités de l'Organisation. Nous notons, en revanche, avec satisfaction, que le document 36 C/5 vise à affirmer le rôle de chef de file de l'UNESCO dans l'édification d'une culture de la paix et de la non-violence. Nous notons également une constante dans le document 36 C/5, qui tient à la nature même de l'UNESCO, dont le mandat et l'action profondément humanistes reposent sur un paradigme de développement authentiquement centré sur l'individu.

48.3 Madame la Présidente, soucieux de resserrer les liens très forts qui l'unissent à l'UNESCO, mon pays compte sur l'aide de l'Organisation pour nous accompagner dans notre processus de réforme de l'enseignement à tous les niveaux, ainsi que dans la mise en œuvre des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous. Pour ce qui est de notre pays, la conférence nationale annuelle de l'éducation a conclu que nous avions réalisé des progrès continus à tous les niveaux de l'éducation. Ainsi, le taux net de scolarisation à la maternelle est passé de 15,4 % à 24,5 % et celui du primaire de 91,6 % à 94,1 %. Le taux d'alphabétisation des adultes se situe à 80 % et nous nous efforçons d'atteindre une augmentation annuelle de 5 % pour parvenir à un taux de 99 % en 2015. Dans ce contexte, avec le soutien technique du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Bangkok, notre Ministère a élaboré un programme d'alphabétisation des chefs de villages ruraux afin de renforcer les capacités des comités villageois de développement de l'éducation et de donner une impulsion nouvelle au programme d'éducation dans les zones rurales éloignées. Aussi avons-nous institué des équipes mobiles de formateurs qui s'occupent spécialement de ce programme d'alphabétisation. La qualité de l'éducation fait toujours défaut et c'est pourquoi le contenu des programmes de chaque discipline est en cours de rénovation et de révision. Des séminaires nationaux sur l'éducation ayant pour thème « l'éducation pour la paix et le développement durable » ont été organisés à l'intention des enseignants et des responsables de l'élaboration des manuels scolaires pour intégrer les idées liées à ce thème. Grâce aux fonds débloqués pour soutenir les efforts des groupes de travail créés dans le cadre de l'Initiative pour la mise en œuvre accélérée de l'Éducation pour tous, notre Ministère a pu mettre sur pied un plan d'action.

48.4 Avec le souci de protéger et de préserver notre patrimoine culturel, il me plaît d'exprimer ici, au nom de notre Gouvernement, notre sentiment de grande satisfaction et de reconnaissance pour l'aide qu'apportent l'UNESCO, les États membres amis et les organisations non gouvernementales à notre vaste programme de conservation et de valorisation de la culture nationale. Dans ce contexte, il est à souligner qu'il n'est pas toujours facile de concilier



conservation et développement. Tant à Louang Prabang qu'à Vat Phou, deux sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, les pressions économiques sont très fortes, mais notre Gouvernement et l'UNESCO veillent à ce que les travaux de reconstruction et de développement n'empiètent pas sur le travail de conservation et de protection des biens culturels. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

*Mme Nibbeling-Wrießnig (Allemagne) prend la présidence.*

49. **La Présidente :**

Merci. Je donne à présent la parole à S. E. M. Sigmundur Ísfeld, Vice-Ministre des affaires étrangères des Îles Féroé.

50.1 **Mr Ísfeld (Faroës):**

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates. First, Madam President, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of this General Conference. For the Faroes this is a very special moment, since it is the first session of the General Conference we are attending since our country obtained Associate Membership of UNESCO in 2009. Let me also congratulate Curaçao and Sint Maarten with their Associate Membership of UNESCO. Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO rightly focuses on the major challenges of our time: climate change and sustainable development, a culture for peace, gender equality and education for all. The Faroes appreciate the great work and the efforts of Director-General Irina Bokova to reform UNESCO and manage the Organization and its programmes in a more cost-effective manner, as we all realize the demanding financial challenges from the global financial crisis.

50.2 UNESCO has a vital role to play regarding the serious challenge of climate change. UNESCO's efforts in capacity building and guidance, especially in relation to developing countries, is very important. The Faroes appreciates the work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC, and recognizes the importance of main line of action (MLA) 4, mentioned in the draft resolution for Major Programme II – Natural Sciences. The effort of UNESCO and the IOC to strengthen the understanding of the oceans' important influence on climate change is most appreciated, as exemplified in the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). Now, the Faroe Islands lie in the middle of the North Atlantic, where the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, where we find the two new Associate Members Curaçao and Sint Maarten, meets the cold waters of the Arctic where we lie, in the North Atlantic, injecting the oceans with their global energy. Oceanographic research, where Faroese scientists are working together with international research networks, suggests a strong and important effect from the relative strength of these ocean currents. The Faroes' unique location and size as an island nation dependent on the sea and fisheries make the Faroe Islands a natural centre for innovative research and technological development. Monitoring and modelling changes in ocean currents and resources in the North Atlantic and ensuring sustainable fisheries in a clean and productive marine environment are already at the core of Faroese efforts to make a difference, both at home and internationally. The Faroes have in cooperation with Denmark and Greenland, as part of the Kingdom of Denmark, developed a strategy for the Arctic from 2011 to 2020, with the aim of securing a sustainable and peaceful development of that region, also regarding the unique and diverse cultures. The Faroese contribution to the global challenge of climate change will be to develop the huge potential in the Faroes for new technologies in clean and self-sufficient energy production, inspired by small-scale, island- and fisheries-dependent realities.

50.3 Regarding item 8.2 on the agenda, the Faroes supports the draft resolution in document 36 C/24, to facilitate a meeting of experts in order to finalize a preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of a possible international standard-setting instrument for the protection of indigenous and endangered languages for submission to the Executive Board. For the record, it must be clarified that the Faroese language itself is not endangered; on the contrary, it is a success story of a very small distinct language that has been able to survive and develop into a modern official language of a country with a population of only 50,000. Thus, it is likely that some interesting lessons could be drawn from a study of the Faroese example. I will quote from a Faroese folk song, and I will do it in my own language: "*Tað ofta royndist sum tóktist smátt*" – meaning that even what seemed small and feeble proved to show enough resilience to endure. Ladies and gentlemen, maintaining and developing a diversified family of cultures and languages is not about looking backwards. It is about facing today's profound challenges which are global and local at the same time. It is about building a sustainable common future for all men and women. I thank UNESCO for embracing this important vision. Thank you very much.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much to His Excellency the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Faroes and I must say that I appreciated hearing the sound of your beautiful language. That was fantastic, that was a special treat. I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Luis Bonilla, Deputy Minister of University Planning of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

52.1 **Sr. Bonilla (República Bolivariana de Venezuela):**

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, a quien felicitamos por su elección, señora Directora General, representantes y delegados permanentes, señoras y señores: en nombre del Gobierno Bolivariano liderado por el presidente Hugo Chávez Frías, reciban un saludo lleno de amor y esperanza en un futuro para la humanidad donde todos estemos incluidos en una sociedad justa y de iguales: sin amos ni tiranos. Venezuela inició en 1999 una hermosa experiencia de transformación. La Revolución Bolivariana es ante todo una revolución educativa y cultural. Las cifras del avance en estos doce años así lo evidencian: la educación inicial tenía una limitada cobertura y logramos incrementar los espacios educativos en un 65%. En primaria hemos alcanzado una tasa neta de matrícula del 93%. El programa alimentario escolar aumentó su alcance en más de 3.000%. En el área tecnológica, hemos comenzado a saldar la deuda con los estudiantes de menores recursos y hasta la fecha se ha logrado dotar a más del 25% de ellos con computadoras portátiles de última tecnología con *software* educativo. En este periodo se construyeron 4.037 nuevos planteles escolares. Para derrotar el analfabetismo, se creó la Misión Robinson con la cual Venezuela fue declarada

“Territorio libre de analfabetismo” por la UNESCO. En educación universitaria, las políticas de inclusión educativa de la Revolución Bolivariana permitieron incrementar la matrícula en un 283%. Ello colocó a Venezuela en el quinto lugar en el mundo y segundo en América Latina y el Caribe en tasa bruta de matrícula universitaria. Para alcanzar la universalización de la educación universitaria avanzamos en la municipalización, la calidad asociada a la pertinencia y la territorialización de la oferta académica.

52.2 La Misión Sucre ha demostrado que sí es posible que la universidad llegue a toda la población. Es una educación pensada a partir del ser humano, para la derrota de la pobreza y el desarrollo nacional con justicia social. La cobertura la entendemos vinculada a la necesidad de formación y la vocación productiva de cada uno de los territorios, para garantizar que los egresados y egresadas tengan capacidad de emprendimiento productivo que transforme el entorno. La inclusión educativa está profundamente asociada a la erradicación de la pobreza y las injusticias sociales. Los pobres siempre son los que más sufren ante la opresión y las inclemencias de la naturaleza. Por ello, expresamos a las delegaciones de El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Tailandia y Turquía nuestros sentimientos de solidaridad por las recientes catástrofes que han afectado a sus países. Nuestra palabra de aliento y solidaridad va al pueblo libio, al tiempo que condenamos enérgicamente la política de barbarie conducida por la OTAN y sus aliados en ese territorio, que ha culminado con el asesinato del líder libio Muammar Al Gaddafi. Este precedente podría ser utilizado por las potencias imperiales contra cualquier nación del Sur que se interponga en el camino de su política de dominación. Asimismo, rechazamos las campañas de desinformación para socavar la estabilidad en Siria, a la par que saludamos las reformas políticas iniciadas por las autoridades de ese país. Aprovechamos la oportunidad para expresar nuestras condolencias a la delegación de Arabia Saudita por el fallecimiento del Príncipe Heredero, Sultán Al Saud.

52.3 Venezuela apoya firmemente el ingreso de Palestina a esta Organización y condena las presiones de los Estados Unidos e Israel para impedir que esta Conferencia General -libre de la amenaza del veto del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU- ratifique a Palestina como Estado Miembro de pleno derecho. Mientras los indignados del mundo que se desplazan por las calles de Wall Street, Tel Aviv, Madrid, Londres, Atenas, Roma y Chicago reclaman sus derechos básicos, entre ellos la educación, en Venezuela no pasa un día sin que se abran nuevas aulas de clases. La UNESCO está llamada a escuchar el clamor de la rebeldía social y contribuir a dar respuesta a los innumerables desafíos que hoy confronta la Humanidad, entre ellos la paz en un mundo multipolar. Las reformas de la UNESCO no pueden servir de pretexto para suprimir ámbitos y programas fundamentales que estén consustanciados con los principios rectores que llevaron a su fundación. Reiteramos nuestra preocupación por propuestas como la denominada “*transversalidad*”, con las cuales la UNESCO pretende justificar acciones que conducen a vaciar de contenido programas prioritarios de esta Organización, como los derechos humanos, la democracia, la filosofía y las transformaciones sociales; el multilingüismo, la Ruta del Esclavo y el Programa de Participación, mientras se privilegia el insostenible gasto burocrático y administrativo.

52.4 Señoras y señores: Venezuela, ha sido reconocida por las Naciones Unidas por los logros educativos obtenidos en los últimos años, situándose entre los países que cumplen los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Por ello presentamos nuestra candidatura al Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas. Para Venezuela, la educación es un derecho humano fundamental, un bien público, una obligación del Estado y no un negocio ni una mercancía. Rechazamos la creación de un sistema de “*ranking*” universitario, que bajo el pretexto de la calidad subordina la enseñanza a los intereses del mercado. Señoras y señores: con una firme voluntad política, el Gobierno bolivariano concibe la educación como la prioridad de nuestras prioridades, convirtiendo a Venezuela en el aula más grande del mundo. Muchas gracias.

(52.1) **Mr Bonilla** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Madam President of the General Conference, whom we congratulate on her election, Madam Director-General, representatives and permanent delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Bolivarian Government, led by President Hugo Chávez Frías, please receive warm greetings filled with love and hope in a future for humanity in which all people are included in a fair and equal society, without masters or tyrants. In 1999, Venezuela began a wonderful journey of transformation. The Bolivarian Revolution is above all an educational and cultural revolution. The figures showing progress made over the last 12 years testify to that: preschool education coverage was limited, and we have succeeded in increasing its provision by 65%. In primary education, we have achieved a net enrolment ratio of 93%. The reach of the school meals programme has increased by more than 3,000%. In the field of technology, we have begun closing the gap and, to date, have been able to equip more than 25% of poorer students with laptop computers running on the latest technology with educational software. Over this period, 4,037 new school buildings were built. The Robinson Mission was implemented to combat illiteracy, and, as a result, Venezuela was declared “an illiteracy-free territory” by UNESCO. In terms of university education, the Bolivarian Revolution’s inclusive education policies have seen enrolments rise by 283%. This puts Venezuela in fifth place worldwide and in second place in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of gross university enrolment rate. In order to achieve universal access to university education we are working to decentralize and increase the territorial coverage of academic offerings while associating quality and relevance.

(52.2) The Sucre Mission has proved that the entire population can have access to a university education. It is education designed around the human being, to eradicate poverty and generate national development with social justice. We believe that coverage is linked to the need for training and to the productive potential of each of our territories, to ensure that graduates are able to embark on productive enterprises that will transform the environment. Inclusive education is strongly associated with the eradication of poverty and social injustice. It is always the poor who suffer to the greatest extent when faced with oppression or the severity of nature. On that note, let us express our solidarity with the delegations from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Thailand and Turkey in light of the recent disasters that have affected their countries. Our words of encouragement and solidarity go out to the people of Libya. We strongly condemn the barbaric actions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its allies in Libya, which resulted in the assassination of the country’s leader Muammar al-Gaddafi. This precedent could be used by imperial powers against any nation of the South that stands in the path of their policy of domination. We also renounce the disinformation campaigns which aim to undermine stability in Syria, and salute the political reforms initiated by the country’s authorities. Let us take this the opportunity to express our condolences to the delegation of Saudi Arabia for the death of the Crown Prince, Sultan Al Saud.

(52.3) Venezuela firmly supports Palestine's admission as a full member of this Organization, and condemns the pressure emanating from the United States and Israel to prevent this General Conference – which is free from the threat of a United Nations Security Council veto – from ratifying Palestine's admission as a full Member State. While social protests are taking to the streets of New York, Tel Aviv, Madrid, London, Athens, Rome and Chicago to reclaim their basic rights, including the right to education, not a single day goes by in Venezuela without new classrooms being opened. UNESCO is called upon to listen to the clamour of the social rebellion and contribute to finding solutions to the innumerable challenges facing humanity, including peace in a multipolar world. The reforms at UNESCO cannot be used as a pretext to cut fundamental activities and programmes, which are consubstantial with the guiding principles that led to the very foundation of the Organization. We reiterate our concern for proposals such as the so-called "cross-cutting". UNESCO uses these to justify actions which strip the content from critical programmes such as human rights, democracy, philosophy, social transformation, multilingualism, the Slave Route and the Participation Programme, while favouring unsustainable bureaucratic and administrative spending.

(52.4) Ladies and gentlemen, Venezuela, has been recognized by the United Nations for our achievements in the field of education over recent years, placing us among the countries that have fulfilled the Millennium Development Goals. That is why we are standing for election to the United Nations Human Rights Council. For Venezuela, education is a fundamental human right, a public good, a State obligation and not a business or a commodity. We renounce the creation of a university "ranking" system which, under the pretext of quality, puts the interests of the market before teaching. Ladies and gentlemen, with strong political will, the Bolivarian Government considers education to be our country's number one priority, transforming Venezuela into the greatest classroom in the world. Thank you.

**53. The President:**

*Muchas gracias* Your Excellency Luis Bonilla, Deputy Minister from Venezuela. I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Rosli, Secretary-General to the Ministry of Education of Malaysia. Minister, you have the floor.

**54.1 Mr Rosli (Malaysia):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. At the outset, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election to the post. I also would like to thank you Madam Director-General for your strong leadership in these challenging times. Malaysia fully supports the programme of education for all (EFA); however, much effort is still required by UNESCO as well as national governments for education to reach the unreached and the marginalized groups. Pockets of illiteracy may still exist beyond 2015. As illiteracy and poverty are so interrelated, EFA programmes will need continuous support from the international community in order to obliterate illiteracy. For our part, Malaysia has broadened the scope of EFA to include children well before the age of schooling. For the rural communities, we are encouraging illiterate parents to participate in community-in-school activities. This informal engagement has led to improvements in students' outcome. The interaction between pupils, parents and school has brought about a positive impact on the wellbeing of the rural community. We in Malaysia are confident of meeting the Millennium Development Goals. We still have the aspiration of becoming a developed and high-income nation by the year 2020. We believe that education is indeed a significant ingredient for development. We are committed to ensuring equal access to quality education. The Government allocates about 20% of the popular public expenditure for educational development. In the recently announced 2012 budget, more than \$16 billion has been allocated to education. Our Government transformation programme focuses on engagement of all stakeholders across all sectors.

54.2 Madam President, our education system has been enriched with the incorporation of positive values pertaining to building a culture of peace and sustainable development. We subscribe to the view hailing from our multicultural, multiethnic, multi-religious and multilingual nation, that cultural diversity must be seen as a source of strength rather than a source of conflict. We fully support UNESCO's effort in developing a policy framework to address challenges to cultural diversity with a view to promoting intercultural dialogue and peace. We believe that peace and harmony are imperatives of social economic well-being of a nation and the world at large. It is also clear that only in an environment of peace and harmony we can together build an equitable and just society. We are indeed impressed by UNESCO's reform agenda. We note that UNESCO has undertaken a lot of efforts to implement the reform strategy, especially the follow-up document on the independent external evaluation and the field network reform plan. We congratulate you once again, Madam Director-General, for carrying out the distinctive reforms over the past two years, both at Headquarters and in the field, despite the financial constraints. Nonetheless, the double financial and economic slowdown has affected the programmes as well as the budget of the Organization. We are confident that the Director-General will be able to refocus future initiatives based on strategic priorities as well as to reposition UNESCO around its mandate for the benefit of member countries. Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, we live in an ever-changing world. Despite the financial turbulence, we have full confidence that UNESCO will remain at the forefront to fulfil its role as conscience of mankind. By virtue of its Constitution, UNESCO is in a unique position to make statements, where necessary, from an ethical and moral standpoint on matters pertaining to the common destiny of mankind. And on that note, I thank you very much.

**55. The President:**

Thank you very much for these very remarkable words. And now I would like to give the floor to His Excellency Mr Imangali Tasmagambetov, Chairman of the National Commission of Kazakhstan to UNESCO.

**56.1 Г-н Тасмагамбетов (Казakhstan):**

Уважаемая госпожа Председатель, прежде всего позвольте поздравить Вас с избранием на весьма ответственный пост и выразить уверенность в том, что под Вашим руководством эта сессия пройдет конструктивно и плодотворно.

56.2 Уважаемые дамы и господа, Генеральная конференция собирается уже в 36-ой раз. Наша деятельность с каждой сессией должна становиться все более конкретной и ориентированной на результаты. Как я уже информировал в ходе недавней сессии Исполнительного совета ЮНЕСКО, в начале сентября этого года в столице Казахстана было организовано первое совещание национальных комиссий по делам ЮНЕСКО стран Централь-

ной Азии. На совещании были обсуждены задачи и приоритеты развития регионального взаимодействия по всем направлениям компетенции Организации. Состоявшиеся открытые дискуссии осветили как положительную практику, так и ряд проблем, в том числе в области изучения и охраны общего историко-культурного наследия, развития образовательных и научных программ, информационного обмена между странами региона. Как показал наш опыт, подобные встречи позволяют не только выявить потенциал совместного сотрудничества, но и перейти к конкретным шагам для объединения национальных усилий по продвижению региональных инициатив по линии ЮНЕСКО. В этом смысле Казахстан способствует укреплению сотрудничества между тюркоязычными странами, в том числе посредством организации ТЮРКСОЙ, являющейся партнером ЮНЕСКО. В следующем году мы планируем проведение совещания национальных комиссий по делам ЮНЕСКО тюркоязычных стран, тем самым расширяя форматы и уровни взаимодействия по достижению общих целей и задач ЮНЕСКО и ТЮРКСОЙ.

56.3 Уважаемые делегаты, безусловно, у каждой страны свое видение и подходы, но в восприятии универсальных ценностей мы должны быть едины. Для достижения этой цели необходимо основываться, во-первых, на открытости, которая должна быть проникнута нашими общими целями и задачами; во-вторых, открытость порождает понимание. В широком смысле слова это означает «говорить на одном языке», стремиться познать самобытную культуру другого народа. И, в-третьих, на открытости и понимании легче всего возвести фундамент доверия. Доверия, которого так не хватает в современном мире. Зачастую во многих вопросах культуры и образования значение политики преувеличено и гипертрофировано, и это не дает нам перешагнуть существующие барьеры и хотя бы понять друг друга. В этом контексте Казахстан поддерживает право Палестины на охрану своего культурного наследия и членство в ЮНЕСКО. Современные реалии демонстрируют, что прогресс и развитие человечества невозможны без диалога и взаимодействия, основанных на доверии и взаимоуважении.

56.4 Уважаемые дамы и господа, сегодня мы стоим на важном повороте истории нашего мира, где взаимосвязь между различными народами и культурами становится все более значимым измерением в построении нового гуманизма. Отмечая 10-летие принятия Всеобщей декларации о культурном разнообразии, ЮНЕСКО должна многократно усилить свою деятельность в области поощрения и сохранения культурного разнообразия, которое обогащает и формирует развитие человечества. В рамках проведения Международного года сближения культур наметился путь выхода из складывающегося конфликта между вызовами глобализации и стремлением стран к укреплению национальной идентичности. Считаю нашим общим долгом приложить все усилия, с тем чтобы положительный опыт и достижения данного Международного года были перенесены и на последующие этапы деятельности Организации.

56.5 С этой целью Казахстан инициировал проект резолюции о провозглашении Международного десятилетия сближения культур с 2013 по 2022 годы. Мы благодарны государствам, выступившим соавторами этой резолюции. Само понятие «сближение культур» является универсальным и применимым ко всем секторам работы ЮНЕСКО. На наш взгляд, долговременная концентрация усилий международного сообщества на соприкосновении культур и цивилизаций придаст импульс деятельности нашей Организации по всем ее направлениям, а также подчеркнет всеобъемлющий характер культуры, которая должна рассматриваться не как отдельная отрасль внутренней политики, а как основа всей жизнедеятельности человечества. Благодарю за внимание.

(56.1) **Mr Tasmagambetov** (Kazakhstan) (*translation from the Russian*):

Madam President, allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election to such a responsible position, and express my confidence that under your leadership this session will be constructive and productive.

(56.2) Ladies and gentlemen, the General Conference is already meeting for the 36th time. Our action at each session must become increasingly specific and results-oriented. As I already said at a recent UNESCO Executive Board session, the first meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO of the Central Asian countries was held in early September of this year in the capital of Kazakhstan. At the meeting, the tasks and priorities for developing regional mutual cooperation in all areas of the Organization's competence were discussed. The open discussions that took place shed light on both positive practices and a range of problems, including in the field of learning and the protection of our common historical and cultural heritage, the development of educational and scientific programmes and exchanges of information between the countries of the region. As our experience has shown, such meetings enable the revelation not only of the potential of joint cooperation, but of concrete steps to be taken to pool national efforts in the promotion of regional initiatives in line with UNESCO. In this sense, Kazakhstan is contributing to the strengthening of cooperation between Turkic-language countries, including through the organization TURKSOY, which is a UNESCO partner. We are planning to hold, next year, a meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO of Turkic-language countries, thereby broadening the format and level of cooperation to achieve the goals and tasks shared by UNESCO and TURKSOY.

(56.3) Distinguished delegates, of course, every country has its own vision and approaches, but we must be united in adopting universal values. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to rely, firstly, on openness which must be informed by our shared goals and tasks; secondly, openness which engenders understanding. In the broadest sense of the word this means "talking the same language", striving to acknowledge the distinctive culture of other peoples. And, thirdly, it is easiest to raise the foundations of trust on openness and understanding, trust, which is sorely lacking in today's world. Often, in many cultural and educational issues, the meaning of policy is exaggerated and hypertrophied and this does not allow us to overcome the barriers that exist or even to understand one another. In this context, Kazakhstan supports the right of Palestine to safeguard its cultural heritage and to join UNESCO. Contemporary realities show that progress and development for humanity are impossible without dialogue and cooperation based on trust and mutual respect.

56.4 Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we stand today at a crucial turning-point in the history of the world, as the relations between different peoples and cultures are becoming an increasingly significant dimension in building a new humanism. In marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the Organization must continue to strengthen its activity in the field of promoting and preserving cultural diversity, which enriches and shapes the development of humanity. In the framework of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, a way out of the clash that is emerging between the challenges of globalization and countries' striving to bolster their national

identity has taken shape. I believe that it is our common duty to make every effort to ensure that the positive experience and achievements of the International Year are carried over to the next stages of the Organization's action.

56.5 With this in mind, Kazakhstan has initiated a draft resolution on the proclamation of an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures from 2013 to 2022. We thank the States that have co-sponsored the draft resolution. The very concept of the "rapprochement of cultures" is universal and applicable across all UNESCO's sectors of work. In our view, the long-term concentration of efforts by the international community on contact between cultures and civilizations will give impetus to the Organization's action in all areas, and also underscores the all-embracing nature of culture, which must be seen not as a separate branch of domestic policy but as the basis of all the vital activity of humanity. Thank you for your attention.

57.1 **Председатель:**

Спасибо огромное, господин Тасмагамбетов.

(57.1) **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Tasmagambetov.

*(The President continues in English)*

57.2 And I now have the honour to give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Shi Shuyun, the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of China to UNESCO, and I apologize that I cannot greet her in her native language. Madam Ambassador, you have the floor.

58.1 **施女士 (中国):**

大会主席先生, 执行主席女士, 总干事女士, 各位部长、同事们, 女士们、先生们: 首先, 我要向匈牙利 Katalin Bogayay 女士当选本届大会主席表示热烈祝贺。我还由衷感谢 HEPBURN 先生和 MITROFANOVA 女士, 他们为本组织两年以来的发展做出了重要贡献。步入二十一世纪第二个十年, 教科文组织面临着发展机遇和严峻挑战。受金融危机的不利影响, 世界经济复苏缓慢, 社会发展受阻。在世界范围内, 本组织管辖领域所及的各项事业面临资源缺乏的状况。如何应对挑战, 把握眼前困难和长远发展的机遇, 需要我们共同思考并做出明智的抉择。

58.2 教育、科技和文化对一个国家、一个民族的长远持续发展具有决定性意义。教育是基础, 科技是关键, 文化是核心, 对国家和民族的发展有着深刻而久远的影响。世界各国迫切需要本组织在新的形势下谋划未来的教育发展和文明间对话, 为广大发展中国家特别是非洲的发展提供指导和建议。我们希望本组织继续在推动全民教育方面做出努力。目前, 中国正在全面实施教育规划纲要, 努力促进公平, 提高质量, 确定到 2020 年“基本实现教育现代化, 基本形成学习型社会, 进入人力资源强国行列”的目标。我们希望与世界各国一道, 通过教育促进人的全面发展, 使人民生活得更加幸福, 更有尊严。

58.3 因此, 我们希望看到一个能够在全球治理中发挥领导作用的教科文组织。中国重视与教科文组织的合作, 就在本届大会前夕, 中国与本组织合作举办了教科文组织-中国-非洲大学校长研讨会, 40 多位中非大学校长平等交流经验, 认真研究了今后三方在非洲优先战略框架下开展高等教育合作的行动计划, 我们对本组织这一创新行动表示赞赏和支持。明年 5 月, 教科文组织将在上海召开第三届世界职业技术教育大会, 这将是一次影响职业技术教育未来走向的重要会议, 必将有利于各国职业技术教育的发展, 我们衷心欢迎各位届时莅临上海。

58.4 未来两年是教科文组织发展的关键时期, 需要会员国求同存异, 为本组织的振兴做出贡献。在此, 我提出如下建议: 第一、强化思想实验室的职能。面对当今科技创新与发展日新月异以及会员国日益增长的需求, 思想实验室这一核心职能仍具有现实意义和历史意义。教科文组织必须要不断提出有前瞻性的观点和理念, 制订创新性的计划。所有这些都需要通过思想与智慧的交流, 从而使本组织始终保持先进性。为此, 我们赞赏教科文组织将文化纳入发展目标的努力, 也支持教科文组织提出的关于文化与发展的活动倡议。第二、深化改革, 不断创新。改革和创新是本组织焕发活力和重新定位的基础和前提。中国代表团欢迎和支持总干事为实现上述目标而进行的努力。中国的先哲云: 明者因时而变, 智者随事而制。当前, 本组织面临着自身能力建设与会员国日益增长的需求不相适应的矛盾。根本解决之道就是进行刻不容缓的改革和创新, 使工作重点突出, 并使所有会员国都能在本组织计划中找到自己的兴趣点。中国高度重视总部外机构的改革, 希望本着精简、高效和循序渐进的原则, 加强与会员国全国委员会的磋商与合作。中国支持在非洲实施第一阶段改革, 并衷心祝愿改革取得圆满成功。

58.5 第三、进一步加强在青年领域的工作。刚刚结束的青年论坛为本组织各领域计划的制订和实施增添了新的动力。中国赞赏本组织将青年纳入其重点工作领域。教科文组织的事业说到底还是青年人的事业, 我们建议教科文组织制订符合年轻人特点的旗舰计划, 推动文明间对话和人文交流, 使本组织成为年轻人热爱、渴望参与的、富有活力的机构。女士们, 先生们, 今年是中华人民共和国恢复在教科文组织合法席位 40 周年。40 年来, 中国全面、积极、深入地参与教科文组织工作, 双方合作水平日益提高, 合作领域不断拓宽, 并为教科文组织的发展做出了自己的贡献。我相信, 在广大会员国的共同努力下, 教科文组织一定能够完成历史赋予的使命, 为维护世界和平与稳定做出贡献。谢谢。

(58.1) **Ms Shi (China) (translation from the Chinese):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ministers, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, before I start, please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to Ms Katalin Bogayay for her election as President of the General Conference. I would also like to thank Mr Hepburn and Ms Mitrofanova for the important contributions they have made to the development of the Organization. In the second decade of the twenty-first century, UNESCO has been faced with both opportunities for development and severe challenges. Under the shadow of the financial crisis, the world economy is recovering at a slow pace and social development has been considerably impeded. Around the world, the Organization sees scarcity in the resources available for its undertakings in its fields of competence. This situation requires us to think together and make wise decisions, so that we can correctly address the present challenges and difficulties, and seize opportunities for long-term development.

(58.2) Education, science and technology and culture are decisive factors for the long-term and sustained development of a nation. For any nation, education serves as the foundation, science and technology play a key role and culture functions at the core, and it is without doubt that these combined exercise a profound and long-term influence on the development of a nation. Every country in the world has an urgent demand for the Organization, in the new situation, to plan for educational development and intercultural dialogue in future and to provide development guidance and advice for developing countries, especially African countries. We hope that the Organization will continue its efforts to advance education for all. In China now, the implementation of the Outline of China's National Plan for Medium- and Long-Term Education Reform and Development is well under way, in order to promote equity in, and improve quality of, education, and ensure the achievement of the objective of "basically modernizing education, bringing a learning society into shape, and turning China into a country rich in human resources". It is our hope, working together with all the countries of the world, to promote the all-round development of people and make their life a better and more dignified one.

(58.3) In this vein, we hope to see a UNESCO that plays a leading role in global governance. China attaches great importance to its cooperation with UNESCO. Not long before this session, China and the Organization jointly organized the UNESCO-China-Africa University Leaders Meeting, gathering over 40 university presidents from China and Africa for an equal exchange of experience and to explore the possibility of a tripartite plan of action for cooperation in higher education within the strategic framework of Priority Africa. We would like to express our appreciation of, and support for, the Organization's innovative action. In May next year, UNESCO will hold the Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Shanghai. The Congress will be highly significant in setting a direction for technical and vocational education in future and will facilitate its development in all countries. We sincerely invite all of you to visit Shanghai.

(58.4) The following two years will be of decisive importance for the development of UNESCO, which requires Member States to seek common ground and make contributions to revitalizing the Organization. Now I would like to make the following recommendations: firstly, enhance the role of laboratory of ideas. With rapid innovation and development in science and technology and the increasing demands on the part of Member States, the function of laboratory of ideas remains of great realistic as well as historical significance. UNESCO must keep producing forward-looking ideas and concepts and formulating programmes for innovation. None of this can be done without exchanges of thoughts and wisdom, and only through this can the Organization's advantages be maintained. In this regard, we appreciate UNESCO's efforts to integrate culture into its development goals and support its initiatives for activities related to culture and development. Secondly, deepen reforms and never stop innovating. Reform and innovation prove to be the foundation and prerequisites for the Organization's revitalization and reorientation. The Chinese delegation welcomes and supports the efforts that the Director-General has made for the accomplishment of the above-mentioned goals. As a Chinese sage said, a wise man makes changes as time and circumstances change. The Organization is now confronted with the disparities between its own capacity building, and the increasing demands of the Member States. The fundamental solution to this is to lose no time in furthering reforms and innovation and at the same time to focus attention on work to encourage Member States to find their own points of interest in the Organization's programmes. China lays great emphasis on field reforms by the Organization and hopes that such reforms can unfold in a streamlining, efficient and step-by-step manner and through consultation and cooperation with the National Commissions of Member States. China supports the first-stage reforms in Africa and sincerely wishes them every success.

(58.5) Thirdly, further strengthen work in the field of youth. The Youth Forum, which has just concluded, has further advanced the formulation and implementation of the Organization's sectoral programmes. China welcomes the Organization integrating young people into its work priorities. The undertaking of UNESCO, essentially, is one of and for young people. We propose that UNESCO formulate flagship programmes suited to the particularities of young people and advance intercultural dialogue and humanist exchanges, in order to transform the Organization into a more dynamic institution that young people love and are keen to join.

(58.6) Ladies and gentlemen, this year marks the fortieth anniversary of China's restoration to its lawful seat in UNESCO. In the past 40 years, China has been fully, actively and deeply involved in the work of UNESCO; the cooperation between China and the Organization has never stopped reaching new levels and the scope of our cooperation has been ever broadening. China has made its due share of contributions to the development of UNESCO. I believe that, with the joint efforts by its Member States, UNESCO will fulfil its historic mission and make further contributions to the maintenance of world peace and stability. Thank you.

59. **The President:**

*Xié xié*, Madam Ambassador. And now I have the honour to give the floor to His Excellency Mr Yong-il Yun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Mr Ambassador, you have the floor.

60.1 **M. Yun** (République populaire démocratique de Corée) :

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, chers délégués, permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter Mme Bogyay pour son élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Mes félicitations vont également à Mme la Directrice générale, Irina Bokova, pour la merveilleuse façon dont elle a conduit les travaux de l'UNESCO ces deux dernières années. Madame la Présidente, la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO marque un tournant important pour ce qui est de dresser le bilan des activités du deuxième cycle de l'actuelle Stratégie à moyen terme et de définir les mesures à prendre qui permettront de conclure avec succès le dernier cycle. L'UNESCO a redoublé d'efforts pour atteindre les objectifs de sa Stratégie à moyen terme et certains succès ont été enregistrés. Grâce à la poursuite fructueuse de la réforme de l'Organisation, les programmes et activités ont été mis en œuvre dans leur ensemble, avec une qualité et une efficacité améliorées. Je peux affirmer que le prestige de l'UNESCO, en tant qu'organisation intellectuelle, s'affirme de plus en plus, de même que son leadership dans ses domaines de compétence pour la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et le règlement d'importants problèmes internationaux.

59.2 Depuis son adhésion à l'UNESCO, la République populaire démocratique de Corée reste fidèle à l'Acte constitutif et aux idéaux de l'Organisation, tout en participant de façon active à ses activités. Durant ces deux dernières années, la coopération de mon pays avec l'Organisation s'est encore resserrée, notamment la coopération avec le Siège et les unités hors Siège à Beijing et à Bangkok, dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture. La coopération pour la conservation et la préservation des tombes murales de Koguryo, inscrites sur la Liste du patrimoine

mondial en 2004, se déroule avec succès et l'inscription des reliques historiques de Koryo, premier État unifié de la Corée, est en bonne voie. Madame la Présidente, aujourd'hui, la logique de la force, déniait les principes de l'égalité et de la souveraineté des États, se trouve plus que jamais exacerbée dans les relations internationales, et de sérieux défis demeurent, empêchant les vœux de l'humanité pour la paix et la prospérité de se réaliser. Avec les actes de violation des droits souverains et les conflits armés qui se produisent partout dans le monde, de nombreux civils innocents perdent la vie et un grand nombre d'établissements éducatifs et scientifiques, ainsi que les richesses culturelles créées par l'humanité, disparaissent en ruines. Aux termes de son Acte constitutif, l'UNESCO a pour mission de contribuer au maintien de la paix par la coopération entre nations dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture, en élevant les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et en faisant en sorte que cette paix soit fondée sur la solidarité intellectuelle. Ma délégation estime que le projet de programme et de budget 2012-2013 a été établi de sorte à contribuer à l'accomplissement des objectifs de la Stratégie à moyen terme, à savoir la réalisation d'une éducation de qualité pour tous, la promotion de la diversité culturelle et du dialogue interculturel, ainsi que l'édification de sociétés du savoir inclusives grâce à l'information et à la communication.

59.3 L'UNESCO est appelée à concentrer ses efforts sur la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et des objectifs de développement internationaux tels que les six objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous définis à Dakar, le Plan d'action de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation, et le Plan international de mise en œuvre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable. Il est en particulier important de poursuivre les projets de coopération pour les pays en développement et, surtout, les projets concernant l'aide et le renforcement des capacités, ainsi que le transfert des connaissances scientifiques et des techniques de pointe et la protection et la promotion du patrimoine culturel sous toutes ses formes. Le programme et le budget pour le nouveau cycle doivent être établis et mis en œuvre de façon à éviter la dispersion et les procédures et processus compliqués, tout en mettant l'accent sur les objectifs principaux et prioritaires.

59.4 Madame la Présidente, aujourd'hui la République populaire démocratique de Corée, sous la direction clairvoyante du Grand Général Kim Jong-il, est en pleine marche en vue de l'édification d'un pays puissant et prospère. Le Gouvernement, qui concentre tous ses efforts sur la construction économique afin de rehausser le niveau de vie du peuple, a obtenu des succès inédits. Nos efforts pour la paix et le développement contribueront à la réalisation des idéaux de l'UNESCO et apporteront par ailleurs une contribution aux efforts internationaux pour la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et des objectifs de développement durable. Madame la Présidente, l'indépendance, la paix et l'amitié sont les idéaux de la politique extérieure poursuivie invariablement par la République populaire démocratique de Corée. Le Gouvernement entend renforcer davantage les relations de fraternité et de coopération avec les États membres de l'UNESCO et fera tout son possible pour contribuer aux efforts internationaux en vue du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité mondiale, ainsi qu'à la réalisation du développement et de la prospérité commune de l'humanité. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

61. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup Monsieur l'Ambassadeur.* I now have a little inclusion, dear ladies and gentlemen. That was our last speaker for this morning, and I wish to thank all ministers and delegates for a rich and inspiring discussion and interesting speeches. As mentioned this morning we will now hear the report from the Chairperson of the Administrative Commission. I invite my dear Alissandra Cummins to present us with her oral report on item 4.4 please. Madam Chairperson you have the floor.

**Oral report by the Chairperson of the ADM Commission (Finance and administration) on item 4.4 "Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling"**

**Rapport oral de la Présidente de la Commission ADM (Finances et administration) sur le point 4.4 « Adoption du plafond budgétaire provisoire pour 2010-2011 »**

**Informe oral de la Comisi3n ADM (Finanzas y administraci3n) sobre el punto 4.4 "Aprobaci3n del tope presupuestario provisional"**

**Устный доклад Председателя Комиссии ADM (финансовые и административные вопросы) по пункту 4.4 «Утверждение предварительного верхнего предельного уровня бюджета**

**التقرير الشفهي لرئيس اللجنة المالية والإدارية عن البند ٤,٤ "اعتماد الحد الأقصى المؤقت للميزانية"**

**行政委员会 (财务与行政)主席关于项目 4.4 "通过临时预算最高额" 的口头报告**

62. **Ms Cummins (Barbados) (Chairperson of the ADM Commission – Finance and administration)**

*Merci Madame.* Madam President, Madam representative of the Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I submit to you the recommendation of the Administrative Commission of the 36th session of the General Conference on item 4.4 concerning the adoption of the provisional budget ceiling for 2012-2013, which the General Conference entrusted to our Commission for examination. The adoption of this resolution permits the Programme Commissions to examine the budget lines within their fields of competence. The Administrative Commission took note of the debates on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for the 2012-2013 biennium that were held in the Executive Board during its 185th, 186th and 187th sessions. Twenty-two delegates took the floor. While some delegates continued to express their support for the revised zero real growth scenario – which is the Draft 36 C/5 in the Blue Book –, it was acknowledged by the majority that the zero nominal growth scenario presented in document 36 C/5 Addendum – the Red Book – is more realistic in view of the economic crisis that many countries are confronted with at this present time. Thus, most of the delegates who addressed this item recommended following the recommendation of the Executive Board (187 EX/Decision 15) in adopting a zero nominal growth budget ceiling of \$653 million. However, some Member States expressed the hope that document 37 C/5 would not follow the same approach. Consequently, after the examination of the draft resolution on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 and the recommenda-

tions of the Executive Board contained in document 36 C/6 Addendum, the Administrative Commission recommends that the plenary approve a budget ceiling of \$653 million for the biennium 2012-2013. Madam President, I herewith submit this proposal to the plenary for approval. Thank you for your attention.

63.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam Chairperson, and I propose that we take note of the recommendations of the Administrative Commission. Are there any objections? I see none, so *this is adopted*.

63.2 We have come to the end of our meeting. I wish to thank again the delegations who took the floor for their remarks and suggestions and I wish to thank them for being excellent listeners too, taking note of the good examples and best practices we heard today, and think about how they can be replicated, maybe in their countries. The plenary will start this afternoon at 3 o'clock sharp, and I wish you a pleasant lunch.

*The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 13 h 30*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30*  
*Заседание закрывается в 13.30*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١,٣٠ بعد الظهر*  
*会议于 13 时 30 分结束*



# Eighth plenary meeting

Friday 28 October 2011 at 3.15 p.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

later: **Mr Andreasen** (Denmark)

later: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Huitième séance plénière

Vendredi 28 octobre 2011 à 15 h 15

Présidente: **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

puis : **M. Andreasen** (Danemark)

puis : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Octava sesión plenaria

Viernes 28 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.15

Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

después: **Sr. Andreasen** (Dinamarca)

después: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Восьмое пленарное заседание

пятница 28 октября 2011 г. в 15.15

Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

затем: г-н **Андреасен** (Дания)

затем: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الثامنة

الجمعة ٢٨ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣،١٥ بعد الظهر

الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

ثم: السيد **أندرياسن** (الدنمارك)

ثم: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第八次全体会议

2011年10月28日星期五 15时15分

主席：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）

随后：Andreasen先生（丹麦）

随后：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）

**Flag-raising ceremony for South Sudan**  
**Cérémonie de lever du drapeau du Soudan du Sud**  
**Ceremonia de izamiento de la bandera de Sudán del Sur**  
**Церемония поднятия флага для Южного Судана**  
حفل رفع علم جنوب السودان  
南苏丹升旗仪式

**1.1 The President:**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the eighth plenary meeting of the General Conference. This afternoon we will have the very special privilege of welcoming a new Member to UNESCO. After becoming an independent State on 9 July this year, the Republic of South Sudan signed the Constitution of UNESCO and deposited its instrument of acceptance yesterday. South Sudan thus became the 194th Member State of UNESCO. Excellencies, let me welcome you on behalf of UNESCO and this General Conference. In many respects South Sudan is a unique country. It is a land of diversity, with over 60 indigenous languages spoken on its territory. It is also a place of predicaments, which went through a long civil war. As a new country, it is facing immense challenges, particularly in education. But, above all, and most importantly, South Sudan is a country of potential and opportunity. Its lands are abundant with natural resources. Its people are full of pride, hope and desire to build a better future.

1.2 Dear Minister, Your Excellency, UNESCO and the community of its Member States where you now take your rightful place will accompany your country on its way to sustainable development. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon recently said: "You now sit with us. We stand with you." Ladies and gentlemen, before I invite the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of South Sudan to the podium, let me welcome the Director-General of UNESCO and ask her to say a few words.

**2.1 La Directrice générale :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. Monsieur Cirino Hiteng Ofuho, Ministre de la culture, de la jeunesse et des sports de la République du Soudan du Sud, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est un événement spécial et très émouvant pour la famille des Nations Unies et l'UNESCO d'accueillir comme nouveau membre un État nouvellement créé, qui vient de célébrer son indépendance le 9 juillet, après le référendum historique du mois de janvier. Cette accession nous rappelle la raison d'être des Nations Unies, le sens de notre mandat et de notre action. Comme vous l'avez rappelé, Madame la Présidente, et comme nous le savons tous, les 8 millions d'habitants de la République du Soudan du Sud se heurtent à d'immenses défis : près de 80 % des femmes sont analphabètes, plus de la moitié des habitants vivent avec moins de 1 dollar par jour. Mais le Soudan du Sud est aussi une terre d'opportunités, dotée d'une grande diversité culturelle qu'il convient de stimuler, de ressources naturelles et de terres agricoles abondantes.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

2.2 Ladies and gentlemen, building a new State must start on the benches of schools. UNESCO will stand with the people of South Sudan to strengthen their education system and to support the training of teachers and education professionals. Represented by the Deputy Director-General, UNESCO was present in Juba on 9 July to highlight the importance of education. We launched the *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2011* on the same occasion, as a sign of our commitment. As the United Nations Secretary-General said on this occasion, "The last thing a new nation needs is a celebration as it springs into existence, only to then be forgotten until the next crisis." So, as UNESCO Director-General, I wish to pledge our firmest commitment towards South Sudan, today and over the long term. I would like Mr Minister to convey this message, this strong message of support, to your President the Honourable Salva Kiir Mayardit. Thank you for your attention.

**3. The President:**

Thank you, Madam Director-General, and now let us extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr Cirino Hiteng Ofuho, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of South Sudan, who will now place the flag of his country among those of the other Member States and then address the General Conference.

**4.1 Mr Ofuho (South Sudan):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished heads of delegations, Your Excellencies Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the people, Government and President of the Republic of South Sudan, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to seize this opportunity and privilege to address this auspicious gathering and to express our most sincere and profound gratitude to the entire UNESCO family for the warm welcome our new nation has received upon joining the community of the world's nations. Allow me also to extend to you all warmest greetings from the people, the Government and the President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency General Salva Kiir Mayardit, who would have wished to be here to address this august gathering. The people of South Sudan regard the prompt admission into the family of nations and to UNESCO and addressing this auspicious conference as a significant moment in the history of our young nation. On 9 July 2011 the world witnessed the birth of a new nation, the Republic of South Sudan, right in the heart of Africa. Your gracious attendance during that day is testimony that the sacrifices of our fallen heroes and heroines have not been in vain.

4.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as the world's newest nation, South Sudan will make a significant contribution to furthering the interests of humanity in many ways. God has endowed us with resources that we will utilize to enhance the wellbeing of humanity. With our agricultural potential, South Sudan will become the breadbasket of Africa and the world. Having experienced war for many years, South Sudan will build cordial relations with all its neighbours,

Africa and the world. I would like to take this rare opportunity to salute many of you who stood with us during our long liberation struggle and who have now quickly expressed their readiness to assist us in the fields of education, culture and heritage preservation. Moreover, cultures and histories are important building blocks of the concept of nationhood. We are indebted to many friends at this conference and in this august house and we call upon UNESCO Member States to continue to support our efforts so that our young nation may prepare its citizens to catch up with the rest of the world in the fields of heritage management, education and scientific research. This is to further acknowledge our emergence as a new nation that is intent on and able to research, chronicle, display and celebrate its cultures for the benefit of the entire human family.

4.3 During our long liberation struggle, and despite the destruction caused by war, the legacies of which we continue to suffer, we were still able to keep an eye on the preservation of our diverse cultures as well as our collective heritage. Our nation dedicates itself to the promotion of peace and sustainable development, the identification and protection of heritage sites, important cultural practices and endangered languages. We also pledge to memorialize our war experience for the benefit of future generations so that they can see the cost of war, in the hope that they may continue to choose peaceful solutions over war in their future relations among themselves and with other countries of the world. As an emergent nation that has been embroiled in conflict for a total of more than five decades, the Republic of South Sudan stands in dire need of all the help it can get in order to build. While we strongly believe that cultures are at the heart of national identity, unity and coexistence among diverse groups, it is extremely difficult to prioritize promotion of cultures in a country where everything, from health to education to infrastructure, is a serious priority. But we cannot be tempted to think that these other needs are more important than developing our culture. Proving our ability to emerge out of the abyss of war-provoked poverty and deprivation into the realm of progress and prosperity so that we can afford to preserve, teach and display our culture is going to be arduous and that is why we need you in the family of UNESCO to be our partners on this difficult journey. This new nation cannot develop on its own; it will require your supportive efforts and fraternal commitment. Some of you have shown unwavering commitment and you have contributed immensely in the past by ending Africa's longest civil war. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) countries and its partners, namely the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, the Netherlands, Italy and of course, the African Union and the European Union, all played a major role in the pursuit of peace in our region.

4.4 Madam President, Madam Director-General, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our country lies within the Great Rift Valley, one of the world's oldest regions in terms of human evolution. It is endowed with abundant heritage and resources, notably in the Sudd, the world's largest swamp on the River Nile, which contains massive unexplored species of fauna and flora, and the plateaux of Eastern Equatoria with immense animal wealth and forms and potential archaeological deposits that are yet to be explored. But we hardly have the capacity to do this by ourselves. Our strategy is to avail ourselves of international expertise, including that of UNESCO and academic institutions, to build our own capacity to conduct scientific research, build the technological know-how necessary for the preservation of our heritage, water resource management, develop the means to teach it to our children, and establish cultural centres to display all of it so that we can share it with the rest of the world. The ambition of the people of South Sudan is to be able to transform their country into a tourist destination. And, I promise you, all of you will come there one day. This would promote cultural and educational exchanges between the Republic of South Sudan and the rest of the world with a view to promoting peace, stability and harmony not only internally but also between all our neighbours and ourselves.

4.5 On the educational front, the Republic of South Sudan has been prompt to adopt the goal of education for all and include in its national curriculum peace education, human rights and cultural values. We hope to build intergovernmental coordination to celebrate and promote our languages, heritage and innovations for the coming generation. This will be done with the aim of equitable representation of our cultural diversity so that it may become an asset in forging our national unity as a new country. We will celebrate our diversity by developing the various languages and cultural practices of our peoples. Our unity is cemented by the blood of our martyrs and our national pride is derived from their memorable sacrifices. In terms of heritage management, in collaboration with UNESCO's South Sudan office, we have proceeded to conduct surveys and inventories of cultural practices so as to create a registry of what exists and to build upon that in our desire to protect these practices against the threat of the rapid change that the modern world is now experiencing.

4.6 In conclusion, Madam President, in a world fraught with the clash of cultures and with conflicts emanating from this clash, the new Republic of South Sudan vows to become an active Member of UNESCO and the global family of nations, contributing to fostering understanding between world cultures so that we may all turn our focus to peace, sustainable development and prosperity for the benefit of all humankind. Thank you and God bless you all and God bless South Sudan.

##### 5. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to Sudan.

٦،١ السيد الواد (السودان):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، وبما أن هذه هي المرة الأولى التي أتحدث فيها أود أن أزجي التهنية إلى السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام بمناسبة اختيارها رئيسة للدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام،

٦،٢ السيدة الرئيسة، الإخوة والأخوات أود باسم حكومة جمهورية السودان أن أرحب بوفد دولة جنوب السودان وأن أزجي أحر التهاني بانضمام دولة جنوب السودان إلى هذه المنظمة وبهذه السانحة فإن وفد السودان لدى اليونسكو يفتح قلبه ومكاتبه ويضع كافة إمكانياته أمام دولة جنوب السودان من أجل ترقية التعاون مع منظمة اليونسكو لصالح تقدم ورفاهية شعب جنوب السودان.

٦,٣ الإخوة والأخوات، لقد كان السودان من قبل أول الدول المعترفة بدولة جنوب السودان في التاسع من تموز/يوليو ٢٠١١، ولقد جاءت مشاركة الرئيس عمر البشير في إعلان الدولة الوليدة خير دليل على روح الالتزام بالمسؤولية والتسامح التي نحلى بها في تطبيق اتفاقية السلام الشامل والتي رجح خلالها أبناء الجنوب خيار الانفصال عن الوحدة في عملية استفتاء فريدة وشفافة قلّ أن نجد مثيلاً لها في عالم اليوم. أيها السادة والسيدات سيظل السودان وفيّاً للعلاقات التي ظلت تربط الشعبين الشقيقين وملتزماً بعلاقة حسن الجوار وروح التعاون لأجل تطوير هذه العلاقات لأفاق أرحب. وفي الختام يود وفد السودان أن يشير إلى أنه بذات المثل والقيم التي امتثل بها في الاعتراف بدولة جنوب السودان فإنه ينادي اليوم برفع الظلم عن الشعب الفلسطيني والاعتراف بدولته عضواً في هذه المنظمة. مرة أخرى أجدد التهنئة لإخوتنا في جنوب السودان لانضمامهم إلى هذه المنظمة متمنين لهم التوفيق والسداد. وشكراً جزيلاً.

(6.1) **M. Elwad (Soudan) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je voudrais féliciter Mme la Présidente de la Conférence générale pour son élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale.

(6.2) Excellences, Madame la Présidente, mes frères et sœurs, permettez-moi, au nom du gouvernement de mon pays, la République du Soudan, de souhaiter la bienvenue à la délégation du Soudan du Sud et de féliciter ce pays d'être devenu membre de cette Organisation ; en cette occasion, la délégation du Soudan auprès de l'UNESCO lui ouvre son cœur et ses bureaux et lui offre toutes les ressources nécessaires pour stimuler la coopération avec l'UNESCO dans l'intérêt du progrès et du bien-être du peuple du Soudan du Sud.

(6.3) Mes frères et sœurs, le Soudan a été parmi les premiers pays à reconnaître le Soudan du Sud, le 9 juillet 2011. La participation du Président Omar al-Bachir à la proclamation du nouvel État fut la meilleure preuve de l'esprit de responsabilité et de tolérance qui a caractérisé l'application de l'accord global de paix par lequel les gens du sud ont manifesté leur préférence pour la dissociation de l'union au moyen d'un référendum unique et transparent dont on trouve peu d'équivalent dans le monde actuel. Mesdames, Messieurs, le Soudan restera fidèle aux rapports qui ont caractérisé les deux peuples fraternels, à leurs relations de bon voisinage et à l'esprit de coopération qui les anime, afin de leur ouvrir des horizons plus vastes encore. En conclusion, la délégation du Soudan souhaite annoncer qu'en vertu des mêmes idéaux et des mêmes valeurs qui ont conduit le Soudan à reconnaître l'État du Soudan du Sud, il appelle aujourd'hui à ce qu'on mette fin à l'oppression du peuple palestinien et que l'on reconnaisse son État comme membre de cette Organisation. Je réitère mes félicitations à nos frères du Soudan du Sud pour leur adhésion à cette Organisation, en leur souhaitant tout le succès possible. Merci beaucoup.

**General policy debate (continued)**

**Débat de politique générale (suite)**

**Debate de política general (continuación)**

**Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (продолжение)**

**مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)**

**总政策辩论 (续)**

## 7. The President:

Thank you very much. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we will continue with national statements this afternoon. There are a great many speakers on the list for today, as there were yesterday, so our meeting may even continue beyond 6 p.m. this evening, as it did yesterday. In order to proceed as efficiently as possible, we will need to continue the good practice of respecting the six-minute time limit. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this regard. And now I have the honour to call on our first speaker for this afternoon, His Excellency Mr Albert Ouedraogo, the Minister of Secondary and Higher Education of Burkina Faso. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

8.1 **M. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord, Madame la Présidente, de vous féliciter, au nom de mon pays, pour votre élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation. Le Burkina Faso s'en félicite, vous adresse tous ses vœux de succès et vous assure de tout son soutien. Nous adressons également nos félicitations à la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, dont nous avons apprécié les efforts en faveur de la bonne marche de notre Organisation commune pendant son mandat.

8.2 Madame la Présidente, c'est la première fois que nous prenons la parole en tant que représentants de notre pays devant cette auguste Assemblée. C'est dire si notre joie est grande de pouvoir contribuer aux efforts actuellement déployés par tous les États membres pour un monde de paix et de justice. C'est l'occasion ici de rappeler que l'UNESCO a été l'une des premières organisations du système des Nations Unies à apporter aux États membres d'Afrique un vent d'espoir qui a poussé le continent vers le progrès et la liberté. Madame la Présidente, cette Conférence générale se tient à un moment où notre monde globalisé est toujours marqué par une crise qui menace la réalisation des programmes de notre Organisation et touche les pays les plus vulnérables. Cette crise nous impose d'agir ensemble afin de créer un monde plus humain et plus démocratique. Pour ce faire, l'UNESCO doit participer au débat sur la gouvernance globale car ses compétences sont au cœur de la mondialisation. En effet, le mandat constitutif de l'UNESCO reste pertinent au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle, où l'édification des sociétés du savoir est un impératif, où l'éducation, la science et l'innovation sont des moteurs de tout développement durable. Ces objectifs primordiaux pour lesquels l'UNESCO a été créée demeurent d'actualité.

8.3 Madame la Présidente, l'éducation, qui joue un rôle central dans le développement, est un outil indispensable pour rendre l'homme plus humain. C'est pour cette raison que nous devons mettre en place une éducation inclusive et de qualité aux niveaux primaire, secondaire et supérieur. En effet, 11 ans après le Forum de Dakar, l'Éducation pour tous, qui a suscité tant d'espoir, conserve toute son importance. C'est dans cette dynamique que le Burkina Faso

poursuit la réforme de son système éducatif qui doit conduire à une éducation de qualité gratuite et obligatoire pour tous les enfants de 6 à 16 ans. Cette réforme a déjà permis de faire passer le taux de scolarisation dans le primaire de 66,5 % en 2006-2007 à 77,6 % en 2010-2011. Elle s'appuiera sur une formation des enseignants de qualité, dans le cadre de l'Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne (TTISSA). C'est pourquoi le Burkina Faso s'interroge sur l'efficacité du transfert de ce programme avec des moyens limités en dehors du Siège. C'est également pourquoi nous pensons qu'une structure spécifiquement chargée de l'enseignement supérieur est indispensable. Face au défi majeur de l'alphabétisation, le Burkina a élaboré un programme national destiné à accélérer l'alphabétisation à l'horizon 2015 pour atteindre un taux d'alphabétisation de 60 %.

8.4 Compte tenu du fait que le Programme de participation contribue au financement de plusieurs projets de développement, notre pays a soumis un projet d'amendement en vue d'augmenter le montant des fonds disponibles. Notre pays accorde une grande importance au développement de la science. Aussi un Ministère de la recherche scientifique et de l'innovation a-t-il été créé en janvier 2011 en vue d'un meilleur arrimage entre la recherche et le développement socioéconomique du pays. Enfin, mon pays soutient le Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013.

8.5 Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Burkina Faso réaffirme son engagement total aux côtés de l'UNESCO en vue de la réalisation de ses nobles idéaux. À cet effet, Son Excellence Monsieur Blaise Compaoré, Président du Faso, déploie des efforts aux plans sous-régional et international en faveur de la paix, du dialogue et de l'intégration des peuples. En présentant sa candidature à plusieurs comités (MAB, MOST, PIDC), notre pays espère apporter sa contribution aux actions de développement de l'humanité. Madame la Présidente, nous vous affirmons tout notre soutien et nos félicitations, et gardons l'espoir de voir l'UNESCO échapper aux rapports de force qui sont à l'œuvre au sein des organisations internationales, où le droit est toujours du côté de ceux qui offrent la contribution financière la plus importante et le devoir du côté de ceux qui ont peine à honorer leurs cotisations. L'UNESCO doit être et demeurer un espace de solidarité, d'humilité, d'humanisme et de tolérance. Si aujourd'hui la diversité biologique est affectée, la diversité culturelle n'est que tolérée. Aussi appelons-nous de tous nos vœux le respect de la diversité politique car la démocratie clés en main est en train de montrer ses limites sur le continent africain. Le droit d'ingérence humanitaire a tendance à devenir le droit d'intervention des puissants dans les affaires des États à faible revenu. S'agissant de la culture de la paix, nous réaffirmons notre foi en une paix des cultures, gage du respect de l'autre.

8.6 Nous sommes d'avis qu'en cette période d'incertitude il nous faut plus d'UNESCO, afin que l'éthique soit au cœur des relations internationales. Bien qu'un proverbe burkinabé stipule que « lorsque la force emprunte une route, le droit doit se frayer un chemin à travers les champs », permettez-nous, pour conclure, de paraphraser François Rabelais en disant « science sans conscience n'est que ruine de l'humanité ». Je vous remercie.

#### 9. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education and Sciences of Equatorial Guinea. Your Excellency Mr Joaquin Mbana Nchama, the floor is yours.

#### 10.1 **Sr. Mbana Nchama (Guinea Ecuatorial):**

Excelentísima señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, excelentísima señora Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO, excelentísima señora Directora General de la UNESCO, excelentísimos señores ministros y jefes de delegaciones, excelencias, señoras y señores: la República de Guinea Ecuatorial se congratula con la comunidad internacional congregada aquí en el seno de la UNESCO por la designación del presente año 2011 como "Año de la paz". La paz es la condición esencial para el desarrollo de las sociedades, ya que permite un flujo natural de la expresión humana, desde la dimensión cultural, los procesos de investigación científica y los avances necesarios en el plano del desarrollo social, científico y económico. En definitiva la paz es un factor de construcción de la convivencia humana, tanto dentro como fuera de las fronteras de cada Estado. En este sentido, nos asociamos con los oradores que nos han precedido en la valoración de los esfuerzos que despliega la UNESCO para apoyar a los Estados Miembros en la introducción de una temática tan interesante en los programas escolares para que esté presente en el proceso de formación de los niños y jóvenes. Compartimos esta visión.

10.2 Excelencias, señoras y señores: desde la perspectiva de Guinea Ecuatorial, la paz está asociada con el ejercicio de la justicia; no hay paz al margen de la justicia. Por eso, estamos emprendiendo en la actualidad un conjunto de reformas constitucionales y democráticas que van a permitir a la ciudadanía una mejor participación plural en los asuntos públicos, expresar su opinión en la conformación de los órganos del Estado y armonizar, así, los diversos intereses de los grupos sociales del país para que todos avancemos juntos, respetando nuestras diferencias, hacia el camino de la construcción de nuestro bienestar y progreso. Por eso, justamente en el plano educativo y dentro del amplio programa de Educación para Todos, propugnamos una educación de carácter inclusivo como forma de potenciar las capacidades de todas las personas para viabilizar su contribución al desarrollo social y económico del país. Todos somos útiles en el esfuerzo colectivo de construir una vida mejor. En el plano práctico el Gobierno de Guinea Ecuatorial, aparte de otros programas, ha puesto en marcha una iniciativa de desarrollo a través de un fondo para el desarrollo social que tiene como objetivo apoyar técnica y organizativamente a los sectores vinculados directamente con la sociedad: educación, sanidad, asuntos sociales y promoción de la mujer e interior y corporaciones locales. Esperamos provocar así un impacto positivo en la formación de nuestros jóvenes para propiciar una sociedad que mire con optimismo el futuro y que se comprometa con los ideales universales de paz y de justicia.

10.3 Señoras y señores: desde el año de 1970, Guinea Ecuatorial es un país que se ha beneficiado del apoyo de la UNESCO en diversos ámbitos relacionados con la educación: asistencia con profesores en los distintos niveles educativos, formación de docentes, diseño e implementación de planes de estudios, etc. En la actualidad Guinea Ecuatorial continúa recibiendo apoyo de la UNESCO en el campo del desarrollo de la educación superior, por conducto

de la Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial, para la obtención y elaboración de estadísticas educativas, el fomento de la cultura nacional, la creación de radios rurales y la formación de periodistas, el equipamiento de bibliotecas nacionales y centros educativos privados. En el día de hoy, la UNESCO es el asociado principal en el esfuerzo regional de establecimiento en Guinea Ecuatorial del Observatorio africano de ciencia, tecnología e innovación. Recibimos con agrado dichos apoyos y esperamos contar con el apoyo de países amigos para que Guinea Ecuatorial pueda seguir colaborando con la UNESCO como Estado Miembro del Consejo Ejecutivo. Señoras y señores: una mirada a la perspectiva internacional hace que Guinea Ecuatorial exprese su preocupación al constatar los estragos mundiales que causan enfermedades que hoy flagelan a la humanidad. Nos referimos a las pandemias del VIH y el sida, la malaria y otras que hoy captan la atención de especialistas y personal sanitario del mundo entero, sin que haya hasta ahora una solución médica al respecto. Por eso, Guinea Ecuatorial, ayer y hoy receptora de la ayuda internacional y de la UNESCO en concreto, no puede permanecer impasible frente al sufrimiento de seres humanos y acude para ayudar a aliviar las necesidades que reclaman otras partes del mundo. Este espíritu de cooperación y de compromiso en la búsqueda de soluciones a los problemas comunes que afectan a la humanidad está impulsando al Gobierno de Guinea Ecuatorial a explorar las posibilidades de institucionalizar en el seno de la UNESCO el Premio “UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo para la investigación en ciencias de la vida”. Muchas gracias por vuestra atención.

(10.1) **M. Mbana Nchama** (Guinée équatoriale) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la République de Guinée équatoriale se félicite, aux côtés de la communauté internationale ici rassemblée au sein de l'UNESCO, de la proclamation de cette année 2011 « Année de la paix ». La paix est la condition essentielle du développement des sociétés car elle permet de laisser libre cours à l'expression humaine du point de vue de la culture, de la recherche scientifique et des progrès nécessaires au développement social, scientifique et économique. La paix est, en définitive, un facteur de construction de la coexistence entre les êtres humains, tant à l'intérieur qu'en dehors des frontières de chaque État. À cet égard, nous nous associons aux orateurs qui nous ont précédés pour saluer les efforts déployés par l'UNESCO afin d'aider les États membres à intégrer un thème aussi intéressant dans les programmes scolaires et l'apprentissage des enfants et des jeunes. C'est une vision que nous partageons.

(10.2) Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, du point de vue de la Guinée équatoriale, la paix est associée à l'exercice de la justice. Il ne peut y avoir de paix en dehors de la justice. C'est pourquoi nous menons actuellement une série de réformes constitutionnelles et démocratiques qui permettront aux citoyens de prendre une plus grande part aux affaires publiques et de donner leur avis sur le fonctionnement des organes de l'État, et d'accorder ainsi les divers intérêts des différents groupes sociaux du pays afin que nous puissions tous avancer ensemble, dans le respect de nos différences, sur le chemin du bien-être et du progrès. C'est aussi précisément la raison pour laquelle, sur le plan éducatif et dans le cadre du vaste programme de l'Éducation pour tous, nous défendons une éducation inclusive comme moyen de renforcer les capacités de chacun de contribuer durablement au développement social et économique du pays. Nous avons tous un rôle à jouer dans cet effort collectif pour construire une vie meilleure. Sur le plan pratique, le Gouvernement de la Guinée équatoriale a mis en place, par le biais d'un fonds pour le développement social et en complément d'autres programmes, une initiative de développement qui a pour objectif d'apporter un soutien technique et organisationnel aux secteurs directement liés à la société : l'éducation, la santé, les affaires sociales et la promotion des femmes, les affaires intérieures et les assemblées locales. Nous espérons ainsi obtenir un impact positif sur la formation de nos jeunes et favoriser l'émergence d'une société portant un regard optimiste sur l'avenir et défendant les idéaux universels de paix et de justice.

(10.3) Mesdames et Messieurs, depuis 1970, la Guinée équatoriale bénéficie du soutien de l'UNESCO dans divers domaines en rapport avec l'éducation : assistance aux enseignants à différents niveaux de l'éducation, formation des enseignants, conception et mise en œuvre de programmes d'enseignement, etc. Aujourd'hui, la Guinée équatoriale continue de recevoir l'appui de l'UNESCO en matière de développement de l'enseignement supérieur, par l'intermédiaire de l'Université nationale de Guinée équatoriale, pour la collecte et l'élaboration de statistiques éducatives, la promotion de la culture nationale, la création de radios rurales et la formation de journalistes, ainsi que l'équipement de bibliothèques nationales et de centres éducatifs privés. Actuellement, l'UNESCO est le principal associé des efforts régionaux en vue de la création, en Guinée équatoriale, de l'Observatoire africain des sciences, de la technologie et de l'innovation. Nous sommes reconnaissants de cet appui et espérons pouvoir compter sur le soutien de pays amis pour que la Guinée équatoriale puisse poursuivre sa collaboration avec l'UNESCO en tant que Membre du Conseil exécutif. Mesdames et Messieurs, sur le plan international, la Guinée équatoriale ne peut qu'exprimer la préoccupation que lui inspirent les ravages causés dans le monde par les maladies qui affectent aujourd'hui l'humanité. Nous voulons parler ici des pandémies du VIH/SIDA, du paludisme et d'autres, qui captent aujourd'hui l'attention des spécialistes et du personnel sanitaire du monde entier, sans qu'une solution médicale n'ait été trouvée à ce jour. C'est pourquoi la Guinée équatoriale, bénéficiaire hier et aujourd'hui de l'aide internationale, et de l'appui de l'UNESCO en particulier, ne peut rester de marbre face à la souffrance d'êtres humains et vient en aide à ceux qui, dans d'autres parties du monde, ont besoin d'être soulagés. Cet esprit de coopération et cette volonté de rechercher des solutions aux problèmes qui touchent l'humanité tout entière conduisent le Gouvernement de la Guinée équatoriale à étudier les possibilités d'institutionnaliser au sein de l'UNESCO le Prix international UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo pour la recherche en sciences de la vie. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

11. **The President:**

Your Excellency, thank you very much for your statement. And now I am very happy to welcome the Minister of Culture of Croatia. Your Excellency Mr Jasen Mesić, the floor is yours.

12.1 **Mr Mesić** (Croatia):

Thank you very much, esteemed Madam President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, esteemed representatives, ladies and gentlemen. Esteemed Madam President, allow me on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Croatia to congratulate you on your election as President of this session of the General Conference. I would also like to thank the Director-General for her dedicated work on the implementation of reforms within UNESCO in the belief that the objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy and those coordinated at this conference will be translated into concrete projects and activities of the Organization. We fully support the reforms that focus on the establishment of clear priorities of the Organization and on the attainment and evaluation of results, including the enhancement of UNESCO's visibility.

12.2 The Ministry of Culture of Croatia, together with the Croatian Commission for UNESCO, effectively promote all of UNESCO's programme areas and, in coordination with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, support UNESCO's long-term initiatives and projects. We have always expressed our support for the normative activities of the Organization, most of all in the field of culture, an area in which we have been most active, and in regard to which we remain prepared to implement the regulations of these legal instruments and, through our experience, render assistance in the process to countries in the region and beyond.

12.3 Esteemed Madam President, the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar, which was proclaimed a UNESCO category 2 centre, certainly fits into the cooperation we are talking about. We are certain and we are exerting efforts to ensure that this centre justifies the high expectations and confidence placed in us and have initiated new projects in the research, presentation and promotion of underwater cultural heritage. Underwater heritage has for years been and remains an important segment in culture and cultural policy; and the UNESCO category 2 centre has the ambition of becoming a centre of excellence in the field of underwater archaeology. We also look forward with great hope to the candidature of the Sacra complex of the city of Zadar and the remains of the Roman forum for inscription on the World Heritage List in the knowledge that this 2,000-year-old living heritage in the heart of the city deserves to be a part of the world heritage. As a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Croatia wishes to continue to contribute actively to the visibility of the intangible heritage through various projects and cooperation on the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of the whole world. The promotion and protection of cultural diversity is without doubt among the most important objectives of our cultural policy. We therefore hope that the creation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity will contribute to the establishment of the new frameworks that will in these times of globalization be an incentive for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. Knowing how much effort is needed to have a property inscribed on the prestigious and valuable List and later on to preserve and promote that protected property, Croatia wishes to extend its congratulations on successful world heritage projects, which significantly contribute to UNESCO's visibility. As a country that has unfortunately experienced the horror of war destruction, we are certainly aware of how important this is. The continuation of post-war reconstruction and the return of illegally taken cultural heritage property remain among our top priorities and we are ready within the framework of UNESCO to share our experience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank UNESCO for the role it has played in encouraging cooperation in Central and South-East Europe through the promotion of annual summit meetings of presidents and conferences of culture ministers on the new theme launched by Ms Irina Bokova, culture for development, a great initiative which we consider very important and will continue supporting. A successful example worth quoting is the cooperation between Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia in the joint nomination of medieval standing tombstones for the World Heritage List, and I expect an even greater number of such trans-border initiatives. We consider the promotion of education on heritage among the young and the role of young people in the preservation of heritage to be exceptionally important. Croatia in fact successfully hosted the First South East Europe World Heritage Youth Forum.

12.4 Within the framework of the Development Plan for the Education Sector 2005-2010, which promotes the quality and effectiveness of education from pre-school to tertiary education levels and the permanent professional education of the teacher, Croatia is intensively pursuing UNESCO's education for all goals.

12.5 Esteemed Madam President, Croatia is actively participating in the stabilization, realization and building of peace and confidence in the region and will cooperate in capacity building and initiation of projects in the region and beyond. We are pleased at the excellent response to the seminars and conferences we have hosted on intangible, underwater and other forms of heritage, attended by eminent experts and guests from the whole world. I emphasize how much we appreciate the support of UNESCO and other international organizations, our partners in the creation of South Europe as a modern European region, contributing to the promotion of the values which we consider relevant for stability and dialogue. Thank you very much.

### 13. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement Your Excellency. And now it is a great honour for me to welcome the Minister of Elementary, Secondary Education and National Languages of Senegal. Your Excellency Mr Kalidou Diallo, the floor is yours.

#### 14.1 **M. Diallo (Sénégal) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres et chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord, Madame la Présidente, de vous adresser les félicitations les plus chaleureuses de mon pays pour votre brillante élection à la tête de notre Conférence générale. Certainement, vous devez ce témoignage de confiance à votre ouverture d'esprit et à votre rigueur intellectuelle reconnues. Je saisis également cette occasion pour remercier votre prédécesseur, M. Davidson Hepburn, pour le talent avec lequel il a conduit les travaux de la 35e session et féliciter Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif pour le brio dont elle fait preuve dans l'exercice de ses fonctions. Permettez-moi également de saluer chaleureusement Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, et de lui adresser, au nom de la délégation sénégalaise, mes plus vives félicitations pour les nombreuses réformes, les réalisations et les innovations apportées en à peine deux ans passés à la tête de notre illustre Institution. Elle a su consolider les acquis et ouvrir des voies à l'innovation en faisant du Nouvel humanisme l'axe majeur qui sous-tend toute l'action de l'Organisation.

14.2 Ma délégation apprécie la concision et la qualité du 36 C/5, qui accorde une priorité toute particulière à l'Afrique et à l'égalité des genres. Comme vous le savez, Son Excellence Monsieur Abdoulaye Wade, Président de la République du Sénégal, est un défenseur infatigable de la cause africaine et de l'égalité des genres. Artisan du Monument de la renaissance africaine, du Nouveau Partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD), de l'Université du Futur

africain, organisateur du troisième Festival mondial des arts nègres et père de la loi sur la parité dans les fonctions électives au Sénégal, le Président Wade est, sans conteste, un panafricaniste convaincu qui ne cesse d'exhorter les peuples et les gouvernements du continent à s'unir autour de l'essentiel pour une Afrique émergente, fière et surtout où les femmes et les jeunes jouent un rôle de premier ordre. Je suis heureux de constater que plusieurs axes d'action proposés dans les grands programmes du prochain exercice biennal recourent les priorités actuelles de la politique de développement économique, social et culturel du Gouvernement du Sénégal. Ainsi, dans le domaine de l'éducation, ma délégation se félicite de la conception et des priorités du grand programme I et approuve l'axe d'action principal visant à accélérer les progrès vers la réalisation de l'EPT, en particulier au niveau de ces pays.

14.3 Il me plaît de rappeler à ce propos que le Sénégal consacre plus de 45 % du budget de fonctionnement de l'État à l'éducation. C'est ainsi que le taux de scolarisation au Sénégal a considérablement augmenté, passant de 67 % en 2000 à 95 % aujourd'hui ; le nombre d'écoles primaires est passé en 10 ans de 4 338 à 7 868 écoles. Les réalisations sont très nombreuses dans les collèges et lycées. En 10 ans, ces derniers sont passés de 48 à 157, tandis que le nombre de collèges est passé de 228 à 920 ; quant au nombre d'enseignants, il est passé de 22 000 à 86 000. Le taux d'achèvement au primaire est passé, en 10 ans, de 38 % à 66,5%, l'objectif étant bien sûr de parvenir à 90 % d'ici 2015. Notre pays a initié le projet pré-bac de renforcement scolaire qui consiste à recruter des jeunes ayant le niveau du baccalauréat pour permettre ce renforcement. Il est vrai qu'une éducation inclusive de qualité ne peut être atteinte sans des enseignants bien formés et une ouverture vers le monde du travail, l'enseignement technique et la formation professionnelle. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement du Sénégal accorde une priorité absolue à l'enseignement. Aussi se félicite-t-il de l'accompagnement de l'UNESCO à la suite de la sélection de notre pays dans le cadre de l'Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne (TTISSA). Dans le domaine de l'enseignement supérieur également, le Sénégal soutient la volonté de l'UNESCO d'élargir ce programme à tous les États.

14.4 Excellences, au titre du grand programme II, le Sénégal se réjouit de la priorité accordée aux activités de renforcement des systèmes et des politiques scientifiques et technologiques en vue du développement durable. Mon pays accorde en outre beaucoup d'importance à la poursuite de ses activités dans le domaine de l'eau, des écosystèmes et de la prévention. Enfin, Madame la Présidente, je voudrais dire également que le Sénégal encourage l'UNESCO dans son choix de lutter contre la fracture numérique, combat qui est aussi celui du Chef de l'État, Monsieur le Président de la République. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. And now it is a real joy for me to welcome the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Her Excellency Ms Cornelia Pieper.

16.1 **Mme Pieper (Allemagne) :**

Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, chère Irina, Madame la Présidente, chère Katalyn, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, il y a 60 ans de cela, l'Allemagne devenait membre de l'UNESCO. Depuis lors, nous avons contribué à la mission mondiale de l'UNESCO dans pratiquement tous les domaines en partageant notre expertise scientifique et en offrant très largement nos ressources intellectuelles et financières. Les faits dénotent notre attachement à l'UNESCO : nous sommes aujourd'hui le troisième pays contributeur de l'Organisation. Le label UNESCO jouit d'une bonne réputation en Allemagne. En tant que pays d'idée, de tradition culturelle et scientifique riche, nous voulons continuer de soutenir les importants travaux de l'UNESCO et d'y participer activement. Les changements se produisent aujourd'hui à une vitesse inouïe. Nous vivons une ère de rupture : la crise économique et financière nous frappe ; nous ressentons les répercussions du changement environnemental et climatique, qui menace de rayer des pays entiers de la carte. C'est un défi pour les politiques de sécurité. Nous ne résoudrons les problèmes que si la communauté internationale se montre solidaire. Un monde fondé sur une coopération entre partenaires est le meilleur garant de la paix, de la sécurité, du développement et de la prospérité. L'éducation, les sciences, la culture et la communication sont essentiels à cet égard. L'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO n'affirme-t-il pas que la « paix doit être établie sur le fondement de la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de l'humanité » ?

16.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'éducation est notre ressource la plus importante au service d'un monde pacifique. Face à la crise de l'euro, nous ne devons pas craindre d'investir davantage dans l'éducation. Je partage, de ce point de vue, la maxime du grand homme d'État américain qu'était Benjamin Franklin, qui disait : « Un investissement dans le savoir paie toujours les meilleurs intérêts ». L'UNESCO l'a reconnu. Cela fait plus de 200 ans que, pour la première fois, une femme, Dorothea Erxleben, obtenait un doctorat de médecine dans une université allemande. Malgré tous ses efforts budgétaires, le Gouvernement allemand investit 12 millions d'euros supplémentaires dans l'éducation et la recherche sur quatre ans. L'Allemagne coopère activement avec l'UNESCO pour réaliser les conditions du maintien de la paix. Le Gouvernement fédéral a été élu à plusieurs reprises au sein du Conseil exécutif. Il assure à présent la vice-présidence de cette Conférence générale. C'est un signe clair de la confiance que les autres États membres placent dans notre travail à l'UNESCO. Nous nous retirons désormais du Conseil exécutif pour le prochain exercice afin de nous consacrer entièrement à notre candidature au Comité du patrimoine mondial. Nous espérons vivement avoir ainsi l'honneur de faire profiter le Comité de notre expertise de manière plus approfondie encore !

16.3 Même avant ces dernières années, nous avons pu constater que la politique exigeait clairvoyance et discipline pour atteindre des objectifs importants avec des moyens limités. Dans un monde en mutation, les organisations telles que l'UNESCO doivent soumettre leurs structures et leur action à un examen critique encore plus intense et poussé. Des priorités claires, des processus modernes et un cap intransigeant axé sur les résultats participent de cette démarche. Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Ban Ki-moon, a appelé, dans un courrier, toutes les organisations du système à rechercher des moyens de dégager des économies. Ce n'est pas tâche facile.



16.4 Madame la Directrice générale, vous avez clairement exprimé votre détermination concernant la réforme de l'UNESCO. Vous vous êtes également engagée en faveur d'une répartition plus performante du travail avec les autres organisations des Nations Unies. Vous méritez à cet égard toute notre reconnaissance. J'aimerais vous encourager à poursuivre la mise en œuvre des réformes engagées. L'Allemagne souhaite que l'UNESCO soit une organisation forte contribuant de manière efficace à une gestion humaine de la mondialisation. L'Allemagne demeure un partenaire fiable et constructif de l'UNESCO. Nous continuerons à l'avenir à faire notre part pour que l'UNESCO puisse accomplir son importante mission dans le système onusien. Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, vous pouvez compter sur nous. Nous remercions nos partenaires pour leur confiance, merci beaucoup.

17. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Bhutan. Your Excellency Mr Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel, the floor is yours.

18.1 **Mr Powdyel (Bhutan):**

Madam President, Director-General, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Bhutanese delegation, I would like to congratulate you, Dr Katalin Bogyay, on your election to the high office of President of the 36th session of the General Conference. It is an affirmation of your capability and vision that will no doubt steer our august body to ever greater heights of success. We would also like to express our deep commendations to the outgoing President, Dr Davidson Hepburn, for the outstanding manner in which he guided the multifarious functions arising out of the 35th session of the General Conference in his own quintessential Davidson way. It is not always that the dream of a nation so seamlessly coalesces with the vision of an international organization. But here is a rarity. UNESCO's vision of a world of peace and Bhutan's goal of gross national happiness (GNH) are natural allies dedicated to building a better world for all of us and for future generations to live in. UNESCO's thrust areas of education, science and culture, as indeed its focus on sustainable development, find a natural home in the four pillars that support the architecture of gross national happiness – balanced and equitable socio-economic development, conservation of our natural environment, preservation of our cultural heritage, and promotion of good governance.

18.2 We believe that if a nation has a big dream, its education system must affirm and advance it. To this end, Bhutan's Ministry of Education launched a nationwide reform initiative called Educating for Gross National Happiness to be realized by building green schools for a green Bhutan. The elements of a green school encompass the multiple dimensions of the learners' lives - natural, intellectual, academic, social, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic and moral, among others. Our hope is that young men and women brought up in and exposed to such an environment will be able to release goodwill and positive energy to the larger society when they complete their studies and join it. Listening to the many speakers at the Leaders' Forum over the past two days, I had a feeling that green schools might be the answer to the anxieties and concerns that so many speakers expressed over the past two and half days. We entertain no illusions about the challenges such a programme presents. A GNH education programme is far more difficult to realize than a project that merely aspires to increase test scores. But this is also the challenge that pursuing GNH itself is faced with as opposed to following a simplistic one-dimensional GDP path. But what we are seeing in our schools since the launch of the programme in 2010 is already deeply heartening. This is, perhaps, because educating for GNH is not a new fad or fashion imposed on the system. It is essentially a call to return to the core function, the fundamental objective, of education. Education needs a new ethic, a civilizational ethic, if you will, to respond to the needs of our time. The noble sector must rediscover and reassert its nobility. With the United Nations General Assembly having endorsed Bhutan's proposal to include the pursuit of happiness as a goal for the family of nations to aspire to, the programme of educating for gross national happiness assumes even greater importance and urgency today.

18.3 On a more immediate note, we applaud the Director-General and her team for the many critical structural and human resource development reforms that you have initiated to make UNESCO more responsive and efficient in the delivery of its mandate. On our part, Bhutan has mounted concerted efforts to meet the targets of the education for all (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals.. The results are seen in expanded enrolments, achievement of gender parity, lower drop-out rates and higher retention and completion levels. Strategic policy interventions and practical measures have started producing tangible results in provision as well as in quality enhancement. The most important reform initiative will remain the GNH education programme. This project succeeding, Bhutan will be that much closer to being a veritable GNH society, and our education system will be that much closer to being the noble sector that it ought to be. Bhutan and UNESCO working together, we will be able to realize the fullness of our potential and help build a world that we will be proud to leave behind. May this dream be realized in our own time. Thank you. *Tashi Delek.*

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now it is an honour for me to welcome the Minister of Education of Peru, Her Excellency Ms Patricia Salas O'Brien. The floor is yours.

20.1 **Sra. Salas O'Brien (Perú):**

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General de la UNESCO, señora Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, señoras y señores: al asumir el mando, hace pocos meses, el Presidente Ollanta Humala prometió dedicar toda la energía de su Gobierno a sentar las bases que permitan borrar definitivamente de nuestro país el lacerante rostro de la exclusión y la pobreza construyendo "un Perú para todos". Se trata de forjar un espacio nacional, en donde todos y todas podamos vivir en paz, en democracia y con oportunidades suficientes para alcanzar nuestras aspiraciones. Consideramos a la UNESCO como un asociado estratégico para el cumplimiento de este propósito fundamental. Señora Presidenta: el Perú le concede una gran importancia al programa de educación de la UNESCO, y creemos que avanzar no solo hacia una educación para todos sino hacia una buena educación para todos sigue siendo un reto que necesitamos encarar con más decisión y sentido de justicia. A menudo, desde los modelos centrados en la economía, surgen voces que proponen opciones más rentables que contraponen erróneamente equidad y calidad y

hacen que las poblaciones rurales e indígenas y los menores de 5 años sigan recibiendo servicios educativos escasos, precarios o mínimamente satisfactorios. En nuestra opinión, se trata de reconsiderar la noción de rentabilidad para centrarla en la garantía del derecho y en la educación como una fuente de oportunidades para una vida buena, en el plano productivo, en el de la convivencia social y en la relación de las personas con la cultura y la naturaleza.

20.2 Así está declarado en la visión del proyecto educativo nacional del Perú. Crear sistemas educativos eficaces e inclusivos exige colocar a las escuelas, a los niños y a los procesos pedagógicos por encima de los densos y autocentrados sistemas de administración educativa. Exige también cambiar la rigidez, la verticalidad, la uniformidad y el anacronismo de las instituciones escolares. No bastan medidas aisladas y episódicas, por más auspiciosas que parezcan. Si queremos lograr efectividad, calidad e inclusión, necesitamos crear una nueva institucionalidad, en nuestras escuelas y en nuestros sistemas administrativos. En este esfuerzo transformador la UNESCO puede jugar un rol fundamental, difundiendo, vinculando y fortaleciendo experiencias de cambio e innovación. En cuanto al programa de ciencias exactas y naturales, lo consideramos de extrema importancia. Precisamos de una cultura de aprendizaje basada en la curiosidad, la investigación, la innovación y la creatividad. Es indispensable superar la repetición y el pensamiento unidimensional y acrítico si queremos impulsar serias políticas de ciencia, tecnología e innovación y formar parte del conocimiento universal. En el Perú tenemos el propósito de fomentar una amplia participación de niños y adolescentes en las ciencias, la tecnología y la innovación, así como en el fomento de una ciudadanía comprometida con el bien común y, por lo tanto, con el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales. Se deben destacar aprendizajes tan importantes como las capacidades lectoras y matemáticas. En muchos de nuestros países, la pobreza, las desigualdades, la debilidad de las instituciones y la segmentación de sus estructuras sociales son factores propicios de conflictos recurrentes y de violencia, más aún cuando el crecimiento económico no se ha constituido en la oportunidad para impulsar políticas de desarrollo con equidad y sentido de inclusión social. La educación, en ese caso, tiene la responsabilidad de formar una ciudadanía crítica, inclusiva y capaz de formular propuestas, de dialogar y de reconocer al otro, así como de reconocer el bien común y contribuir a la integración en sociedades multiculturales como las nuestras, que respeten los derechos de las personas y posibiliten una convivencia asentada en los principios de la democracia. Este es el campo de las ciencias sociales y la base para propiciar una cultura de paz y de no violencia. En este sentido, las reformas de la institución escolar deben permitir también la superación de prácticas autoritarias y discriminatorias. Confiamos en que la UNESCO pueda fortalecer políticas de investigación y promoción y redes de conocimiento en estos campos.

20.3 La promoción del patrimonio cultural es de gran importancia para nuestro Gobierno y, en ese sentido, reafirmo el compromiso del Perú con el proyecto Qhapaq Ñan, el Principal Camino Andino o el Gran Camino Inca, que involucra a seis países de nuestra región y espera ser inscrito en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial. En este ámbito de la cultura, estamos interesados en promover una sinergia entre la educación y el disfrute de los derechos sociales y culturales. En países como el Perú el aula necesita constituirse en un espacio de aprendizaje del diálogo intercultural y de preparación para la participación en la vida social y económica. En esa perspectiva, cobra vital importancia el desarrollo de habilidades docentes para el diálogo con la diversidad cultural y la empatía con el mundo de los niños y adolescentes, en consonancia con la Observación número 1 del Comité de Derechos Humanos. La diversidad cultural requiere ser aprovechada en sus múltiples posibilidades y contribuir al desarrollo de una civilización respetuosa del ambiente y de los derechos de todos. En el Perú estamos decididos a impulsar una educación genuinamente intercultural desde los primeros años y confiamos en que, con la colaboración de la UNESCO y nuestros demás asociados miembros de esta Organización, podremos cumplir a cabalidad este compromiso. Muchas gracias.

(20.1) **Mme Salas O'Brien (Pérou)** (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs, lors de son investiture il y a quelques mois, le Président Ollanta Humala avait promis que son gouvernement consacrerait toute son énergie à asseoir les bases qui permettraient d'effacer définitivement dans notre pays le visage déchirant de l'exclusion et de la pauvreté, et de bâtir ainsi « un Pérou pour tous ». Il s'agit de créer un espace national au sein duquel nous pourrions tous et toutes vivre en paix et dans la démocratie, avec des possibilités suffisantes pour combler nos aspirations. Nous considérons l'UNESCO comme un associé stratégique pour réaliser ce dessein fondamental. Madame la Présidente, le Pérou attache une grande importance au programme de l'UNESCO en matière d'éducation et considère que la réalisation non seulement d'une éducation pour tous, mais d'une éducation de qualité pour tous, demeure un défi auquel nous devons faire face avec davantage de détermination et un sens accru de la justice. Souvent, dans les modèles axés sur l'économie, des voix s'élèvent pour proposer des solutions plus rentables qui opposent à tort équité et qualité, et font que les populations rurales et autochtones, ainsi que les enfants de moins de cinq ans, continuent de recevoir des services éducatifs limités, précaires ou peu satisfaisants. Selon nous, il conviendrait de revoir la notion de rentabilité pour l'axer sur la garantie des droits, ainsi que sur l'éducation comme source de possibilités pour une vie meilleure sur les plans de la productivité, du vivre ensemble et des rapports des individus avec la culture et la nature.

(20.2) Telle est la vision qui sous-tend le projet éducatif national du Pérou : la création de systèmes éducatifs efficaces et inclusifs exige de faire passer les écoles, les enfants et les processus pédagogiques avant la lourdeur bureaucratique et le nombrilisme de l'administration de l'éducation. Cela exige également de remédier à la rigidité, à la verticalité, à l'uniformité et à l'archaïsme des établissements scolaires. Les mesures isolées et sporadiques, aussi bonnes qu'elles puissent paraître, ne suffisent pas. Si nous voulons atteindre l'efficacité, la qualité et l'inclusion, nous devons mettre en place un nouveau système dans nos écoles et nos administrations. L'UNESCO peut jouer un rôle fondamental à cet égard en assurant la diffusion, la liaison et le renforcement des expériences en matière de changement et d'innovation. Pour ce qui est du programme relatif aux sciences exactes et naturelles, nous pensons qu'il revêt une extrême importance. Nous avons besoin d'une culture de l'apprentissage fondée sur la curiosité, la recherche, l'innovation et la créativité. Il est indispensable d'en finir avec l'imitation et la pensée unique dénuée de sens critique si nous voulons lancer de solides politiques scientifiques, technologiques et d'innovation et contribuer au savoir universel. Au Pérou, nous avons le projet de favoriser une large participation des enfants et des adolescents à la science, à la technologie et à l'innovation, ainsi qu'à la promotion d'une citoyenneté engagée pour l'intérêt général, et donc pour l'exploitation durable des ressources naturelles. Il faut mettre en avant des apprentissages aussi importants que la lecture et les mathématiques. Dans beaucoup de nos pays, la pauvreté, les inégalités, la fragilité des

institutions et la fragmentation sociale sont autant de facteurs de conflits récurrents et de violence, surtout lorsque la croissance économique n'offre pas la possibilité de mettre en œuvre des politiques de développement équitables et axées sur l'inclusion sociale. L'éducation se doit alors de former des citoyens dotés d'un sens critique, sensibles à l'inclusion et capables de formuler des propositions, de dialoguer et de reconnaître l'autre, ainsi que de reconnaître l'intérêt général et de contribuer à l'intégration de chacun dans nos sociétés multiculturelles, qui respectent les droits des personnes et rendent possible une coexistence fondée sur les principes de la démocratie. Cette question relève des sciences sociales et constitue le fondement d'une culture de la paix et de la non-violence. À cet égard, les réformes de l'école doivent aussi permettre d'en finir avec certaines pratiques autoritaires et discriminatoires. Nous avons confiance en l'UNESCO pour renforcer les politiques de la recherche et promouvoir des réseaux de connaissances dans ces domaines.

(20.3) La promotion du patrimoine culturel revêt une immense importance aux yeux de notre Gouvernement. À ce sujet, nous réaffirmons l'engagement du Pérou en faveur du projet Qhapaq Ñan, Chemin Principal Andin ou Grand Chemin Inca, qui associe six pays de notre région et attend d'être inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Dans le domaine de la culture, la promotion de synergies entre l'éducation et l'exercice des droits sociaux et culturels retient tout notre intérêt. Dans des pays comme le Pérou, l'école doit être un lieu d'apprentissage du dialogue interculturel et de préparation à la participation sociale et économique. De ce point de vue, il est extrêmement important de développer les capacités enseignantes en ce qui concerne le dialogue interculturel et l'empathie des enfants et des jeunes à l'égard du monde qui les entoure, conformément à l'Observation générale n° 1 du Comité des droits de l'homme. La diversité culturelle doit être appréciée pour les nombreuses possibilités qu'elle offre et doit contribuer à l'avènement d'une civilisation respectueuse de l'environnement et des droits de chacun. Au Pérou, nous sommes résolus à promouvoir une éducation véritablement interculturelle, dès le plus jeune âge, et nous sommes convaincus qu'avec la collaboration de l'UNESCO et de ses partenaires, nous pourrions tenir cet engagement. Je vous remercie.

**21. The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to welcome the Minister of Education and Skills Development of Botswana, Her Excellency Ms Pelonomi Venson Moitoi. The floor is yours.

**22.1 Ms Venson Moitoi (Botswana):**

Thank you very much, Madam President. In Botswana we believe that education is necessary to keep families together, that education is what helps communities to live and to survive together, that it is education, Madam President, that helps nations collaborate and communicate as we are doing. It is education that makes it possible for all of us to be here coming from all corners of the world. And for this reason we in Botswana believe that education is the only inheritance that a State can give to its citizens in order for its citizens to be members of the global world, members that can be equipped with modern-day tools to survive wherever they may choose to live since it is their freedom to do so. Two years ago we passed a children's act in which we declared education as a right for children, and that anyone who interfered with a child's rights to education would be liable to a fine and imprisonment if it came to that. Madam President, at the same time we in Botswana are members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and signatory to all its conventions, particularly conventions dealing with the right to unionize and the rights of workers to strike. We respect that right. We have in the last two months had to be pushed into a position where we had to choose between the rights of workers, in the form of teachers, to strike and the rights of children to education; because when teachers strike children do not get education and you interfere with their education. It was a point in our governance where we had to pit two competing rights against each other. As Minister of Education in that country I was amongst those that advised that it is always wise, as we have all been educated by our judicial systems, to come down in favour of children. And therefore we should put ourselves in a position where teachers do not strike when children ought to be taught at the same time. We therefore declared education an essential service in Botswana.

22.2 I have picked only this point in my presentation, Madam President, for a clear reason. Botswana is a Member of UNESCO in good standing. We pay our dues each year and I believe on time; if we do not, please let me know before I leave here, because we should. I am about to make a demand which I should not if I am in arrears, but which I will anyway, because I believe as a community of nations and if the interest and the focus for UNESCO in the next several years is to focus on Africa, and on gender equality, we do not have a chance to even touch the first of the Millennium Development Goals if there is no education. In Africa, Madam President, in Africa education is life. ILO defines "essential services" as those that affect "life [...] or health." I know no other because I work with education and I believe honourable colleagues in this house will support me in confirming that if you do not have education you are just as good as dead, because you will not know your rights to health, your rights to survival, and your rights will be trampled upon, which is why education has to be declared an essential. My request is this: UNESCO should please ask our sibling, ILO, to re-write the definition of essential services to include education, because without education we will not go anywhere. This Organization will be hamstrung and I believe I speak for all of us. I thank you, Madam President.

**23. The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I am very happy to give the floor to the Minister of Human Resource Development of India Your Excellency Mr Kapil Sibal, the floor is yours.

**24.1 Mr Sibal (India):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I consider it a singular honour and privilege to participate in this general policy debate. At the outset I wish to thank Dr Davidson Hepburn, the outgoing president of the General Conference. He discharged his onerous duties with dignity and dedication. I wish Madam Bogyay a successful tenure as President.

24.2 These, Madam, are challenging times. Your qualities of empathy and diplomacy will stand us in good stead. Your determination and exuberance will see us through. We are at a critical juncture in history, the past is collapsing, the future uncertain. The shadow of an economic crisis in the developed world lingers. The aspirations of the marginalized and the disempowered are on the rise. The centre of gravity of economic activity is shifting. The established global and

financial structures are under challenge. International organizations must recognize and reflect upon the realities of the contemporary world. We need a new vision, a fresh resolve. The information and communication technology (ICT) revolution has changed the dynamics of conversations and interactions within nations and beyond territorial boundaries. Technologies have connected people like never before. We need to redefine our roles and relationships within the global order. Tomorrow's young people will catalyse and be at the forefront of the change we badly need. But we need to empower them. We will fail our future generations if we do not create the necessary environment for their self-realization. Education is the only real tool of empowerment. Western nations and East Asia reap the benefits of the demographic dividend.

24.3 Now the fruits of this dividend are seeded in India, the Middle East and Africa. The youth here represents the powerhouse of the global economy. If we fail them, they will fail us. We in this great assembly must realize and accept the fact that the nature and idiom of education has changed. Apart from conquering new frontiers of knowledge, we need knowledge to solve problems, everyday problems of ordinary people. They are the new aspirants emerging from the ICT revolution. The solutions we provide them must be accessible and affordable. The idiom of education has changed also because the nature of learning has changed. Information moves across borders freely. It is shared instantaneously. Collaborative knowledge generation will be at the heart of education. Only through shared knowledge will we be able to resolve the challenges that confront the global community. Added to this is the reality of the increasing hiatus between the rich and the poor within and between nations, the disconnect between the two sides of the digital divide. The resource-rich continue to be poor. So let us pledge to empower our young; let us enrich them with the tools needed to protect their future.

24.4 Last year India achieved an historic milestone; we constitutionally protected the right to elementary education by enacting and enabling legislation. We have been implementing it with effect from 1 April 2010. Quality of education, however, continues to remain a concern. Literacy in the twenty-first century will carry a different connotation: it will no longer mean knowledge of the three Rs, but the ability to connect and comprehend the digital world. We have taken the lead in attempting to develop an access device called the Aakash that aims to provide a medium for every child to access the digital world and to learn from the vast repositories of knowledge contained therein. Aakash presently costs less than \$50 and our endeavour is to further reduce the cost to less than \$35. We are going to provide Aakash to every student in higher education and gradually to every child in secondary education. This is that device. We dedicate this device to the children of the world; we will equip our children with the tools to face the challenges of the twenty-first century. And, may I have the honour, Madam President, to present you with this device as a symbol meant for the children of the world, at the end of my speech. I also believe that the nature of delivery of educational services in higher education is changing rapidly; it may be too early to write the epitaph of the classroom, but the classrooms of the twenty-first century will be different from those that served us in the past. The content of pedagogy, too, will be radically altered. The silos that fragmented knowledge have already started collapsing; customized learning across cultures will be the dominate theme of higher education. We need to open up the university as learning space, embrace collaborative knowledge production and break down the walls between institutions. The university as a physical entity may no longer remain the unit of learning space. The twentieth century witnessed an era of confrontation; the world stood divided. Let the twenty-first century usher in an era of collaboration that will help us unite the world. That is the change we desire, that is the change we want to see. Let UNESCO be at the forefront of that change. I have no doubt that the Director-General under her able leadership will endeavour to position UNESCO in such a way as to help us realize the aspirations of future generations. I wish the delegates to this conference fruitful consultation in the days ahead. Let us usher in a new era of partnerships in education, science and culture, the three pillars of a collaborative twenty-first century. Thank you.

25. **The President:**

Thank you so much for that Your Excellency, and, of course, for your poems. And now it is a great joy for me to welcome the Minister of Education of Mozambique His Excellency Mr Zeferino Martins. The floor is yours.

26.1 **Mr Martins (Mozambique):**

*(Statement delivered in Portuguese; interpretation into English):*

Madam President of the 36th General Conference of UNESCO, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, heads of delegations, I would like first of all to congratulate you warmly, Madam President, on your election to guide the work of this conference. We have no doubt that under your wise leadership the work of our conference can but be successful. Now this conference is taking place at a very crucial time when the commitments undertaken by the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are nearing their 2015 deadline. The Government of Mozambique has made considerable efforts with the help of international partners to achieve these objectives, especially in the various social areas and in particular education. In spite of all this, my country continues to face difficulties due mainly to the lack of financial resources. We commend the choice of the theme of this conference, Africa and gender equality. This indeed reflects the recognition by the Member States of the United Nations that the international community as a whole has made substantial efforts to implement and consolidate democracy and promote peace and economic development in Africa. We recognize also that the results that have been achieved to date will only be sustainable if women and girls are active participants in this process. We also welcome the strategic vision of UNESCO presented in document 36 C/3 and listing the various challenges and proposals before Member States and international organizations that will need to be taken up by the various actors. We need to work in a concerted and coordinated manner in order to mitigate the devastating impact of the international crisis that has affected the world at large. We need to transform the challenges into opportunities by defining new strategies with respect to cooperation between Mozambique and UNESCO. I would like to remind you that the Island of Mozambique was proclaimed a world heritage site in 1991. In 2005, UNESCO proclaimed two dances, Timbila and Nyao, part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. Mozambique certainly does not intend to halt the process of inscription of its heritage as world cultural heritage. We have other sites that could be added. Now what is worrisome is that, since the

designation of the Island of Mozambique as a world heritage site in 1991, this status has not translated into practical benefits. We have not been able to take full advantage of this in a way that serves the local communities. Indeed, young people account for about 30% of the population of the Island of Mozambique, and the implementation of an integrated plan, a programme of restoration of the Island of Mozambique, is necessary. This could promote job opportunities for young people and for the population of the island in general.

26.2 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, we are convinced that significant progress has been achieved in the process of cooperation between Mozambique and UNESCO, especially in the area of science and technology. We note with satisfaction that the support provided by UNESCO to my government's programmes in this field, has contributed to the establishment of community multimedia centres in many regions throughout the country. With this initiative, we have succeeded in expanding access to new information and communication technologies by rural communities, and through these centres we have implemented an innovative policy in terms of significantly improved nutrition habits, healthcare and agricultural production. We appreciate the support UNESCO is providing for the Water Research Institute in Mozambique, an institution through which we aim to improve the utilization and management of water resources on the basis of science and technology. The Government of Mozambique attaches particular importance to the promotion of participation by girls and women in science and technology. For example, in 2003 the government instituted a Science Prize for Women and Girls. In the area of education, the government has done everything to expand the educational system. A programme was implemented to build schools and to distribute school books free of charge, and the Ministry of Education has completely eliminated school fees for primary education. This, of course, has led to a considerable increase in school enrolment. We note with great pride that 48% of students in primary education are girls. In secondary education they represent 46% of students. We have a population of 23 million people; there are 6.5 million students enrolled in the national education system.

26.3 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, Mozambique shares the same concern as the rest of the international community: respect for the need to protect and preserve our planet Earth. A Presidential Initiative was launched in 2005, called "One Student, One Plant". Thanks to this initiative, between 2005 and 2011 we have managed to plant over 19,300,000 plants, mainly trees, fruit trees and shade trees. This has contributed to the reforestation of our beautiful country and in reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

26.4 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude this statement by wishing every success to the work of the 36th session of the General Conference. Thank you very much.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now it is a great joy for me to welcome the Minister of Education of Culture of Latvia, Her Excellency Ms Zaneta Jaunzeme-Grende. The floor is yours.

28.1 **Ms Jaunzeme-Grende (Latvia):**

Madam President of the General Conference, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, it is my honour to congratulate Her Excellency Ms Katalin Bogyay on her election as President of the General Conference. In the name of the Latvia delegation we wish her success, endurance and strength in her duties. Latvia endorses the statement of the European Union to be made during this debate by the honourable representative of Poland. In order to take the discussion further, please allow me to elaborate on the views of Latvia regarding the current role and the importance of UNESCO.

28.2 Colleagues, in the current world the many crises we are facing - economic, environmental and social - have clearly shown that we are in the middle of global changes. Huge changes are also taking place at the national level worldwide. Many of the crises are of a kind we might never have imagined. We are also experiencing growing confusion and distrust in global players, fear of interdependency and lack of trust, while at the same time being repeatedly called upon to find global solutions and responses and common yet differentiated strategies. It has become clear that we ourselves need to transform the very way we think and act. Current UNESCO reform and the repositioning process are timely and totally relevant and we support the Director-General in her work towards this aim. And I say this with the conviction that we need UNESCO maybe more than ever. Latvia strongly believes that UNESCO has an ever-growing role to play in redefining the paradigm of development and promoting good government by taking true leadership in its mandated area: education, science and culture. Or, as the Director-General has stated, by promoting a new humanism through all our actions. We cannot continue to measure development on the basis of economic figures alone. The prime goal of development includes cultural and social well-being, social inclusiveness, possibilities for all human beings to fulfil themselves over their lifetime, preservation of cultural diversity, memory and heritage, ensuring learning opportunities for all: sharing knowledge and information, and creating innovations.

28.3 Colleagues, while one can say that UNESCO has already been doing an excellent job through various programmes and projects along these lines and we clearly agree that much of UNESCO's action is of a high quality, we also have to acknowledge that we still often fall short of success on a world scale in making our vision heard and respected. We need to be more focused and united in our efforts and see our actions in a more holistic, disciplinary and complementary manner. This is very new thinking, and action starts with our working together. By stating this I am not saying anything particularly new; as it is already stated in the Constitution. It can be done firstly by fulfilling its mandate as the United Nations specialized agency in all its fields of competence; and secondly, by ensuring the sustainability and continuity of UNESCO's vision through Member States' ownership and commitment to UNESCO's goals. Let us remember what the Constitution of UNESCO says: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." What currently is possible is to really make it work. Not only at the level of international debate and discourse, but most importantly through action on the ground. Colleagues, having said this, I highlight especially the national-level responsiveness to and involvement in this process of repositioning UNESCO.

Latvia believes that only through true ownership of UNESCO and its vision at the national level can we succeed in addressing and responding to the global challenges. Even more, on the ground UNESCO represents and is expected to be the laboratory of ideas, the capacity-builder, the standard- setter, the clearing house and the catalyst for international cooperation. For this to succeed, strong and proactive roles for National Commissions are crucial. They are strong and very valuable links to all government institutions, afford independent advice by intellectuals and experts as well as civil society, and allow for a direct voice to UNESCO's strategies internationally. Therefore, in the next biennium, in all activities, their capacity should be strengthened, not only in terms of finance but also conceptually.

28.4 Delegates, Latvia joined UNESCO 20 years ago after gaining its independence; this entailed making a commitment to UNESCO's Constitution. Since then we have undergone a substantial transformation process: education, science and culture helped reinforce parts of this transformation but have also been the driving force for Latvia to highlight its distinctive values and knowledge in order to develop as a self-aware, proud and united country. Our experience is our value. Dear delegates and colleagues, in conclusion I just want to say that UNESCO will be as strong as we will allow it to be. Let us do it. Thank you for your attention. Thank you.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Bahamas, His Excellency Mr Desmond Bannister. The floor is yours, Sir.

30.1 **Mr Bannister (Bahamas):**

Thank you. Madam President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, colleagues, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I am honoured to have this opportunity to address you at this 36th session of the General Conference, and to thank all of you for the support that you have given to a fellow Bahamian and world citizen, Dr Davidson Hepburn, during his tenure as President of the 35th session of the General Conference of this venerable body. You will agree that Dr Hepburn executed his duties with great passion and that he embodied all of the values which UNESCO stands for, namely peace, respect for culture and the environment and, most importantly, promoting equality of all people of the world. Although he has only recently demitted office, I am certain that he will continue to promote these ideals, even if he embarks on what now appears to be a promising career in music. We are thankful that through Dr Hepburn's efforts UNESCO hosted two significant events in the Bahamas: the UNESCO Handicraft Exhibition and the Experts Meeting on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States. The experts meeting permitted us to actively participate in the dialogue on the critical issue of climate change and to benefit from the vast pool of knowledge which was readily available during the conference. The handicraft exhibition highlighted the fact that this industry may significantly assist in our quest to eradicate poverty among youth and among the marginalized in society. Accordingly, we have this month completed the construction of a new Straw Market in historic downtown Nassau to accommodate 544 vendors and craftsmen. We have also passed legislation to ensure that only indigenous products may be sold in this new market, as we view the development of the handicraft industry as a vehicle which will permit us to create new opportunities and linkages for Bahamian artisans and entrepreneurs.

30.2 Madam President, we are less than two and half years away from the close of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In the Bahamas we have worked steadily towards the achievement of the goals to which this period subscribes. Every child in the Bahamas now has access to free primary school education and free high school education in his or her community. Having achieved these access goals, we have now focused on educational reform to ensure that education in the Bahamas remains relevant to the needs of our society. At the same time we have initiated a number of programmes to uplift boys since on a national scale boys lag behind girls in academic achievement. Our reform encompasses preschool to tertiary education. We continue to establish more stand-alone preschool units and to incorporate more preschool units into our primary schools, thereby providing greater access to free public preschool education. Madam President, we believe that if a solid educational foundation is provided for the youngest children, we will be investing in a brighter future for all.

30.3 Madam President, we remain mindful that students with special needs also require quality education. Accordingly, a very important component of our reform plan is focused directly on this population. We continue to integrate special needs units and autistic units into preschools and primary schools, and prevocational units for special needs students into high schools. I am pleased to report that our Centre for the Deaf has incorporated a production of straw craft into the curriculum. The quality of the work that is produced by these students is exceptional and affords them the opportunity to be self-employed in this multi-million dollar industry.

30.4 Madam President, technical and vocational education offerings are being streamlined with national development goals so as to ensure that we have a technically skilled workforce; and this year we have opened a Career Academy as a major thrust in equipping students with skills for the job market in the areas of hospitality management, construction trades and business studies. Madam President, in the Bahamas much of our curriculum has been indigenized with a view to ensuring that students may acquire global concepts, easier within a cultural context. In this respect, we have developed language arts material that has won a Commonwealth Best Practices Honourable Mention award for content.

30.5 Madam President, I conclude in saying, like you: we firmly believe that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development. Accordingly, we continue to invest the lion's share of our national budget in education so as to ensure that we remain focused on the task of educating global citizens. Thank you and good afternoon.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now I give the floor to the Minister of Culture of Montenegro, His Excellency Mr Branislav Mićunović. Your Excellency the floor is yours.

### 32.1 **Mr Mićunović** (Montenegro):

Distinguished Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, dear delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to address the General Conference on behalf of the one of the youngest Members of Organization, Montenegro, that has enjoyed full membership since March 2007. In this short period of time, a lot has been achieved. The most important is the fact that the visibility and understanding of UNESCO has been significantly raised among the general public. Four and a half years of cooperation of Montenegro with the Organization have resulted in some great achievements. It is my pleasure to inform you of the progress that Montenegro has achieved in the last two years and to present some of those results. We have adopted four new cultural heritage laws: the law on protection of cultural properties, the Museum Service Act, the Archive Service Act and the Library Service Act. Great progress in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention has been made. Specifically, the draft law on protection of the natural cultural-historical region of Kotor has recently been adopted by the Government of Montenegro together with the draft management plan of the natural and cultural-historical region of Kotor. Both documents are now in the process of public discussion. We are currently preparing the nomination dossier for the inscription of Cetinje on the World Heritage List. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Culture Sector for its continuous support and help in this and all other activities relating to the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of Montenegro and the South Eastern European region as a whole.

32.2 The Government of Montenegro recently decided on the establishment of the Regional Centre for Management of Cultural Heritage which will be a candidate for designation as a UNESCO category 2 centre. The centre of excellence, with its experts, is seen as a platform for capacity building, policy advice and dissemination of good practices. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank Ms Bokova for her support for this initiative. Special attention has been given to the intangible cultural heritage since the adoption of a set of new national laws, which lay down the formal operational framework together with the UNESCO Convention. A national workshop on intangible cultural heritage, the first of its kind, organized with the support of the UNESCO Office in Venice, is taking place in Montenegro at this moment. One of the best examples of regional cooperation is the multinational nomination of Stecci – Medieval Tombstones for their inscription on the World Heritage List, a joint initiative of four countries of South Eastern Europe (Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia). Last week we held a joint exhibition of this initiative that was simultaneously opened in all four countries. All countries in South Eastern Europe warmly welcomed the new initiative “Heritage and Dialogue” proposed by the Director-General as a renewed opportunity for the enhancement of international cooperation of South Eastern Europe.

32.3 Education for all has been implemented with the support of the Government of Montenegro, which adopted the National Action Plan for the implementation of the programme until 2015. The action plan contributed greatly to the planning and management of the education system with the focus on the improvement of quality and primary and secondary education of marginalized groups. Taking into consideration National Commissions’ important contribution to the mission of UNESCO and significant role in connecting UNESCO with civil society, we restructured our National Commission and now more than one third of our membership is represented by the civil sector. Besides, convinced as we are that the role of youth should be further strengthened, we established the Programme Committee for Youth and Education in order to support the innovative educational programmes addressed to youth.

32.4 Ladies and gentlemen, for the purpose of achieving greater results in all our activities, further efforts will be made. It is a continuous challenge to identify the issues of modern societies and learn how to better respond to the new challenges. Being aware that it is our shared responsibility to better understand each other’s role, within the role of the Organization, Montenegro reaffirms its determination to further promote the principles of UNESCO, convinced that commitment, joint contribution and the ideas of all will result in a stronger Organization. Thank you for your attention.

### 33. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Côte d’Ivoire, Her Excellency Ms Kandia Camara. The floor is yours.

### 34.1 **Mme Camara** (Côte d’Ivoire) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, l’histoire de l’UNESCO retiendra que la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale s’est déroulée au moment où ses trois organes directeurs avaient, à leur tête, trois dames d’expérience et de compétence : Mesdames Katalin Bogay, Présidente de la Conférence générale, Eleonora Mitrofanova, Présidente du Conseil exécutif, et Irina Bokova, Directrice générale. Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection, qui consacre vos qualités personnelles, que, sans doute, vous saurez mettre au service de notre Organisation commune lors de cette session. Madame la Directrice générale, la Côte d’Ivoire vous exprime toute sa reconnaissance pour votre sollicitude constante et pour le souffle nouveau basé sur l’humanisme que vous avez entrepris d’impulser à l’UNESCO et qui donne, depuis deux ans, des signes encourageants en termes d’efficacité et de crédibilité. Qu’il me soit permis d’adresser les remerciements sincères de mon pays à Mme Eleonora Mitrofanova, Présidente du Conseil exécutif, et à M. Davidson Hepburn, Président sortant, pour leur compétence.

34.2 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, le monde est actuellement confronté à de nombreux défis liés à des catastrophes naturelles – les inondations survenues récemment en Thaïlande, le séisme en Turquie, etc. Si ces calamités sont souvent indépendantes de l’action des hommes, force est de reconnaître que ce n’est pas le cas pour nombre d’entre elles. Parallèlement, nous vivons tous une crise pluridimensionnelle : financière, morale, sociale et, parfois, politique. C’est surtout en Afrique que ces phénomènes sont le plus ressentis, car ils viennent se greffer sur la pauvreté extrême des populations. Madame la Présidente, devant une telle situation, c’est en Afrique que l’UNESCO voit

la spécificité de sa mission d'édificatrice de paix se confirmer davantage dans tous ses domaines de compétence. C'est pourquoi ma délégation félicite l'Organisation pour les actions déjà accomplies, tout en reconnaissant que beaucoup reste encore à faire, et approuve le Projet de programme et de budget contenu dans le document 36 C/5.

34.3 Madame la Présidente, pour préparer nos enfants à devenir des citoyens responsables et capables de faire face à tous ces défis, il convient de bâtir des systèmes éducatifs de qualité, inclusifs et pertinents. Dans cette perspective, la Côte d'Ivoire, estimant qu'après la crise qu'elle a vécue, la reprise d'une vie normale passe par l'école, a introduit dans les curricula un programme d'éducation aux droits de l'homme, à la gestion pacifique des conflits et à la citoyenneté ; ce programme est à renforcer et à étendre à l'enseignement supérieur. L'accent, selon nous, doit être mis également sur l'alphabétisation, l'éducation des filles, l'enseignement technique et la formation professionnelle, l'enseignement des TIC, ainsi que sur le renforcement des capacités des formateurs. À cet égard, la redynamisation de l'Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne prévue par l'UNESCO doit être encouragée, envisagée aussi, en Côte d'Ivoire. S'agissant des sciences exactes et naturelles, nous estimons que les politiques scientifiques doivent pouvoir mettre la science au service des populations afin d'améliorer leurs conditions de vie.

34.4 Madame la Présidente, ma délégation voudrait encourager l'UNESCO, notamment la Commission mondiale d'éthique des connaissances scientifiques et des technologies (COMEST), à donner une assise normative aux attitudes et comportements de l'homme vis-à-vis du phénomène de changement climatique, pour une plus grande responsabilisation de l'humanité. Le Programme MOST retient notre attention pour favoriser l'intégration sociale et la consolidation de la cohésion sociale dans les pays en situation de post-conflit en général, et le nôtre en particulier. En outre, l'UNESCO a réaffirmé le lien intrinsèque qui existe entre la culture et le développement, raison pour laquelle mon pays, en situation de post-conflit, souhaiterait qu'elle apporte un appui au Musée des civilisations d'Abidjan, victime de vandalisme et de pillage pendant la crise. Par ailleurs, nous attendons avec beaucoup d'espoir l'inscription de la ville historique de Grand-Bassam sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Pour ce qui est de la communication et de l'information, ma délégation souhaite que l'accent soit mis sur l'éthique et la déontologie par l'amélioration des curricula dans les écoles de journalisme et de médias, car la liberté d'expression et la liberté de la presse constituent un élément central de l'édification de la démocratie. Madame la Présidente, l'UNESCO est la conscience morale de l'humanité. Elle doit le demeurer et continuer de l'exprimer, plus encore aujourd'hui qu'hier, afin de transformer la page blanche de l'histoire en un véritable symbole d'espérance et de paix. Je vous remercie.

#### 35. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Libya, His Excellency Mr Suliman Elshahley.

٣٦,١ السيد السهلي (ليبيا):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب السعادة رؤساء الوفود، أيتها السيدات، أيها السادة، استحووا لي في البداية أن استعطر شأبيب الرحمة على أرواح شهداء ثورة السابع عشر من شباط/فبراير، الذين نقشوا في سجل الخلود ملحمة أسطورية في النضال ضد أعتى وأشرس دكتاتوريات العصر. هذه الثورة التي سيظل وهجها نبراساً تستنير به الشعوب وتوارثه الأجيال عبر التاريخ.

٣٦,٢ أيتها السيدات، أيها السادة، إنه لمن دواعي سروري أن أقف أمام حضراتكم لأمثل بلدي الحبيب ليبيا في هذا المنتدى العالمي، بعد أن تم تحريرها من برائن الظلم والطغيان. وكلّي فخر واعتزاز بما حققه أبناء شعبي البطل من أمجاد. كما يسرني باسم المجلس الوطني الانتقالي، والمكتب التنفيذي، وباسمي وأعضاء الوفد المرافق أن أتوجه بالتحية والتهنئة إلى السيدة كتالين بوغياي على انتخابها رئيسة للمؤتمر العام، وأتوجه أيضاً بالتحية إلى السيدة إيلانورا ميتروفونوا، رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، وأهنئها على نجاحها في إدارة المجلس خلال الفترة الماضية. وأن أؤمن عالياً من خلالها جهود المجلس، خاصة التوصية التي تدعو إلى قبول فلسطين عضواً في هذه المنظمة، والقرارات المتعلقة بالمحافظة على التراث الفلسطيني الإنساني وحمانيته. كما أتقدم بالتحية والتقدير بشكل خاص إلى السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرية العامة، وذلك لما قدمته من دعم، مثل الإعلان عن إيقاف جميع أشكال التعاون مع النظام السابق وما قامت به من مساندة للشعب الليبي.

٣٦,٣ أيتها السيدات، أيها السادة، إن هبوب رياح التغيير التي أدت إلى بزوغ فجر الربيع العربي هو دلالة واضحة على رغبة الشعوب في التخلص من قيود الظلم والاستبداد، والسير قدماً نحو مستقبل أفضل يسوده الأمن والاستقرار، وانتشار المعرفة، وتسخير العلم لخدمة الإنسانية، وهذا ما ينسجم مع الأهداف السامية لمنظمتنا، لا سيما نشر ثقافة السلام والعدل والمساواة بين كافة البشر، دوئاً تمييز بسبب العرق أو الجنس أو اللغة أو الدين.

٣٦,٤ السيدات والسادة، رؤساء الوفود المجتمعين، السادة الحضور الكرام، من أهم الأهداف التي قامت من أجلها ثورة السابع عشر من فبراير، إلى جانب حرية الرأي وحماية حقوق الإنسان وصون كرامته، وإقامة دولة القانون والمؤسسات، هو إتاحة الفرصة لجميع أبناء شعبنا في الحصول على تعليم أفضل، بدون إقصاء أو تهميش لأي فئة أو أقلية. وهذا ما يسعى إليه المجلس الوطني الانتقالي المؤقت والمكتب التنفيذي، إذ إنه حرص على إعادة فتح أبواب المدارس وبدء العملية التعليمية بالرغم من الصعوبات الجمة التي كانت تواجهها بلادنا، وذلك يقيناً منا بأن السير في العملية التعليمية من شأنه أن يدعم الشعور بالأمان ويساهم في زرع الاستقرار وعودة الحياة إلى مسارها الطبيعي. وهذا ما نعتبره نقطة الانطلاق الحقيقية نحو إعادة بناء المجتمع الليبي الجديد.

٣٦,٥ أيتها السيدات، أيها السادة، لقد دأبت منظمة اليونسكو، منذ استقلال ليبيا في مطلع الخمسينيات من القرن الماضي، على مساعدتنا في مجال التعليم ونشر المعرفة. واليوم، ونحن نتطلع إلى مستقبل مشرق، نأمل توطيد وزيادة التعاون مع اليونسكو، وسنعمل على تفعيل كافة الاتفاقيات العلمية والتربوية والثقافية مع هذه المنظمة باعتبارها بيتاً للخبرة والعلم. ونحترم ونقدر أهمية دورها الفاعل في تحقيق واستتباب الأمن والسلم العالميين، وترسيخ ثقافة السلام ونبذ العنف. وقد اتخذت المنظمة في ذلك سبلاً عدة منذ إنشائها. وما ورد في ميثاق المنظمة ("لما كانت الحروب تتولد في عقول البشر، ففي عقولهم يجب أن تبنى حصون السلام") هو التزام أخلاقي يجب أن نسعى جميعاً إلى تحقيقه، وهذا لا يتأتى إلا بترويض الديمقراطية والإصغاء إلى صوت الشعوب واحترام إرادتها، لتنتقل نحو الإبداع والابتكار واحترام حقوق الإنسان في كافة المجالات، وخاصة في مجالات التعليم، وتعليم المرأة على وجه الخصوص.

٣٦,٦ أيها الحضور الكريم، إن المجلس الوطني الانتقالي المؤقت والمكتب التنفيذي ليعبران للمجتمع الدولي وللمنظمات الإقليمية والدولية وعلى رأسها مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربي، وجامعة الدول العربية، ومنظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي، والاتحاد الأوروبي، والأمم المتحدة، ومنظمة اليونسكو عن بالغ شكرهما وتقديرهما



العميقين لوقوفهم إلى جانب الشعب الليبي. وفي الختام، أدعو الله أن يتمتعنا بالأمن والسلام والعدل، وأن يوفقنا في العمل معاً دولاً وشعوباً ومنظمات، على تحقيق تطلعات شعوبنا في كافة المجالات. عاشت ليبيا حرة، مستقلة، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(36.1) **M. Elsahley** (Libye) (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et messieurs les chefs de délégation, permettez-moi tout d'abord d'implorer la miséricorde de Dieu pour les âmes des martyrs de la révolution du 17 février, qui ont gravé dans le registre de l'éternité une épopée légendaire de la lutte contre l'une des dictatures les plus arrogantes et féroces de notre époque ; cette révolution demeurera un phare à la lumière duquel s'éclaireront les peuples et dont hériteront les générations à venir à travers l'histoire.

(36.2) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand plaisir que de me tenir devant vous pour représenter mon cher pays, la Libye, dans cette enceinte mondiale, après qu'il a été libéré des griffes de l'oppression et de la tyrannie. Je suis extrêmement fier des glorieux exploits qu'ont accomplis les fils de mon peuple héroïque. Au nom du Conseil national de transition et de son Bureau exécutif ainsi qu'en mon nom propre et en celui des membres de ma délégation, j'ai le grand plaisir de transmettre nos salutations et nos félicitations à Madame Katalin Bogyay pour son élection à la présidence de la Conférence générale. J'adresse également mes salutations à Madame Elenora Mitrofanova, Présidente du Conseil exécutif, et je la félicite pour sa gestion du Conseil pendant son mandat. J'apprécie également beaucoup les efforts du Conseil, en particulier sa recommandation d'accepter la Palestine comme membre de cette Organisation, et les décisions qu'il a prises en faveur du maintien et de la protection du patrimoine humain palestinien. J'exprime aussi mes salutations et mon appréciation à Madame Irina Bokova, la Directrice générale, pour son soutien, pour la déclaration dans laquelle elle a mis fin à toute coopération avec le régime précédent et pour l'assistance qu'elle a prêtée au peuple libyen.

(36.3) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, le vent du changement qui a donné naissance à l'aube du Printemps arabe est une preuve éclatante du désir des peuples de se débarrasser des entraves de l'oppression et de l'arbitraire afin d'aller de l'avant vers un avenir meilleur où règnent la sécurité et la stabilité, où se répand la connaissance et où la science se mobilise au service de l'humanité. Voilà qui est en harmonie avec les nobles objectifs de notre Organisation, et plus particulièrement la diffusion de la culture de paix, la justice et l'égalité entre tous les hommes, sans discrimination fondée sur la race, le genre, la langue ou la religion.

(36.4) Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation ici présents et tous les autres éminents participants, parmi les principaux objectifs de la révolution du 17 février, on peut sans aucun doute citer – outre la liberté d'expression, la défense des droits de l'homme et la protection de la dignité humaine, ou encore l'établissement de l'état de droit et ses institutions – l'octroi à tous nos concitoyens de l'accès à une éducation meilleure, sans exclusion ni marginalisation de quelque catégorie ou minorité que ce soit. Voilà ce que recherchent le Conseil national temporaire de transition et son Bureau exécutif, qui tentent de rouvrir les écoles et de redémarrer le processus éducatif en dépit des nombreuses difficultés auxquelles notre pays est confronté. Nous sommes certains que le progrès sur la voie de la restauration du système éducatif sera de nature à renforcer le sentiment de sécurité et contribuera à ramener la stabilité de telle sorte que la vie puisse reprendre son cours normal. Nous considérons cela comme le véritable point de départ vers la reconstruction de la société libyenne sous un jour nouveau.

(36.5) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, depuis l'accession de la Libye à l'indépendance, au début des années 1950, l'UNESCO nous aide dans les domaines de l'éducation et de la diffusion de la connaissance. Maintenant que nous contempons un avenir resplendissant, nous espérons consolider et intensifier notre coopération avec l'UNESCO. Nous nous efforcerons de redynamiser tous les accords scientifiques, éducatifs et culturels conclus avec cette Organisation, qui est la maison de l'expertise et de la science. Nous respectons et apprécions son rôle actif aux titres de la réalisation et de la consolidation de la paix et de la sécurité internationales, de l'enseignement d'une culture de paix et du rejet de la violence. L'Organisation a mis en place de nombreux moyens à cet effet. La célèbre phrase de son Acte constitutif – « les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix » – constitue un engagement éthique que nous nous devons tous de chercher à honorer. Ce ne sera possible qu'en prônant la démocratie, l'écoute de la voix des peuples et le respect de leur volonté afin de rendre possible l'innovation, la créativité et le respect des droits de l'homme dans tous les domaines, et plus particulièrement dans celui de l'éducation, à commencer par l'éducation des femmes.

(36.6) Distingués délégués, le Conseil national de transition et son Bureau exécutif expriment à la communauté internationale et aux organisations régionales et internationales – en premier lieu le Conseil de coopération des États arabes du Golfe, la Ligue des États arabes, l'Organisation de la conférence islamique, l'Union européenne, l'ONU et l'UNESCO – leurs profonds remerciements et leur appréciation pour le soutien qu'elles ont apporté au peuple libyen. En conclusion, je prie Dieu qu'il nous accorde la paix, la sécurité et la justice et qu'il nous permette de mener à bien le travail que nous accomplissons conjointement, pays, peuples et organisations, aux fins de la réalisation des aspirations de nos peuples dans tous les domaines. Vive la Libye indépendante ! Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Science Research and Sport of Slovakia to take the floor. Your Excellency, Mr Eugen Jurzyca, the floor is yours.

38.1 **Mr Jurzyca** (Slovakia):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to address the UNESCO General Conference, the supreme political and decision-making body of this universal Organization in the field of education, culture, science, communication and information. Madam President, I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of your duties as the President of the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. At the same time, let me express our appreciation to your predecessor, Mr Davidson Hepburn, for his dedication and guidance of the 35th session of the General Conference and in the preparation of this session as well.

38.2 Madam President, Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and would like to present some additional remarks. Madam President, education, culture, science, communication and information constitute an important part of our life wherever we live and whatever we do. They significantly contribute to the satisfaction of our material and spiritual needs, interests and aspirations. UNESCO, like

other international organizations and the Member States, has to face new global challenges and problems. UNESCO, within its mandate, has a significant role in the process of fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, in helping to overcome the current difficulties related to illiteracy or poverty, or the negative impact of climate change, to mention just a few. The Slovak Republic, within its capacity and possibilities, contributes to the fulfilment of UNESCO goals.

38.3 Let me now briefly touch upon the main segments of UNESCO activities and how Slovakia evaluates them from the global challenges point of view. Education. The education for all (EFA) programme and education for sustainable development (ESD) play a decisive role and we share the opinion that we have to focus on Africa and on the issue of gender equity. Improvement of the quality of education based on securing more information on learning outcomes, decreasing information asymmetry, is a challenge that requires more attention also from us, politicians, and everybody involved in creating more favourable conditions for life and education. Education of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of population also requires special attention. In Slovakia mainly Roma people are concerned. As this is a large and difficult issue, we offer our experience and call upon UNESCO for closer cooperation in tackling this problem. We appreciate that the first steps in this direction have already been taken.

38.4 In the area of science we would like to stress not only the important role of science and technology for social development and society and each individual but also of ethics in science and technology. Slovakia supports and associates itself with the UNESCO action plan in this field, and, as regards its implementation in Slovakia, we have established a special department of bioethics, which contributes not only to building the relevant knowledge but to enhancing the visibility of the programme and UNESCO as well. In the field of communication and information, Slovakia supports UNESCO's irreplaceable role in this sector which is dynamic not only in technology but in terms of social consequences as well. The Government of the Slovak Republic has set as one of its key priorities the building of a knowledge-based society, a society which is inclusive and in which each individual can participate and profit from innovation and value.

38.5 Madam President, it is evident that the new global challenges and accumulated problems cannot be solved by the old-fashioned methods and without adequate reforms by the relevant actors within the international community. Slovakia welcomes the fact that UNESCO seeks also to contribute to effective responses to the global crisis through action in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, which are the proper domains and areas of competence of UNESCO.

38.6 Madam Director-General, Slovakia welcomes the reforms you have engaged in the organization and management of UNESCO, leading to its higher quality, efficiency and visibility. We will be supporting you and your team and encourage you to persist in your effort. Thank you for your attention.

39. **The President:**

Your Excellency, thank you very much for your statement. Now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr Nurul Islam Nahid. The floor is yours.

40.1 **Mr Islam Nahid (Bangladesh):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on your election as President of the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. I also express my deep appreciation of His Excellency Mr Davidson L Hepburn and I would like to express our full confidence in the dynamic leadership of Ms Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO.

40.2 Madam President, I come from a country which is ranked 93rd in the world in terms of its area but ranked eighth in the world in terms of population. We are a nation of more than 150 million people. In terms of per capita carbon emission our rank is at the bottom of the list of the countries in the world. But we are one of the few most vulnerable countries when you consider the adverse impact of climate change. Bangladesh is highly committed to UNESCO's ideals and visions and deeply appreciates UNESCO's mission to promote a culture of peace and sustainable development. We earnestly believe that, under the strong leadership of three capable women, UNESCO would soon become a more effective and more visible platform for soft power and would breathe the new life into the ideal of a culture of peace.

40.3 We are very happy to note that UNESCO's Africa focus has produced significant results. The focus on Africa will put new feathers in UNESCO's cap. Madam President, we think there are countries in South Asia, in Central Asia, in the South Pacific and in Latin America which are becoming vulnerable to emerging new challenges. Maybe more of UNESCO should be there to bolster their struggle against these emerging challenges. We identified education as the *sine qua non* for ensuring sustainable development; but ensuring education for a huge young population like ours is a gigantic task. Enrolment in our primary-level schools is 19 million. Around 11 million students are enrolled at secondary and higher secondary levels and more than 1.5 million students study at pre-and post-graduate levels. Yet our interventions in the education sector have started to show results. The rates of access and retention in both primary and secondary education have increased. Gender parity has not only been achieved but is also being retained among students at both primary and secondary levels of education.

40.4 Madam President, the future of the globe is in the hands of young people. But millions of them across Asia, Africa and Latin America are still illiterate or lack the right kind of knowledge and skills to face the future world. We must make them literate and equip them with the modern scientific and technical skills that will usher them into a challenging yet promising future. At the same time we must inculcate the values of humanity, democracy and peace in them. I would like to call upon UNESCO to stand beside Bangladesh and other countries like ours to take up the role of a mentor and come up with more focused and cutting-edge technical assistance and support our effort to create a literate and enlightened environment for responding to twenty-first century challenges.

40.5 Bangladesh recognizes cultural and linguistic diversity as the building blocks for a culture of peace. We are a nation that shed blood to protect its mother tongue. In recognition of this glorious sacrifice of our language martyrs, UNESCO declared 21 February International Mother Language Day. With a view to working towards protection and promotion of the endangered languages we set up our International Mother Language Institute. Madam President, I would like to conclude by quoting from a famous poem of the greatest poet of our Bangla language and the poet of our national anthem, Rabindranath Tagore. Allow me to start in original Bangla:

*(Statement delivered in Bangla; interpretation into English):*

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
When knowledge is free;  
Where the world has not been broken up  
into fragments by narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out from the depth of the truth;  
...Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*

40.6 Thank you very much for your attention.

41. **The President:**

Thank you so much. I am so happy that we are getting into poetry more and more during our General Conference. And now I am very happy to welcome the Minister of Education, Literacy and Promotion of National Languages of Niger, Her Excellency Ms Ali Mariama Elhadj Ibrahim.

42.1 **Mme Elhadj Ibrahim (Niger) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des institutions internationales, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, l'honneur m'échoit de prendre la parole au nom de la Délégation du Niger pour vous présenter, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, toutes nos félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la tête de cette grande Institution qu'est l'UNESCO. Nos félicitations vont également à la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, ainsi qu'à la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, pour le nouveau souffle qu'elle a donné à l'Organisation depuis son élection. Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais vous faire part des préoccupations de mon Gouvernement quant aux documents soumis à l'appréciation du Conseil Exécutif. Comme vous le savez, mon pays s'est résolument engagé dans un processus de profondes réformes en vue de relever les multiples défis qui s'opposent à son développement.

42.2 Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, dans le domaine de l'éducation, le Niger s'est engagé à réaliser les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous d'ici 2015. En effet, le Programme décennal de développement de l'éducation (PDDE, 2003-2012) a permis d'améliorer significativement les indicateurs sur le plan de l'accès, même si, par ailleurs, ceux de la qualité demeurent en dessous de nos attentes. Ainsi, pour optimiser ces résultats, le Niger s'est engagé à faire des langues nationales de véritables outils de promotion de l'éducation et de la formation et a matérialisé cet engagement par l'introduction du bilinguisme dans la réforme. Notre pays vient aussi d'élaborer une politique nationale de scolarisation des filles qui permettra d'accélérer l'éducation des jeunes filles et de réduire les disparités entre filles et garçons. Concernant l'enseignement et la formation professionnels, le parrainage, par l'UNESCO, d'une table ronde des partenaires techniques et financiers pour le financement du sous-secteur en novembre 2008 a permis de donner un élan certain à ce volet, qui constitue une réponse à la forte demande sociale de formation de plus d'un million de jeunes déscolarisés et non scolarisés. Madame la Présidente, le Gouvernement de la VIIe République a consacré l'éducation gratuite et obligatoire jusqu'à l'âge de 16 ans pour tous les enfants nigériens, en décidant d'investir en la matière 25 % de son budget national chaque année, ce qui prouve de manière évidente la volonté politique des nouvelles autorités nigériennes de faire de l'éducation et de la formation des piliers de développement.

42.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, s'agissant de la culture, le Niger s'est doté d'une politique culturelle nationale reposant essentiellement sur la culture de la paix, les valeurs profondément humanistes, la valorisation de la créativité et le respect de la tolérance religieuse et idéologique. Cette armature de la culture de la paix est complétée par une note originale, la « parenté à plaisanterie », qui a même été instituée. Tout cela nous autorise à clamer qu'en dépit de ses soubresauts et autres ruptures, le Niger est un ardent militant de la paix et un chantre du dialogue interculturel. Toutefois, l'un des défis que doit relever notre pays aujourd'hui en termes de culture de la paix est d'assurer une éducation citoyenne à des dizaines de milliers d'enfants nigériens dont les parents ont fui les conflits en Libye, pays avec lequel le Niger partage plus de 2 000 kilomètres de frontières. La situation est d'autant plus dramatique que de nombreux autres citoyens africains, de l'Afrique du Sud au Sahara, sont aujourd'hui concentrés dans la partie septentrionale de notre pays. Aussi le Niger lance-t-il un appel à cette auguste Assemblée afin qu'elle l'accompagne pour faire face à cette situation.

42.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, sur le plan des libertés, nonobstant les soubresauts politiques, une tradition démocratique s'est installée avec des élections libres et transparentes dont le caractère démocratique a été unanimement salué par la communauté internationale. On note également l'existence d'une presse libre et plurielle dont les conditions de travail ont été renforcées par l'adoption de la loi sur la dépénalisation des délits de presse.

42.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, pour lutter contre les effets des changements climatiques et éviter que les sécheresses ne riment avec famine, le Gouvernement vient de mettre en place un important programme de sécurité alimentaire autour du triptyque de l'Initiative 3N : « Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens ». Ce programme a pour objectifs d'accroître les rendements des cultures pluviales, de promouvoir l'agriculture irriguée et de moderniser l'élevage. Tout cela est possible car, en plus des eaux de surface, notre pays dispose d'un important potentiel en termes

de terres irrigables. Le renforcement de nos capacités dans les domaines des sciences fondamentales, de l'ingénierie et de l'utilisation des énergies renouvelables permettra d'atteindre cet objectif. C'est la raison pour laquelle l'État du Niger sollicite de l'UNESCO un accompagnement dans des domaines tels que la recherche appliquée ou les initiatives d'adaptation au changement climatique et d'atténuation de ce phénomène. Le Gouvernement nigérien, par ma voix, vous exprime ses sincères remerciements pour tous les appuis multiformes que vous lui apportez. Je vous remercie.

43. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Myanmar His Excellency Mr Mye Aye. The floor is yours.

44.1 **Mr Mye Aye (Myanmar):**

Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Myanmar delegation I would like to extend our warm congratulations to you on your unanimous election to the presidency of the 36th session of the General Conference. We are confident that, under your very able leadership and guidance, the Conference will yield many fruitful insights and reach a successful conclusion.

44.2 Madam President, since the new Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has discharged State duties, it has prioritized human resources development in all sectors of the country with a special focus on the younger generation and the development of the Myanmar education sector to the international levels. These efforts spearheaded by the President himself are aimed at cultivating the qualified and dedicated professionals and intellectuals needed to bring about a modern developed democratic nation and are integrated into a broad national development plan which calls for increasing proportions of available resources to be allocated to poverty reduction and access to basic education. To ensure greater thoroughness in the implementation of the free compulsory primary education system, the State is providing each primary school student, totalling 500,000, with a full set of textbooks free of charge starting from this academic year, at a cost of Kyat 2.872 billion. The drive to improve and consolidate the existing compulsory free primary education system and to ensure teaching quality improvement for existing institutions of higher and basic education requires vast amounts of resources, not only for greater access to teaching/learning facilities and for professional development of teachers, but also for the betterment of the teachers' socio-economic life in general. Thus, we welcome cooperation from international organizations including the United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs). Private sector education services will also be encouraged systematically through appropriate legislation. Resources are also needed to provide scholarships for further studies abroad and stipends for outstanding students. Our aim is to build on the coordinated development in formal and non-formal education so that the education our students receive is not confined to the classroom but is meaningful and practical in the context of local, regional and national development. The national campaign to have every child of five years or older enrolled in basic education has resulted in our 98.47% school enrolment rate for the 2011-2012 academic year. To ensure the inclusiveness and accessibility of education, mobile schools for children of migrant parents have been set up, and non-formal primary education (NFPE) for out-of-school children and school drop-outs as well as facilities for disabled children have been provided to complement the formal basic education system. With the annual gains in the adult literacy rate, Myanmar has now achieved a literacy rate of 95%. It has thus become one of the Asia and the Pacific nations which have attained the highest literacy rate. The high literacy rate is a matter of pride for the nation and an invaluable asset for self-reliance and an indication of the high quality of life. To consolidate long-term literacy, more than 2,700 community learning centres are implementing continuing education programmes, supported by the rural libraries. In addition to being of great help in cultivating the reading habit, the community learning centres also provide income generation opportunities and are effective in enhancing the quality of life in the community, contributing not only to individual welfare but also to lifelong learning for social and community development.

44.3 Madam President, another important mission for us is environmental conservation. While conserving our forests, we need a comprehensive package of measures to reduce air and water pollution, control industrial waste and preserve wildlife. Policies that strike a balance between economic development and the need for environmental conservation will be formulated and implemented with the participation of the people and non-governmental organizations, such as promotion of affordable and widely accessible renewable energy and enactment of new legislation for environmental conservation. Myanmar has exercised a non-aligned, independent and active foreign affairs policy. The maintenance of non-aggression and non-interference in internal affairs of any country and non-infringement of international and regional peace and security in any way have been the highlights of the long-standing Myanmar foreign policy. We have been steadfast in ensuring that these traditions that we take pride in and our friendship with all nations are maintained. Our country will stand firm as a responsible and dignified member in the family of world nations while actively cooperating with the international organizations, including the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and other regional organizations. In conclusion, I would like to submit that the successful practice of democracy and positive developments in Myanmar deserve recognition and that the new government that came to power in accordance with the Constitution chooses mutual cooperation with the international community. Thank you.

45. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Human Resources Development of Grenada, Her Excellency Ms Franka Alexis-Bernardine. The floor is yours.

46.1 **Ms Alexis-Bernardine (Grenada):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished ministers, honourable delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to add Grenada's voice to the many salutations and good wishes that have gone before. I wish to warmly congratulate you, Madam President, for your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference and wish you a

successful term of office. May I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Davidson Hepburn, President of the 35th session of the General Conference, the first President from a small island developing State of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), for doing such an excellent job of guiding us and for carrying out his duties with such dignity and professionalism.

46.2 Madam President, it has been a great honour for our island nation of Grenada to be represented by our Prime Minister, the Honourable Tillman Thomas, at the Leaders' Forum and to share our country's vision on how UNESCO's action could develop and promote the pathways to lasting peace and sustainable development. Grenada has been pleased to serve on the Executive Board of UNESCO for the very first time in its history. It has been a truly enlightening experience for the past two years, and we look forward to continuing in this capacity. It has broadened our vision and increased our capacity to work along with other countries in this great blend of perspectives and ideas of UNESCO Member States. We are appreciative of the experience. The world global economic crisis has had a devastating effect on the economies of small island States like Grenada and has significantly slowed our march towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. This notwithstanding, we have been able to make significant progress in certain areas such as universal primary and secondary education and early childhood intervention through the High Scope Curriculum. We look forward to UNESCO's continued support in its areas of competence as we strive for further developmental goals. Concerning the future Programme and Budget of UNESCO, as a Member of the Executive Board Grenada was honoured to contribute actively to its preparation notably by its participation as a member of its drafting group and through its membership in the Special Committee. We believe that education is a prerequisite for sustainable development. As such, it is essential to keep education as the main priority for UNESCO. We would like to see UNESCO strengthening its programmes and facilitating the partnership with Member States in their efforts to improve education systems. This is necessary for accelerating progress towards education for all (EFA), lifelong learning, quality education, skills development, curriculum reform to adapt to the job market, the development of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), research and opportunities for higher education. Policy formulation in information and communication technology (ICT) education systems, teacher training and training of trainees projects should be developed in the field of ICT. It is also essential to integrate at all levels of the education system the values of peace and respect for all human rights and a special focus on climate change and disaster risk and reduction and prevention. For gender equality, the Organization should intensify its action in promoting education of girls and women at all levels. Specific attention should also be given to the needs and contributions of young males in our Caribbean societies, where disproportionate numbers are confronted by underachievement, violence and exclusion. It underscores the importance of highlighting the contributions of young men like Kirani James, Grenada's Gold Medallist at the World Championships in Athletics held in South Korea in September 2011, where just prior to his 19th birthday he became the world record holder in the 400 metres, being the youngest athlete ever to achieve this distinction. To the Caribbean and indeed to the world's youth he represents hard work, commitment and good values and the possibilities this can bring to the world stage for other youth of the region.

46.3 UNESCO should intensify its action in favour of building knowledge societies by contributing to bridging the digital divide and fostering information and communication capacity. The ethical dimension of science and technology must be highlighted, and Grenada attaches great importance to UNESCO's continued work concerning ethical principles in relation to climate change. It is important that in all its considerations, the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) must reflect perspectives of all of its Member States. Perhaps the time has come for due consideration to be given to sub-grouping into III(a) and III(b) to ensure a more equitable representation of views presented. This action would facilitate such a process. We recognize the importance of UNESCO's action in favour of protection and promotion of tangible and intangible heritage and the implementation of its main conventions in the field of culture.

46.4 In conclusion, I wish to commend UNESCO, under the leadership of its first woman Director-General, for its outstanding achievements and for the changes that have been initiated under her guidance. I do believe that UNESCO is truly reflecting the changes that are necessary to ensure that this noble Organization fulfils its mandate. You can count on our continued support. Thank you, Madam.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Culture and Youth of Costa Rica, His Excellency Mr Manuel Obregón López. The floor is yours.

48.1 **Sr. Obregón López (Costa Rica):**

Señores ministros y delegados de los diferentes Estados, señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, damas y caballeros: reciban un fraternal saludo del Gobierno y el pueblo de Costa Rica. La UNESCO declaró en el año 1982 que "la cultura da al hombre la capacidad de reflexionar sobre sí mismo. Es ella la que hace de nosotros seres específicamente humanos, racionales, críticos y éticamente comprometidos. A través de ella discernimos los valores y efectuamos opciones. A través de ella el hombre se expresa, toma conciencia de sí mismo, se reconoce como un proyecto inacabado, pone en cuestión sus propias realizaciones, busca incansablemente nuevas significaciones y crea obras que lo trascienden". Es sin duda la identidad cultural, manifestación de la creatividad de los pueblos, la que favorece la comprensión mutua. En un mundo convulso como el actual, en el que la violencia surge como un gigante dispuesto a todo, debemos levantar nuestra bandera de la cultura de paz y de la no violencia, el desarrollo sostenible, la educación para todos, los programas específicos para la juventud y los sectores sociales más vulnerables, que son ya no solo objetivos preeminentes sino, en algunos casos, expresiones de una tradición nacional. El compromiso de Costa Rica con la inversión social, desde su inicio histórico, permite establecer estrategias de trabajo que responden a los lineamientos del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo. En ese contexto, destacamos el fortalecimiento de la identidad nacional, de la necesaria participación de la juventud, de la cooperación internacional y de la democracia cultural.

48.2 Dentro de las acciones nacionales que se están desarrollando en relación directa con los ejes de acción de la UNESCO, podemos resaltar el proyecto de integración regional Corredor Cultural Caribe, cuyo objetivo primordial es revitalizar las culturas y las diferentes expresiones artísticas por los pueblos del Gran Caribe y promover la creación de una gran red cultural, que además incentive y estimule el desarrollo social y económico. En otro orden de cosas, Costa Rica está preparando el expediente de candidatura denominado "Sitios Arqueológicos con Esferas de Piedra en el Sureste de Costa Rica (en la subregión arqueológica del Diquis)". Esta propuesta no solo resalta el valor de nuestra herencia indígena, sino que es un ejemplo de gestión de conservación en armonía con las comunidades locales y el fomento del desarrollo sostenible. Por otra parte, estamos trabajando con comunidades, en especial en aquellas que se encuentran en riesgo social, para incentivar la creatividad mediante la configuración de espacios donde los niños, las niñas y los jóvenes cuenten con oportunidades de expresión artística, como aspecto fundamental de su formación integral. Todo esto nos lleva a asegurar que invertir en cultura es invertir en el bienestar general, en la paz, en la democracia, en el desarrollo verdadero de los pueblos.

48.3 Toda vez que cultura y educación son nociones indisolubles, procedo ahora a exponer los puntos básicos de nuestra política educativa. La educación pública siempre ha sido un objetivo prioritario en Costa Rica. Esto se traduce en un aumento constante de la inversión pública en el sector en los últimos cinco años, permitiendo avances en materia de cobertura y nivel de escolaridad, así como de calidad, y tanto en la educación primaria como en la secundaria. Dado que la cobertura en la primaria es universal, hemos decidido afrontar el desafío de reforzar la educación secundaria. Para ello nuestro Gobierno, a través del Ministerio de Educación Pública, está implementando reformas estratégicas en el ámbito curricular, con el objetivo de garantizar que los estudiantes aprendan lo que es relevante y lo aprendan bien. Estos cambios se complementan con programas extracurriculares orientados a la convivencia estudiantil. En el ámbito curricular, destacamos los proyectos "Ética, Estética y Ciudadanía" y "Convivir", que tiene como objetivo desarrollar la sensibilidad y habilidades necesarias para saber vivir y convivir, enfrentando los diversos dilemas de la vida cotidiana. Se promueven espacios y actividades que faciliten una mayor sensibilidad y apropiación de valores para saber elegir el criterio y la libertad, aquello que consideren bueno, aquello que consideren correcto y éticamente valioso. Lo anterior se complementa con programas como el de Participación y Gobiernos Estudiantiles, el Festival Estudiantil de las Artes y los Juegos Deportivos Estudiantiles, entre otros. Todos estos esfuerzos han permitido lograr una disminución sostenida de la deserción estudiantil, así como un mayor nivel de calidad, pertinencia y cobertura de la oferta educativa costarricense. Para concluir mi participación, deseo manifestar nuestro profundo agradecimiento a la UNESCO por el apoyo que siempre le ha brindado a Costa Rica y que ha impulsado un avance firme en acciones dirigidas al desarrollo sostenible y educativo de nuestro país. Asimismo, la presencia de la Oficina de la UNESCO en San José ha hecho posible que Costa Rica y la región centroamericana cuenten con el aporte de expertos de esta Organización en forma directa, contribuyendo al fortalecimiento de los diversos ámbitos y a un trabajo conjunto que trasciende las fronteras y permite cristalizar los objetivos que nos unen. Muchas gracias.

(48.1) **M. Obregón López** (Costa Rica) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et délégués des différents États, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de vous adresser le salut fraternel du Gouvernement et du peuple du Costa Rica. En 1982, l'UNESCO déclarait que « la culture donne à l'homme la capacité de réflexion sur lui-même. C'est elle qui fait de nous des êtres spécifiquement humains, rationnels, critiques et éthiquement engagés. C'est par elle que nous discernons des valeurs et effectuons des choix. C'est par elle que l'homme s'exprime, prend conscience de lui-même, se reconnaît comme un projet inachevé, remet en question ses propres réalisations, recherche inlassablement de nouvelles significations et crée des œuvres qui le transcendent ». C'est à n'en pas douter l'identité culturelle, manifestation de la créativité des peuples, qui favorise la compréhension mutuelle. Dans un monde agité comme celui d'aujourd'hui, où la violence fait irruption tel un colosse prêt à tout, nous devons brandir l'étendard d'une culture de la paix et de la non-violence, du développement durable, de l'éducation pour tous, de l'action en faveur des jeunes et des couches sociales les plus vulnérables. Ce ne sont pas là uniquement des objectifs primordiaux, ce sont aussi, dans certains cas, l'expression d'une tradition nationale. L'engagement du Costa Rica en faveur de l'investissement social, dès le début de son histoire, permet d'établir des stratégies répondant aux grandes lignes du Plan national de développement. Dans ce contexte, nous mettons l'accent sur le renforcement de l'identité nationale, de la nécessaire participation des jeunes, de la coopération internationale et de la démocratie culturelle.

(48.2) Parmi les actions menées par le pays en lien direct avec les axes d'action de l'UNESCO, on peut citer le projet d'intégration régionale baptisé Corridor culturel des Caraïbes (Corredor Cultural Caribe) qui a pour objectif premier de redynamiser les cultures et les différentes expressions artistiques des peuples de la région élargie des Caraïbes, ainsi que de promouvoir la création d'un vaste réseau culturel permettant en outre de stimuler le développement social et économique. Dans un autre ordre d'idées, le Costa Rica prépare un dossier de candidature intitulé « Sites archéologiques avec des sphères mégalithiques dans le Sud-Est du Costa Rica (dans la sous-région archéologique du Diquis) ». Cette proposition d'inscription met non seulement en relief la valeur de notre héritage autochtone, mais offre également un exemple de gestion et de conservation en harmonie avec les communautés locales, ainsi que de promotion du développement durable. Par ailleurs, nous collaborons actuellement avec différentes communautés, en particulier celles qui sont exposées à des risques sociaux, afin d'encourager la créativité en créant des espaces qui offrent aux enfants et aux jeunes des possibilités d'expression artistique, en tant qu'aspect fondamental de leur développement intégral. Tout cela nous permet d'affirmer qu'investir dans la culture revient à investir pour le bien-être général, pour la paix, pour la démocratie et pour un véritable développement des populations.

(48.3) La culture et l'éducation étant des notions indissociables, permettez-moi à présent d'exposer les points fondamentaux de notre politique éducative. L'enseignement public a toujours été un objectif prioritaire au Costa Rica. Cela s'est traduit par une augmentation constante de l'investissement public dans ce secteur ces cinq dernières années, permettant des avancées en matière de couverture et de niveau de scolarité, ainsi que de qualité, tant dans l'enseignement primaire que secondaire. L'accès à l'enseignement primaire étant désormais universel, nous avons décidé de relever le défi d'accroître le taux de scolarisation dans l'enseignement secondaire. Pour cela, notre Gouvernement mène actuellement, par le biais du Ministère de l'éducation publique, une réforme stratégique des programmes scolaires afin que les élèves apprennent ce qui est pertinent, et l'apprennent bien. Ces changements s'accompagnent d'activités extracurriculaires axées sur le vivre

ensemble des élèves. Pour ce qui est des programmes scolaires, citons les projets intitulés « Éthique, esthétique et citoyenneté » et « Vivre ensemble », qui visent à développer la sensibilité, l'habileté et les aptitudes nécessaires à la vie courante et au vivre ensemble, face aux divers problèmes du quotidien. Il s'agit également de promouvoir des espaces et des activités qui favorisent une plus grande sensibilité et une appropriation des valeurs pour que les élèves puissent choisir le discernement et la liberté, choisir ce qui leur semble bon et juste, d'un point de vue éthique. À cela s'ajoutent des programmes qui favorisent notamment la participation et la gouvernance des jeunes, le Festival des arts de la jeunesse et les Jeux sportifs de la jeunesse, entre autres. Tous ces efforts ont permis de faire diminuer de façon soutenue le taux d'abandon scolaire, tout en augmentant la qualité, la pertinence et l'étendue de l'offre éducative costaricienne. En conclusion, je voudrais exprimer notre profonde gratitude à l'UNESCO pour le soutien qu'elle n'a cessé d'apporter au Costa Rica et qui a permis de faire considérablement avancer l'action en faveur du développement durable et éducatif de notre pays. De même, la présence du Bureau de l'UNESCO à San José permet au Costa Rica et à la région de l'Amérique centrale de bénéficier directement de l'apport d'experts de l'Organisation qui contribuent au renforcement de différents domaines, ainsi qu'à une action conjointe qui dépasse les frontières et permet de cristalliser les objectifs qui nous unissent. Je vous remercie.

#### 49. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And I would now like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Mr Humaid Mohammed Obaid Al-Qattami.

٥٠,١ السيد الكتامي (الإمارات العربية المتحدة):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، سعادة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، سعادة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، سعادة المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب الفخامة والمعالي والسعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، يشرفني أن أنقل إليكم تحيات وتقدير صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان، رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، حفظه الله، وأعضاء الحكومة والشعب الإماراتي. وأنتهز هذه المناسبة الاستثنائية لأهمل إليكم رسالة سلام وأسطر كتاب تقدير وتنويه بمنظمة اليونسكو، بيت الثقافة في العالم، ومختبر الرؤى والقدرات الخلاقة وضمير البشرية، وجسر الحوار بين الحضارات والأمم، ونعاهدكم بأن تبقى دولة الإمارات ركيزة أساسية لدعم هذه المنظمة الفريدة، التي ترزع السلام في العقول والنفوس قبل النصوص، لأننا نؤمن بدورها المحوري في سوق معادلات التربية والتنمية والوئام والسلام والعدل والمساواة وإنسانية القرن الحادي والعشرين بأفائه البعيدة الشاملة، ونحبي عمل اليونسكو النوعي والمهادف. لا يفوتني أن أخص بالاحترام والتقدير المديرية العامة للمنظمة، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، التي تقوم بعمل كبير وتسعى بدأب ومنهجية ورؤية لكي تبقى هذه المؤسسة منارة للقيم الإنسانية ومرجعية للعالم في التربية والثقافة والعلوم.

٥٠,٢ أيها الحضور الكريم، في الثاني من كانون الأول/ديسمبر تحتفل دولتنا بالعيد الأربعين لتأسيسها، على يد المغفور له الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان، طيب الله ثراه، وهذه المسافة الزمنية قصيرة جداً في حياة الدول والشعوب. لكننا منذ البداية عقدنا العزم والتصميم على تحويل المستحيل إلى ممكن، والممكن إلى ضرورة، والضرورة إلى فرص لإنجاز شامل يلامس مستوى الإعجاز. لقد أصبح لدينا اليوم نظام تعليمي مميز بجودته ومضمونه ومواكبته لتقنيات ومكتسبات العصر. وأقمنا مجتمع المعرفة، وجدنا للتربية والثقافة القدرات والاستثمارات، وبتنا نعتد المقاربة التعليمية المبنية على وثائق الاتصال المتعددة والتنمية الرقمية في المنزل والمدرسة والجامعة والمؤسسات والمساحات الخضراء، وبرامج معلوماتية تطبيقية، مركزين على ثقافة الانفتاح والتسامح، كما يقول ماكس فيبر، لا تخمنا كثرة المعلومات بقدر ما تخمنا كثرة المعرفة والتنوير والحداثة، لأننا نبنى العقل الأصلي التواصل المنفتح على الثقافات والحضارات وعلى المنجزات وقيم الكرامة. وفي هذا الإطار المعرفي المتعدد الروافد استقرت جامعات دولية في بلادنا، وهي تثري التعليم والتربية والاختصاصات العليا. ومضينا أشواطاً في المزاوجة بين المهارات والقيم، وربطنا بين النظام التعليمي وحاجة سوق العمل. كما وأتينا لم نكتف بالعمل داخل دولة الإمارات، بل ذهبنا إلى العالم من حولنا، حاملين مبادرات ومشاريع تساعد على تحقيق التنمية البشرية بمعناها الشامل، ومن هنا كان مشروع دبي للعطاء الذي يهدف إلى تعليم مليون طفل في العالم، في المناطق الفقيرة ذات الحاجة، وأطلقنا الجوائز: جائزة اليونسكو - حمدان بن راشد آل مكتوم لمكافأة الممارسات والجهود المتميزة لتحسين أداء المعلمين، وهناك أيضاً جائزة زايد الدولية للكتاب، وجوائز عديدة للبيئة والتربية والشعر والتراث، بالإضافة إلى جائزة اليونسكو - المشاركة للثقافة العربية. ويادر مؤخراً نائب رئيس الدولة، رئيس مجلس الوزراء، حاكم دبي الشيخ محمد بن راشد إلى إطلاق جائزة تكريمية للأطراف التي تساهم في قضايا السلام العالمي وتحتضن مسائل التفاعل الحضاري والحوار بين الأديان وتبرز الوجه الحقيقي للإسلام كدين تسامح وسلام.

٥٠,٣ سعادة رئيسة المؤتمر، والأعضاء، إن الإمارات دولة نموذجية في نبذ العنصرية ومكافحة التمييز العنصري والتعصب وكراهية الأجانب، وتستضيف على أرضها نحو مائتي جنسية من كافة أصقاع العالم، يعمل أصحابها دون تضييق، ويمارسون شعائرهم الدينية بكل حرية، وكذلك تقاليدهم وطقوسهم ويحافظون على هويتهم، وهذا الجانب نزره أيضاً بالمهرجانات الثقافية والفكرية والتراثية والفلكلورية. وتشارك الجاليات والأقليات فيها تحت سقف القرية الكونية، تحت شعار: عالم واحد، عائلة واحدة. ولا أغالي إذا قلت أن شعوب العالم تلتقي عندنا، كما أن دولتنا تمد يد العون والمساعدة إلى العديد من دول العالم، وتسهم في المشاريع الإنمائية والإنسانية في الشرق والغرب. كما إننا نسعى إلى إطفاء نار النزاعات وجسر هوة الخلافات وترويج ثقافة الانفتاح والتسامح والتعاون الحضاري الخلاق.

٥٠,٤ السيدات والسادة، ينعقد مؤتمرا في ظروف عربية ودولية شديدة الحساسية والخطورة. سواء على صعيد التحولات السياسية والاجتماعية، أو على مستوى الدورة الاقتصادية في العالم وأسواق العالم، ويبدو وكأن الدول والمجتمعات فقدت البوصلة وهي تبحث عن مخرج وبدائل وعن قيم جديدة. وليس أعمق وأنبئ من عملية بناء السلام في العقول والتربية والثقافة. الإخوة والأخوات، إن الدور التاريخي الذي تضطلع به اليونسكو في مجال صون التراث الإنساني يحفزنا على الحفاظ على التراث التاريخي لمدينة القدس، زهرة المدائن، وصون هويتها كأحد المعالم الحضارية العابرة للزمن وكرمز راسخ لوحدة الأديان. كما نؤكد على ضرورة بقاء المدينة وأسوارها على قائمة التراث العالمي المعرض للخطر والاستمرار في تطبيق آلية الرقابة والمتابعة من قبل لجنة التراث العالمي. إن فلسطين هي ذاكرة العالم الثقافية وهويته الدينية والوجودية، ولذا نطالب بانضمامها كعضو كامل الحقوق إلى منظمة اليونسكو.

٥٠,٥ الإخوة والأخوات، أجدد أمامكم التزام دولة الإمارات برسالة اليونسكو وأهدافها النبيلة وأدعو إلى بناء شبكة الأدمغة في كافة أنحاء العالم لصوغ خريطة الطريق نحو السلام لقرنتنا الكونية. وفقنا الله وإياكم، بما فيه الخير والفلاح، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(50.1) M. Al Qattami (Émirats arabes unis) (traduit de l'arabe) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux, Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et messieurs les chefs et les membres des délégations, Mesdames, Messieurs, que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous. J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre les salutations et l'appréciation de Son Altesse Royale, Cheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Président des Émirats arabes unis, que Dieu le préserve, et des membres du gouvernement et du peuple des Émirats arabes unis, et je saisis cette occasion exceptionnelle pour vous transmettre un message de paix et quelques lignes d'appréciation et de louanges pour l'UNESCO, la maison de la culture dans le monde, un laboratoire pour l'innovation et la

capacité créative, la conscience de l'humanité, un pont pour le dialogue entre les civilisations et les nations. Nous vous jurons que l'État des Émirats arabes unis restera un soutien fidèle de cette Organisation unique, qui sème la paix dans l'esprit et l'âme avant de le faire dans les textes, car nous croyons au rôle essentiel qui est le sien compte tenu des enjeux cruciaux qui sont l'éducation, le développement, l'harmonie entre les peuples, la paix, la justice, l'égalité et l'humanité en ce XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle qui laisse entrevoir des perspectives encore lointaines, mais fédératrices. Nous saluons le travail de qualité et bien ciblé de l'UNESCO. Et nous ne manquerons pas d'exprimer notre respect et notre appréciation à la Directrice générale de l'Organisation, Madame Irina Bokova, qui accomplit un travail important et qui cherche, avec persistance et une vision claire, à assurer que cette Organisation reste un phare pour les valeurs humanistes et une référence mondiale dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la culture et des sciences.

(50.2) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, le 2 décembre, notre État fêtera le 40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de sa fondation par feu Cheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, que Dieu le fasse reposer en paix. Cela correspond à un laps de temps très court dans la vie des pays et des peuples. Mais depuis le début, nous avons eu la détermination de transformer l'impossible en possible, le possible en nécessité, et la nécessité en opportunité pour parvenir à réaliser un exploit qui confine au miracle. Nous disposons aujourd'hui d'un système éducatif excellent, qu'il s'agisse de sa qualité ou de son contenu, qui se maintient au fait de l'évolution de la technologie et des acquis modernes. Nous avons bâti une société du savoir, et nous avons mobilisé des experts et des investissements pour l'éducation et la culture. Nous appliquons désormais une approche éducative fondée sur de nombreux documents qui font appel aux technologies de la communication et sur le développement du numérique à la maison, à l'école, à l'université, dans le cadre des institutions, des espaces verts et des programmes informatiques appliqués, en nous focalisant sur la culture de l'ouverture et de la tolérance, comme le dit Max Weber. Nous ne sommes pas tant intéressés par la quantité des informations que par la qualité du savoir, les « lumières » et la modernité, parce que nous bâtissons avec un esprit original, axé sur la communication et ouvert aux autres cultures et civilisations, et sur les réalisations et les valeurs qui procèdent du respect de la dignité humaine. Grâce à cet environnement d'apprentissage qui fait appel à multiples supports, plusieurs universités étrangères ont élu domicile dans notre pays ; elles enrichissent l'enseignement et l'éducation, ainsi que les spécialisations supérieures. Nous avons enregistré beaucoup de progrès dans le mariage des capacités et des valeurs, et nous avons relié le système éducatif aux besoins du marché du travail. Nous ne nous sommes pas contentés de travailler à l'intérieur des Émirats ; nous nous sommes tournés vers l'extérieur, portant des initiatives et des projets qui contribuent au développement humain dans son acception globale. Ainsi avons-nous mis en œuvre le projet caritatif de Dubaï, qui consiste à offrir une éducation à un million d'enfants dans des régions pauvres du monde ; nous soutenons le Prix UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum récompensant des pratiques et des performances exemplaires pour améliorer l'efficacité des enseignants, le Prix Cheikh Zayed du livre et de nombreux autres prix dans les domaines de l'environnement, de l'éducation, de la poésie, du patrimoine, sans parler du Prix UNESCO-Sharjah pour la culture arabe. Récemment, le Vice-Président du pays, Président du Conseil des ministres et Souverain de Dubaï, Cheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, a institué un prix d'honneur pour ceux qui se consacrent à la paix mondiale, l'accent étant mis sur l'interaction civilisationnelle et le dialogue entre les religions, afin de faire ressortir le vrai visage de l'Islam, religion de tolérance et de paix.

(50.3) Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, distingués délégués, les Émirats arabes unis constituent un État exemplaire dans son rejet du racisme et son combat contre la discrimination raciale, le fanatisme et la xénophobie. Nous accueillons sur notre territoire des ressortissants de quelque 200 nationalités du monde entier. Ces personnes travaillent sans restriction, pratiquent leurs dévotions religieuses en toute liberté et préservent leurs traditions, leurs rites et leur identité. Nous insistons également sur cet aspect lors de manifestations à caractère culturel, intellectuel, patrimonial et folklorique. Les communautés et les minorités y participent sous le toit du village mondial sous la bannière d'« un seul monde ; une seule famille ». Je n'exagère pas si je dis que les peuples du monde se rencontrent chez nous, et que notre État offre de l'aide et de l'assistance à de nombreux pays de par le monde ; il contribue à des projets de développement et à des projets humanitaires à l'est comme à l'ouest. Il cherche également à éteindre le feu des conflits, à construire des ponts qui enjambent les divergences et à promouvoir la culture de l'ouverture, de la tolérance et de la coopération entre civilisations et dans le cadre des activités créatives.

(50.4) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, notre Conférence se tient dans des circonstances extrêmement délicates et graves pour les pays arabes et pour la communauté internationale, qu'il s'agisse des transformations politiques et sociales ou de la conjoncture économique et des marchés mondiaux. Apparemment, les pays et les sociétés ont perdu leurs repères : ils cherchent des remèdes, des solutions de substitution et de nouvelles valeurs. Il n'y a rien de plus profond ni de plus noble que de construire les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes à travers l'éducation et la culture. Mes frères et sœurs, le rôle historique joué par l'UNESCO dans le domaine de la protection du patrimoine humain nous impose de préserver le patrimoine historique de la ville de Jérusalem, la fleur des villes, et de préserver son identité car il s'agit d'un site civilisationnel hors du temps et d'un symbole fort de l'unité des religions. Nous soulignons également la nécessité de maintenir la ville et ses murs inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril et de continuer à faire appliquer le mécanisme d'observation et de suivi par le Comité du patrimoine mondial. La Palestine est la mémoire du monde culturelle et incarne son identité religieuse et éthique. C'est pourquoi nous demandons qu'elle puisse adhérer comme membre à part entière à l'UNESCO.

(50.5) Mes frères et sœurs, je renouvelle devant vous l'adhésion des Émirats arabes unis au message de l'UNESCO et à ses nobles objectifs. J'appelle à la construction d'un réseau de cerveaux dans toutes les parties du monde, qui puissent élaborer une feuille de route vers la paix pour notre village mondial. Que Dieu nous donne le succès, le bien-être et la prospérité. Que la paix, la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. And I would like to ask the Minister of Education of Ethiopia, His Excellency Mr Kaba Urgessa to come to the floor.

52.1 **Mr Kaba Urgessa (Ethiopia):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished permanent delegates, ladies and gentlemen, please accept, Madam President, the congratulations of my country and my delegation for being unanimously elected to this office. Allow me also to congratulate and warmly welcome our sister and neighbouring country, the Republic of South Sudan, as a new Member of UNESCO. Ethiopia is committed to working with South Sudan.

52.2 Achieving the education for all (EFA) goals by 2015 is an overriding priority for Ethiopia, the more so as time is of the essence. The *Education for All Global Monitoring Report* assessing the extent to which the commitments are being



met show that many Member States are not likely to meet the goals set for 2015. We feel that a wider and stronger partnership with the private sector in the different regions, including Africa, enhanced subregional and regional cooperation, including South-South and South-North cooperation, more effective use of past lessons, better teacher training and incentives, greater community participation, more emphasis on the proper selection and use of the medium of instruction and a better use of information and communication technology (ICT) will address the challenges we are currently facing in meeting education for all (EFA) goals. Quality and relevance of education at all stages of learning is also a national priority. We encourage UNESCO's efforts to further strengthen its teacher training initiatives, including its International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA). Along with pedagogical training, there must be strengthened teacher development programmes, including recruitment policies and advancement opportunities. In this regard, Ethiopia is committed to realizing the construction of the IICBA office building in Addis Ababa which aims at capacity development for Africa. As the number of graduates from secondary and technical schools increases, there is a need to ensure that the graduates do not always seek employment in the public sector. Greater support is needed to help such students to prepare for self-employment. In this regard, UNESCO should encourage cooperation amongst Member States.

52.3 We are pleased that the International Year of Chemistry has generated a number of useful events around the globe, and we wish to thank UNESCO for its active role in this process. We need to take this opportunity to assess the activities undertaken so far and to pursue the ongoing efforts to facilitate the contribution of chemistry and science in general to development. We believe that intersectoral platforms as well as individual sectors should encourage the contribution of science to sustainable development. In this regard, UNESCO should focus on the creation of networks among teaching and research institutions.

52.4 The future of the World Heritage Convention continues to be a great concern for us. Hence, means and methods for the conservation and protection of heritage as well as inequalities in the number of sites inscribed from the different regions and the issue of modification of already inscribed sites should be examined carefully without delay, taking into account the various opinions and views of Member States. Particular attention and emphasis should be given to ways of reconciling development work with heritage protection and conservation. Moreover, we feel that UNESCO should continue encouraging youth programmes to help advance interaction and joint activities by young people of the different regions for the promotion of mutual understanding, development of competencies and sustainable development.

52.6 Concerning UNESCO's field network reform, the establishment of regional offices must be subject to the widest consultation possible and the reform should be implemented step by step. Also, the field network reform should go hand-in-hand with the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) from which emanated the idea of achieving focus in UNESCO's activities. We would like to see a clear statement of the plans and views of the Director-General concerning all UNESCO's liaison offices. In view of UNESCO's emphasis on Priority Africa, we trust that in the case of the Addis Ababa Liaison Office there continues to be adequate room for consultation regarding the matter with the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) so as to ensure that the Liaison Office contributes visibly to concrete achievements for the region as a whole. Although all Member States face financial constraints, concerning the need for a minimum budget to carry out the activities planned for the next biennium, we feel that the zero real growth budget deserves support. On behalf of my delegation I would like to conclude by saying that Ethiopia will remain a dedicated Member State of UNESCO. We try to tackle the great challenges of our millennium and contribute towards achieving UNESCO's objectives. Thank you very much.

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is a particularly great honour for me to welcome my Minister of National Resources of Hungary, His Excellency Mr Miklós Réthelyi. The floor is yours.

54.1 **Mr Réthelyi (Hungary):**

Madam President, honourable Director-General, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to start by congratulating our Hungarian compatriot, Madam Ambassador Katalin Bogyay, who was elected as the President of the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference. We are sincerely proud of her and we wish her every success in the next two years. This session of the General Conference has the crucial task of outlining a common vision for UNESCO in the upcoming years. Hungary firmly believes that UNESCO has an indispensable mission also in the future, and its role has to be further strengthened within the United Nations system. The Hungarian Government welcomes the reforms launched by the Director-General. We hope that the quality reforms can be continued within the framework of the new, stricter budget as well. We fully agree with the ambition to increase the proportion of sums eligible for programmes and to reduce administrative costs. Let me now reflect on some areas where UNESCO has been especially active recently and inform you about some related activities in Hungary.

54.2 Education, and primarily quality education, has always been a prime interest for UNESCO. Hungary shares the view that quality education is the key to future development, be it economic, social or even political. Education plays a decisive role in providing a future labour force whose skills and knowledge will be valuable and valued by the labour market. It also contributes significantly to the fight against social exclusion and poverty. The Hungarian Government therefore put education high on its political agenda. I would like to inform you that, after an intensive and long consultation process with all stakeholders, the government has just submitted to the Parliament the draft law aiming at significantly reforming primary and secondary education. UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 accords priority to the promotion of gender equality and emancipation also in the field of education. Hungary is one of the countries where women's participation in education is less problematic than minorities' access to education. The group which has been hit most severely is the Roma minority. Very few Roma students complete their studies at secondary level, which also means that they have no or very weak chances in the labour market. The government, together with the representatives of the Roma community, has also been addressing this issue vigorously. Furthermore, young people in Hungary are now much less interested in science subjects and the professions built on them. The immensely negative

socio-economic impact of this tendency and the ways to improve the situation are on the government's agenda. Therefore Hungary especially welcomed the decision of the United Nations to declare 2011 International Year of Chemistry. Hungary has joined this endeavour with more than 100 activities. Ladies and gentlemen, this year is also devoted to celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. Although we can already boast five biosphere reserves, which is a substantial number taking into consideration the size of the country, the government continues to seek opportunities to designate further natural reserves. Specifically, in cooperation with Croatia, we have proposed to establish the Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

54.3 Let me now turn to our culture-related activities. I am especially honoured to inform you that the Hungarian Parliament passed a special World Heritage Act on 14 June 2011. The primary objective of the act is to establish a transparent and predictable legal framework and financing system to support development opportunities for the sustainable utilization of heritage sites and to meet international obligations. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was ratified by Hungary in 2006. We have been implementing the Convention's recommendations with special care ever since. In 2008, Hungary ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions emphasizing the relevance and necessity of preserving cultural diversity. Hungary, when holding the European Union Presidency in the first half of 2011, strove to promote cultural diversity and a peaceful co-existence of cultures.

54.4 Ladies and gentlemen, let me finally draw your attention to the fifth World Science Forum with the title "The Changing Landscape of Science: Challenges and Opportunities". This forum will be held in Budapest, in November, in partnership with UNESCO, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and several other international scientific organizations, including the International Council for Science. It is a great honour for us that Director-General Irina Bokova will visit Hungary on the occasion of the forum. We all look forward to meeting her. And finally, UNESCO's thematic year in 2010, the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, brought great success to Hungary, with a UNESCO Artist for Peace title awarded to our famous singer Márta Sebestyén by the Director-General. I wish all delegates a successful conference. Thank you for your attention.

#### 55. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Yemen, His Excellency Mr Abdulsalam Al Joufi.

٥٦،١ السيد الجوفي (اليمن):

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة المدير العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السادة أصحاب السعادة السفراء المندوبين، السيدات والسادة الحضور جميعاً، اسمحوا لي في البدء أن أتوجه إليكم - السيد الرئيس - باسمي والوفد المرافق لأعبر لكم عن عميق شكرنا وتقديرنا لكل ما بذلتموه من رعاية واهتمام في تنسيق وإدارة أعمال وجلسات هذا المؤتمر، متمنين لرئاسته الجديدة التوفيق في تصريف شؤون المرحلة القادمة. ويطلب لي في مستهل كلمتي هذه أن أنقل إليكم تحيات فخامة الأخ علي عبد الله صالح، رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية، وتمنياته بأن تكلل أعمال هذا المؤتمر بالنجاح وتحقيق الأهداف المحددة له والتي تخدم مبادئ الشراكة والتعاون بين جميع الدول الأعضاء.

٥٦،٢ السيد الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، إن انعقاد مؤتمرننا هذا يأتي في فترة دقيقة تحتم علينا العمل جميعاً بما يسهم في تحسين المستوى المعيشي لجميع الشعوب بحكم أننا أصبحنا نعيش جميعاً في قارب واحد يدعى الأرض. فخلال السنوات الأخيرة واجه العالم أجمع عدداً من القضايا تمثلت في الآتي: (١) الأزمة الاقتصادية وشح الدخول في ركود اقتصادي عالمي؛ (٢) ارتفاع أسعار الغذاء بشكل لا يحتمله أي أحد؛ (٣) ارتفاع نسبة وحدة الفقر، خاصة في الدول النامية؛ (٤) زيادة دور الشباب في صياغة التوجهات السياسية والاقتصادية. وكل القضايا السابقة تحتم علينا وضع أطر واستراتيجيات شاملة على المستوى العالمي والإقليمي والقطري، وهنا يأتي دور المنظمات الدولية وعلى رأسها منظمة اليونسكو في قيادة وتنسيق عمل دولي يجد من تأثير المشكلات الاقتصادية والسياسية على تحقيق أهداف الألفية ويعزز ويدعم قيم الديمقراطية والمشاركة الواسعة والتسامح والتعاون بين الشعوب.

٥٦،٣ سيدي الرئيس، إن أهداف الألفية الجديدة لم تحقق ما كان مأمولاً منها وفق الجدولة المرسومة، وبخاصة التعليم للجميع الذي يستهدف مليارات ونصف مليار نسمة من أطفال وشباب العالم، وتوفير ٧٥ مليون معلم ضمن أولوية الجودة والكفاءة بحلول عام ٢٠١٥، والقضاء على ظاهرة الفقر التي تعرقل مختلف جهود المنظمة الراهنة. كما أن هناك صعوبات جمة في مكافحة الأمية وتسرب الطلاب وازدياد العمالة بين الأطفال، واتساع الفجوة الرقمية بين الدول، واختلال مبادئ المساواة بين الجنسين، وهي معضلات تزداد تعقيداً مع استمرار الأزمة المالية العالمية، بالإضافة إلى نشوب الثورات الشعبية وتفانم الكوارث الطبيعية. وبناء على المعطيات السابقة، فإننا نعتقد أن هناك حاجة ماسة إلى إعادة قراءة أهداف الألفية وتحديد الآليات المناسبة في تحقيقها داخل الدول الأكثر فقراً في العالم، ومنها الجمهورية اليمنية التي تبذل قصارى جهدها لمواكبة وملاءمة جهودكم الحيرة في مجالات التربية والثقافة والعلوم. وإليكم عرضاً مختصراً لحملة المكاسب والإنجازات التي قطعتها الجمهورية اليمنية في هذا السياق: ففي جانب التعليم: تم وضع استراتيجيات بعيدة المدى لمختلف مراحل التعليم من الطفولة المبكرة إلى التعليم الأساسي، ثم التعليم الثانوي والفني والمهني، وأخيراً التعليم العالي. استطاعت اليمن رفع معدلات الالتحاق الإجمالية بين الطلاب والطالبات، في التعليم الأساسي من ٦٢% عام ٢٠٠٠ إلى ٨٦% عام ٢٠١٠. كما تم خفض فجوة النوع الاجتماعي في التعليم الأساسي بين الذكور والإناث من ٣٠ نقطة عام ٢٠٠٠ إلى أقل من ١٦ نقطة عام ٢٠١٠. وتم العمل على تحسين وتعزيز مداخلات مكونة النوعية من مناهج وكتب دراسية ومعلمين ووسائل ونحوها، ونأمل أن يعكس ذلك في تحسين تحصيل الطلبة من خلال نتائج اختبارات "دراسة اتجاهات التحصيل في الرياضيات والعلوم على الصعيد الدولي" (TIMSS). وتم التركيز على رفع الوعي المحلي بأهمية المدن والمناطق التاريخية ووضع الأسس القانونية لحماية ودعم مواقع التراث والآثار، بالإضافة إلى وضع خطة عاجلة لإنقاذ مدينة زيبدة المهتدة بالخطر. كما تم التوسع والانتشار في خدمات الاتصالات في المدن والأرياف لتعزيز الاتصال والتواصل وإتاحة خدمات الإنترنت لجميع مستخدمي الهاتف الثابت مجاناً وإدخال خدمات النطاق العريض وتوسعه وتطوير خدماته، وتشجيع تنمية المحتوى الإلكتروني المحلي وتبادل المعرفة والتواصل الاجتماعي والثقافي والعلمي والمهني، انطلاقاً من قاعدة الانفتاح على العالم وتعزيز نقاط الالتقاء والتقارب مع المجتمعات والشعوب. كما اهتمت الحكومة اليمنية بتعزيز دور المرأة في التنمية عن طريق إصدار العديد من القوانين الحامية للمرأة والتي تعطيها أدواراً قيادية في مختلف الجوانب الاقتصادية والسياسية والتعليمية ونحوها. وتوسعت في نشر مراكز محو الأمية والتدريب المهني في المناطق الريفية بما ساهم في خفض نسبة الأمية وإكساب المرأة المهارات والخرف التي تساعدها على التخلص من الفقر. كما أوليت الأمومة والطفولة المبكرة أهمية قصوى عن طريق التوسع في الخدمات الصحية المقدمة إلى الأمهات أثناء الحمل والولادة، مما أدى إلى خفض معدل وفيات الأطفال، إضافة إلى إعلان اليمن دولة خالية من عدد من الأمراض الستة نتيجة تعميم برامج التحصين للأطفال. وفي ضوء ما تم

استعراضه أعلاه فإن حجم الإنجازات لم يكن بحسب ما هو مخطط، وذلك بسبب تأثير العديد من المشكلات على المستوى العالمي والمحلي المتمثلة في الأزمة المالية العالمية، وارتفاع أسعار الغذاء، إلخ، والتي أدت إلى تقليص الموارد المالية التي كان مخططاً توجيهها إلى تحقيق أهداف الألفية، كما حدّ من قدرة المجتمعات المحلية على المشاركة بفعالية في تحقيق هذه الأهداف، وتحولت الأولويات إلى توفير الطعام وأسس العيش بدلا من الاهتمام بالجوانب الصحية والتعليمية. كما ألفت الأزمة السياسية التي تعاني منها اليمن بآثار سلبية على العملية التعليمية، إذ قامت بعض العناصر المندسة في صفوف الشباب بأعمال عنف ومنع الطلبة من الدراسة في عدد من المدارس والجامعات بالإضافة إلى تحويلها إلى مراكز لها، كما أدى استخدام العنف إلى خوف أولياء الأمور من إرسال أولادهم وبناتهم إلى المدارس. كما أدى نشاط الجماعات الإرهابية من القاعدة في بعض المحافظات، مثل محافظة أبين، إلى نزوح آلاف الأسر منها وبينهم آلاف الطلبة إلى محافظة عدن حيث تحولت المدارس إلى مأوى لهم، وبذلك أعاققت بدء الدراسة فيها، سواء لهم أو للنازحين إليها، الأمر الذي يتطلب دعما من المنظمات الدولية والإنسانية لحل أزمة النازحين والطلاب.

٥٦،٤ سيدي الرئيس، إننا نتابع جهود المنظمة بشيء من الرضا والاعتزاز في مواجهة الاستحقاقات العالمية المتسارعة بدءاً بالتعليم كأولوية ومروراً بتدابير التغيير المناخي ومعالجة تأثيراتها السلبية على الإنسان والمحيط الحيوي ووصولاً إلى الصراعات القائمة على التمييز العنصري وما تمثله من تحديات على ثقافة السلام والحوار بين البشر، وهي مسؤوليات جسيمة لا يمكن تجاوزها إلا في ضوء عمل جماعي مستدام، يستند إلى الرؤية العلمية والشراكة الإنسانية، مع مراعاة احتياجات الشباب المتعددة والمتعددة في قطاع التعليم وسوق العمل، ولا شك أننا مطالبون في هذه الدورة بأن نصغي جيدا لأفكار الشباب، وأن نترجمها في سياساتنا الوطنية ترجمة أمينة وواقعية.

٥٦،٥ إننا في الجمهورية اليمنية نثمن ما تقومون به من تطوير للأداء الكمي والكيفي داخل هياكل ومؤسسات اليونسكو في ضوء تقارير وتوصيات فريق الخبراء للتقييم الخارجي، ونؤكد أن هذه النتائج ستخدم بصفة فعالة علاقات التعاون والتنسيق بين المنظمة والدول الأعضاء. وفي نفس الوقت نأمل أن تأخذ جهود تطوير المنظمة في الاعتبار المستجدات الجديدة بما يزيد من فعالية الدور الذي تضطلع فيه منظمة اليونسكو لمعالجة مشكلات الشباب، إضافة إلى تفعيل دورها في جوانب التنسيق وتحفيز الموارد المقدمة لتحقيق أهداف الألفية على المستويين العالمي والإقليمي في الوقت الذي تلتزم فيه الدول برفع مخصصات القطاعات ذات الارتباط بأهداف الألفية من الميزانية العامة للدولة أو من الناتج المحلي الإجمالي.

٥٦،٦ وفي الختام، باسمي وباسم وفد الجمهورية اليمنية نبارك لفلستين بقرار المجلس التنفيذي بالتوصية بقبولها كعضو في اليونسكو. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(56.1) **M. Al-Joufi (Yémen) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous adresser en mon nom et au nom de ma délégation mes profonds remerciements et mon appréciation pour tout l'intérêt et l'attention que vous avez portés à la coordination et à la gestion des travaux et des séances de cette Conférence, en souhaitant à sa nouvelle Présidente tout le succès possible dans la conduite des travaux à venir. J'ai le plaisir, au début de mon intervention, de vous transmettre les salutations de Son Excellence Abdullah Saleh, le Président de la République du Yémen, ainsi que ses souhaits pour que les travaux de cette Conférence soient couronnés de succès et qu'ils puissent atteindre les objectifs fixés pour elle, qui servent les principes du partenariat et de la coopération entre tous les pays membres.

(56.2) Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, la tenue de notre Conférence vient à un moment où nous sommes tenus d'œuvrer de concert afin de tenter d'améliorer le niveau de vie de tous les peuples puisque nous habitons désormais une même embarcation qui s'appelle la Terre. Depuis quelques années, le monde fait face à un certain nombre d'enjeux qui sont sources de difficultés, parmi lesquels : 1) la crise économique et le spectre de l'entrée en récession de l'économie mondiale ; 2) la hausse insupportable des prix de l'alimentation ; 3) l'augmentation du taux de pauvreté, surtout dans les pays en développement ; 4) le renforcement du rôle de la jeunesse dans la définition des orientations politiques et économiques. Toutes ces questions nous contraignent à élaborer des cadres et des stratégies globales aux niveaux mondial, régional et national, et c'est bien là le rôle des organisations internationales, à commencer par l'UNESCO. C'est à elles qu'il revient d'assurer la coordination de l'action menée par la communauté internationale pour atténuer l'impact des problèmes économiques et politiques sur la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire, et renforcer et soutenir les valeurs démocratiques, l'élargissement de la participation, la tolérance et la coopération entre les peuples.

(56.3) Monsieur le Président, ce qui était escompté des nouveaux Objectifs du Millénaire n'a pas été réalisé selon le calendrier établi, en particulier pour ce qui est de l'éducation pour tous, qui devait concerner un milliard et demi d'enfants et de jeunes gens de par le monde, de la prévision faite au titre de la priorité « qualité et compétence » (75 millions d'enseignants dès 2015) ou encore de l'élimination du phénomène de la pauvreté, qui entrave les divers efforts déployés actuellement par l'Organisation. On se heurte également à toutes sortes de difficultés en ce qui concerne la lutte contre l'analphabétisme, l'échec scolaire, l'augmentation du chômage parmi les jeunes, le fossé numérique qui se creuse entre les pays, et les atteintes au principe d'égalité des sexes, tous problèmes qui s'intensifient en raison de la persistance de la crise financière mondiale, à laquelle s'ajoutent des révolutions populaires et des catastrophes naturelles de plus en plus graves. Compte tenu de ce qui précède, nous croyons qu'il est impératif de revoir les Objectifs du Millénaire et de mettre au point des mécanismes appropriés pour les réaliser dans les pays les plus pauvres du monde, parmi lesquels se trouve la République du Yémen, qui fait de son mieux pour suivre et adapter l'action excellente que vous menez dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la culture et des sciences. Voici maintenant un bref passage en revue des acquis et des accomplissements de la République du Yémen à ces divers égards : en ce qui concerne l'éducation, nous avons élaboré une stratégie à long terme pour les différents cycles d'enseignement, de l'éducation de la petite enfance à l'enseignement supérieur, en passant par l'éducation de base, l'enseignement secondaire et l'enseignement technique et professionnel. Le Yémen est parvenu à améliorer le taux d'inscription des élèves, garçons et filles, au titre de l'éducation de base, puisqu'il est passé de 62 % en 2000 à 86 % en 2010. De même, l'écart entre les sexes dans l'éducation de base a diminué, de 30 points en 2000 à moins de 16 points en 2010. Des efforts ont été faits pour améliorer et renforcer l'inclusion de la composante « genre » dans les programmes et les livres scolaires, parmi les enseignants et sur le plan des moyens techniques, et nous espérons que cela se traduira par une amélioration de la qualité de l'apprentissage des élèves et des résultats obtenus, notamment dans le cadre de l'option « Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – TIMSS ». Les efforts ont été centrés sur la sensibilisation au niveau local à l'importance des villes et des régions historiques, des bases juridiques de la défense et du soutien aux sites du patrimoine et aux antiquités ; en outre, un plan d'urgence a été élaboré pour sauver la ville en péril de Zubaid. On a également développé les services de télécommunications dans les villes et les campagnes et on en a étendu la couverture afin d'améliorer la communication en proposant gratuitement Internet à tous les abonnés au téléphone fixe, puis en modernisant

encore le réseau avec le haut débit, tout en encourageant le développement des contenus électroniques locaux, l'échange de connaissances et la communication sociale, culturelle, scientifique et professionnelle, dans un esprit d'ouverture au monde et de multiplication des points de rencontre et de rapprochement entre les communautés et les peuples. Le Gouvernement yéménite a tenu à renforcer le rôle des femmes dans le développement en adoptant de nombreuses lois relatives à leur protection et en leur confiant des responsabilités de premier plan dans divers domaines économiques, politiques et éducatifs, etc. Nous avons accru le nombre des centres d'alphabétisation et de formation professionnelle dans les régions rurales, ce qui a contribué à réduire le taux d'analphabétisme et à doter les femmes de compétences et d'aptitudes professionnelles qui les aident à sortir de la pauvreté. Une grande attention a également été accordée à la maternité et à la petite enfance. Les services de santé dispensés durant la grossesse et lors de l'accouchement ont été développés, ce qui a contribué à réduire le taux de mortalité infantile. Certes, ce qui a été accompli n'a pas été à la hauteur de ce qui était prévu, en raison de l'incidence de nombreux problèmes survenus au niveau mondial comme à l'échelon local – crise financière internationale, cherté des denrées alimentaires, etc. – qui ont entraîné une réduction des ressources financières allouées à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire, ce qui a entamé d'autant la capacité des communautés locales de participer effectivement à cette entreprise; de nouvelles priorités ont été définies – fourniture de denrées alimentaires et de produits de première nécessité au détriment de la santé et de l'éducation. La crise politique dont souffre le Yémen a également eu un impact négatif sur le processus éducatif, certains éléments infiltrés dans les classes ayant commis des actes violents et empêché les étudiants d'étudier dans un nombre d'écoles et d'universités, transformant ces établissements en leurs propres centres. De même, le recours à la violence a effrayé les parents, les amenant à ne plus envoyer leurs fils ou leurs filles à l'école. Les activités des groupes terroristes d'Al-Qaida dans certaines provinces, comme Abyan, a poussé des milliers de familles et des milliers d'étudiants à émigrer vers la province d'Aden, où des écoles ont été transformées en refuges à leur intention, ce qui a empêché la reprise des classes, pour les résidents locaux comme pour les réfugiés. L'appui d'organisations internationales et humanitaires est nécessaire pour régler les problèmes qui se posent pour les migrants et les étudiants.

(56.4) Monsieur le Président, nous observons avec plaisir et fierté les efforts que déploie l'Organisation pour faire face aux diverses échéances mondiales qui ne font que se rapprocher. Les enjeux sont multiples – éducation, répercussions du changement climatique et de son impact nuisible sur l'homme et son environnement vital, conflits fondés sur la discrimination raciale et menaces connexes pour la culture de la paix et du dialogue entre les hommes. Il s'ensuit de grandes responsabilités qu'on ne peut assumer qu'en agissant collectivement dans la durée, en s'appuyant sur une vision scientifique et un partenariat humanitaire, tout en étant attentif aux besoins en évolution constante de la jeunesse dans le secteur de l'éducation et sur le marché du travail. Nous serons sans doute appelés lors de cette session à écouter les idées de la jeunesse avec attention, et il nous faudra les traduire de façon sûre et réaliste en politiques nationales.

(56.5) La République du Yémen apprécie hautement ce que vous faites pour développer la performance quantitative et qualitative des structures et des institutions de l'UNESCO à la lumière des rapports et des recommandations du groupe d'experts sur l'évaluation externe, et nous savons que ces résultats auront pour effet d'intensifier la coopération et la coordination entre l'Organisation et les États membres. En même temps, nous espérons que ces efforts visant à rendre l'Organisation encore plus performante prendront en compte les dernières innovations en date, qui permettront à l'UNESCO d'accroître son efficacité afin de s'attaquer avec succès aux problèmes de la jeunesse, et qu'ils imprimeront une nouvelle dynamique à la coordination et à la mobilisation des ressources nécessaires à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire aux niveaux mondial et régional, à un moment où les pays s'engagent à augmenter la part de leur budget ou de leur produit intérieur brut (PIB) qu'ils allouent aux secteurs liés aux Objectifs du Millénaire.

(56.6) En conclusion, en mon nom propre et au nom de la délégation de la République du Yémen, j'accueille avec joie la décision prise par le Conseil exécutif de recommander que la Palestine devienne membre de l'UNESCO. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

*Mr Andreasen (Denmark) takes the Chair.*

**57. The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. And now I have the honour to give the floor to His Excellency Mr Ju-Ho Lee, Minister of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea. Please.

**58.1 Mr Lee (Republic of Korea):**

Honourable President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General and Excellencies, it is a great honour for me to attend this 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea. Honourable President, education is a basic human right that must be ensured even in difficult circumstances, such as war and famine. Hence, the Republic of Korea is fully committed to supporting education for all (EFA) to eradicate poverty and achieve development. Thanks to generous assistance from the international community combined with the Korean Government's efforts to develop the country, the Republic of Korea was able to accomplish modernization and democracy within one generation. The Republic of Korea has thus turned itself from a recipient into a donor country. Education, science and technology have been main pillars of my country's development policies. Building on its achievements, the Republic of Korea is transforming itself into a "powerhouse of talents", giving all students opportunities to realize their full potential by providing various support programmes in the areas of education, science and technology. Furthermore, to share this unique experience with the world for the eradication of poverty and hunger through education, the Republic of Korea has launched a number of education initiatives to reach out to developing countries. This year, we began a new project entitled "Better Education for Africa's Rise," or "BEAR," to provide vocational education to five sub-Saharan countries. In addition, our "BRIDGE Programme" for adult literacy education sees young Korean experts dispatched to six African countries.

58.2 Honourable President, although the importance of financial support for developing countries cannot be underestimated, the most urgent task is to leverage their "indigenous knowledge" in finding a suitable model for development. In this context, the role of the international community is to help seek the development model, getting together at discussion venues including the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in the Republic of Korea this November. The Government of the Republic of Korea plans to triple the amount of its official development assistance (ODA) by the end of 2015 from the 2008 level.

58.3 Madam President, the Republic of Korea would like to take this opportunity to make a proposal to set out a new EFA agenda for the post-2015 period. So far, the goals of EFA have been focused on the quantitative expansion of education. EFA discussions have been limited to the issue of assistance rather than education itself. Therefore, the Republic of Korea would like to submit that not only quantitative expansion of education but also qualitative enhancement of education should be considered for our EFA agenda as from 2015. My country will spare no effort in the selection of the future EFA agenda.

58.4 Honourable President, among the academic disciplines, the significance of the humanities has been highlighted to tackle various challenges in this rapidly changing world. In this context, the first World Humanities Forum organized jointly with UNESCO is to be held in the Republic of Korea this November. I would like to call for all Member States' continued interest and participation in this forum. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea pledges its continued efforts in fostering culture for development, by facilitating creativity and cultural industry in cooperation with UNESCO with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

58.5 UNESCO's natural science programmes have made a significant contribution to disaster prevention and damage reduction. In line with this, the Republic of Korea sees great potential and progress in utilizing the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme for tsunami warning and mitigation. My country would accordingly like to call for heightened coordination among these programmes to modernize and maximize their synergy.

58.6 Honourable President, the Republic of Korea still harbours a heart-warming memory of UNESCO convoys that handed out free textbooks to elementary school students in the 1950s, studying in a nation devastated by a war. As a responsible Member State of UNESCO, the Republic of Korea will continue its proactive participation in UNESCO's efforts for world peace. Thank you for your attention.

#### 59. The President:

Thank you Your Excellency. And now I give the floor to Her Excellency, Ms Cissé Mingt Cheikh Ould Boyde, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Mauritania. Please.

#### ٦٠،١ الأمانة ولد بوياد (موريتانيا):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، والصلاة والسلام على نبيه الكريم، السيدة الرئيسة، السيدة المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي الوزراء ورؤساء الوفود، أصحاب السعادة سفراء الدول الأعضاء، السادة الخبراء، أيها الجمع الكريم تجمعنا في هذا اليوم رحاب اليونسكو ذات الرسالة الخالدة؛ ففي هذه القاعة التي كانت ولا تزال قبة تولد تحتها الأحلام الوردية للإنسان على مدى عقود عديدة، اجتمعت البشرية لتنجز مبادئ حق الإنسان في التعلم والكرامة والرأي، وتنسج حيوط مستقبلها، وترزع أملها في السلام والمحبة فيزهري في القلوب.

٦٠،٢ تأتي هذه الدورة في ظل ظروف سياسية عاشتها عدة بلدان في منطقتنا العربية نتيجة حراك شعبي يطالب بالديمقراطية والحرية وتحقيق مستوى عيش كريم. وقد كانت بلادي سباقة إلى تحقيق هذه المطالب بفضل تبني سياسة تهدف إلى الرفع من شأن الإنسان من خلال برامج متكاملة تضمن التكفل بالحرمان العامة الفردية والجماعية، وتعمل على تشجيع النمو ومحاربة الفقر، وتوسيع القاعدة الإنتاجية الوطنية، وتعزيز البنية التحتية للبلد، وترقية الموارد البشرية، وتحصر على تعزيز الحكم الرشيد، وتحقيق آمال الشباب للمساهمة في إدارة الشأن العام. كما تعمل بلادي على تحقيق السلم والعدالة والاستقرار وإشاعة الإنصاف انطلاقاً من مبادئ الحوار والمصالحة وترسيخ الوفاق الاجتماعي. وفي هذا الإطار شهدت بلادي انفتاحاً سياسياً صادقا على جميع مكونات الطيف السياسي تكفل قبل أيام بحوار سياسي وطني عام التفت حوله مختلف الروافد السياسية بالبلد. إن بلادنا التي أطلق عليها الرحالة والمفكرون ألقاباً تشريفية عديدة من بينها "أرض الرجال"، كانت قنطرة عبرت عليها الحضارات، سبيلاً لنشر الإحياء وإشاعة ثقافة السلام والتسامح بين الشعوب. وفي هذا الإطار تسعى بلادي إلى تعزيز دورها في فضاء انتمائها العربي والإفريقي والإسلامي والدولي انطلاقاً من واجب نصره القضايا العادلة، كوسيلة مثلى لفض النزاعات ومعالجة الأزمات والانحياز الدائم للسلم والاستقرار والوسطية.

٦٠،٣ لقد شكلت التربية والثقافة والعلوم وحماية حقوق الإنسان وتحرير الفضاء السمعي البصري اهتمامات راسخة لبلادي وسيظل احترام وتأمين هذه الأبعاد خياراً استراتيجياً لنا، باعتبارها روافد دائمة للتنمية، وضماناً راسخاً لحقوق الشعوب في العيش الكريم.

٦٠،٤ ففي نطاق ترقية المصادر البشرية، قمنا بإنجازات هامة انطلاقاً من استراتيجية متماسكة وواقعية تهدف إلى تحسين وتعزيز قيادة وتسيير النظام التربوي على المستوى الوطني وتطوير جودة التعليم بشكل عام، وترقية وتشجيع الامتياز، وتوسيع قاعدة التكوين ليتلاءم مع الطلب، ونحن نعكف هذه الأيام على تنظيم منتديات عامة لإصلاح التعليم، ليصبح أداة مكنية لتنمية الإنسان والارتقاء بمعارفه إلى المستوى المطلوب.

٦٠،٥ وفي المجال الثقافي، حرصت بلادي على تبني سياسة متوازنة تضمن صيانة وتأمين ونشر الأشكال المختلفة لتراثنا الثقافي المادي وغير المادي. وفي هذا السياق، تم إنشاء معهد وطني للموسيقى، كما أنشئ صندوق لدعم سياسة الدولة في هذا النطاق من أجل صون وحفظ وتطوير التراث المادي وغير المادي للبلاد. كما قامت موريتانيا باستحداث مهرجان سنوي للمدن التاريخية المصنفة لدى منظمكم الموقرة تراثاً عالمياً. ومن هنا أذكر المؤتمر الموقر بترشح موريتانيا لنيل العضوية في لجنة التراث العالمي لفترة ٤ سنوات، وينطلق ترشيح موريتانيا من إيماننا الثابت بمبادئ منظمنا الموقرة ورغبنا الصادقة في الإسهام الفعال في حماية التراث الثقافي والطبيعي للبشرية جمعاء.

٦٠،٦ وبدافع الاهتمام الخاص الذي يوليه رئيس الجمهورية للشباب في البلاد، صدقت الحكومة على سياسة وطنية متبصرة تترجم متطلبات ورغبات الشباب وتهدف إلى تشجيع القدرات الخلاقة لديه، وفتح آفاق واسعة أمامه للتشغيل والتكوين والدعم الاجتماعي والتربوي والثقافي والترفيهي.

٦٠،٧ لقد قامت بلادي بمخطوات عملية في مجال الإعلام من تحرير للفتوات التلفزيونية والإذاعة والصحف، وسن القوانين لحماية الصحفيين. كما اعتمدت استراتيجية متكاملة لحفظ البيئة والتراث الطبيعي وتعمل حالياً على تنفيذ برنامج لمحاربة زحف الرمال.

٦٠،٨ إيماننا من العلاقة الجدلية الوثيقة بين الأمن والنماء، فقد أدرجت بلادي في مقدمة أولوياتها إعداد خطط واتخاذ الإجراءات الكفيلة بضمان أمن حدودنا. إننا في موريتانيا وبقدر ما ندين التطرف، فإننا نتشبث بقيمتنا الإسلامية السمحة التي تنبذ العنف وتدعو إلى التسامح، ومن أجل تعزيز الخبرة المحلية

والإقليمية في مجال البحث عن السلام وسبل القضاء على الظواهر ذات الصلة بالأنشطة غير المشروعة، فإن بلادي تعمل - كما أعلن ذلك فخامة رئيس الجمهورية السيد محمد ولد عبد العزيز من على منبر اليونسكو قبل أسابيع - على إنشاء معهد عربي إفريقي للسلام.

٦٠,٩ إن الوفاء بالالتزامات التي قطعها المجتمع الدولي على نفسه إبان إنشاء هذه المنظمة لن يتحقق إلا إذا استفادت جميع دول وشعوب العالم من الإمكانيات المتاحة، وتم دعم جهود تطوير التربية والثقافة والعلوم كحق أساسي يجب أن ندافع عنه جميعاً، ولذا فنحن نرى أن من حق الشعب الفلسطيني أن يتمتع بكل حقوقه، وأن تكون فلسطين عضواً كاملاً في منظماتنا الموقرة. أشكركم والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله.

(60.1) **Mme Ould Boyde (Mauritanie) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux, que la prière et la paix soient sur son noble Prophète. Excellences, Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et messieurs les ministres, chefs de délégation, Mesdames et messieurs les ambassadeurs des pays membres et experts, Mesdames, Messieurs, nous nous rassemblons ce jour au sein de l'UNESCO, dont le message est éternel, dans cette salle sous la coupole de laquelle ont vu le jour les rêves roses de l'humanité au fil de nombreuses décennies, où celle-ci s'est assemblée pour réaliser le droit des hommes à l'éducation, à la dignité et à la liberté d'opinion, pour tisser les fils de leur avenir et pour semer leurs espoirs afin que la paix et l'amour fleurissent dans les cœurs.

(60.2) Cette session de la Conférence générale vient à un moment où la situation politique de nombreux pays de notre région arabe est marquée par un mouvement populaire qui demande la démocratie, la liberté et un niveau de vie décent. Mon pays a été parmi les premiers à accéder à ces demandes, grâce à l'adoption d'une politique qui vise à améliorer les conditions de vie au moyen de programmes intégrés qui garantissent les libertés publiques individuelles et collectives, et qui tentent d'encourager la croissance et la lutte contre la pauvreté, d'élargir la base de production nationale, de renforcer l'infrastructure du pays et de promouvoir les ressources humaines, et nous veillons à renforcer la bonne gouvernance et à satisfaire à l'espoir des jeunes de participer à la gestion des affaires publiques. Mon pays s'attache également à réaliser la paix, la justice et la stabilité et à répandre l'équité sur la base des principes du dialogue, de la réconciliation, et de l'harmonie sociale. À cet égard, mon pays a vécu une véritable ouverture à toutes les composantes du spectre politique, qui a culminé il y a quelques jours par un dialogue politique de portée nationale auquel ont participé les divers courants politiques du pays. Notre pays, auquel les voyageurs et les penseurs ont donné de nombreux surnoms, comme, par exemple, « le pays des hommes », a été un pont sur lequel sont passées les civilisations, une voie pour la diffusion de la fraternité et de la culture de la paix et de la tolérance entre les peuples. À cet égard, mon pays s'attache à renforcer son rôle dans les espaces que lui ouvre son appartenance arabe, africaine, islamique, et internationale, conscient du devoir qui est le sien de faire triompher les causes justes - le moyen idéal de régler les conflits et les crises - et de prendre toujours fait et cause pour la paix, la stabilité et la voie médiane.

(60.3) L'éducation, la culture, les sciences, la protection des droits de l'homme et la libération de l'espace audiovisuel sont des préoccupations constantes de mon pays. Le respect et l'appréciation de ces exigences resteront un choix stratégique pour nous, car ce sont des vecteurs permanents du développement et des gages du respect du droit des peuples à vivre dans la dignité.

(60.4) En ce qui concerne la promotion des ressources humaines, nous avons obtenu des succès importants sur la base d'une stratégie cohérente et réaliste, axée sur l'amélioration et le renforcement de l'administration et du fonctionnement du système éducatif au niveau national, l'amélioration de la qualité de l'enseignement en général, la promotion de l'excellence ainsi que l'élargissement de la palette des formations offertes, pour satisfaire à la demande. Actuellement, nous organisons des consultations publiques en vue de réformer l'éducation afin qu'elle devienne un instrument d'autonomisation pour le développement humain et pour porter l'instruction de la population au niveau voulu.

(60.5) Dans le domaine de la culture, mon pays a veillé à adopter une politique équilibrée qui assure la protection, la valorisation et la diffusion des diverses formes du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel. À cet égard, un Institut national de la musique a été établi, ainsi qu'un fonds pour soutenir la politique du pays dans ce domaine afin de maintenir, préserver et développer le patrimoine matériel et immatériel du pays. La Mauritanie a également lancé un festival annuel des villes historiques inscrites par votre Organisation estimée sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Je rappelle d'ailleurs aux distingués participants à la Conférence générale que la Mauritanie s'est portée candidate au Comité du patrimoine mondial pour un mandat de quatre ans. La candidature de la Mauritanie reflète notre foi inébranlable dans les principes de notre Organisation estimée et notre désir sincère de contribuer effectivement à la protection du patrimoine culturel et naturel de l'humanité toute entière.

(60.6) Grâce à l'intérêt particulier que porte le Président de la Mauritanie à la jeunesse de notre pays, le Gouvernement a approuvé une politique nationale éclairée qui traduit les besoins et les désirs de la jeunesse par des mesures concrètes et qui tente d'encourager ses capacités créatives et de lui ouvrir de vastes horizons en matière d'emploi et de formation et dans les domaines social, éducatif, culturel et récréatif.

(60.7) Mon pays a pris des mesures pratiques dans le domaine des médias afin de libérer les chaînes de télévision et de radio et les journaux, et des lois ont été élaborées aux fins de la protection des journalistes. Une stratégie intégrée de protection de l'environnement et du patrimoine naturel a également été adoptée, et nous exécutons actuellement un programme de lutte contre l'ensablement.

(60.8) Persuadés qu'il existe un lien étroit entre la sécurité et la croissance, nous avons inclus parmi nos premières priorités la préparation de plans et l'adoption de mesures garantissant la sécurité de nos frontières. En Mauritanie, autant nous condamnons l'extrémisme, autant nous tenons à nos valeurs islamiques généreuses, qui rejettent la violence et appellent à la tolérance. Pour renforcer les compétences locales et régionales dans le domaine de la recherche de la paix et des moyens d'éliminer les phénomènes liés aux activités non légitimes, mon pays - comme l'a annoncé Son Excellence le Président de la République Monsieur Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz de la tribune de l'UNESCO il y a quelques semaines - a l'intention d'établir un institut arabo-africain pour la paix.

(60.9) Les engagements que la communauté internationale a pris lors de la création de cette Organisation ne pourront être tenus que si tous les pays et les peuples du monde bénéficient des ressources disponibles et si les efforts visant à développer l'éducation, la culture et les sciences sont soutenus comme un droit fondamental que nous devons tous défendre. Voilà pourquoi nous croyons que le peuple palestinien est fondé à exercer tous ses droits et que la Palestine doit devenir membre à part entière de notre Organisation distinguée. Je vous remercie. Que la paix et la miséricorde de Dieu soient sur vous.

61. **The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. And now I have the honour to invite the Right Honourable Mr Alan Duncan, Minister of State for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

62.1 **Mr Duncan** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Excellencies, Mr President of the General Conference, one of the problems of conferences is that by the end of the first day, it feels as if everything that needs to be said has been said; it is just that not everyone has had the chance to say it. So I shall try to ensure you do not feel like that as I say a few words to you now. Ellen Wilkinson, one of my predecessors as a British Government minister, helped found UNESCO in London. She acted as the first-ever President of the General Conference. In our Ministry of Foreign Affairs we still hold the main documents relating to the creation of UNESCO when we declared our mission "to create peace in the minds of men". And yesterday we welcomed South Sudan as the latest signatory. It is welcome, indeed.

62.2 Today the scale of our challenge is undiminished and the complexity of the setting is certainly no simpler. And, as the world changes, so all organizations must change, too. They must constantly review the actions they take to achieve their mission, the way in which they do them and the circumstances in which they work. UNESCO has in the past 18 months been undertaking just such an examination, and I see important progress. I see attempts to focus the budget better and the wish to demonstrate clear results. I welcome the serious thought that has gone into the follow-up of the Independent External Evaluation. All that work is important, well founded and rather long overdue. And, as this Conference considers the next steps in that reform work, we should remember that it is on the results of our actions that people will judge us rather than on the sincerity of our intentions.

62.3 UNESCO's work in education has the potential to guide the policies which will mean millions of children can receive high quality education. It means that adult illiteracy could be eliminated and that school systems are rebuilt quickly after conflicts or natural disasters. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* equip us with the information we need to get those policies right. UNESCO wants and hopes to be the global leader of the education for all agenda; yet here we need to see some significant improvements. It is not enough to judge leadership by the number of meetings or volume of publications. We need to judge by results. I therefore urge UNESCO to compare its approach to that of other agencies leading global agendas and ensure that UNESCO has the best possible practice.

62.4 When one is a leader, it pays occasionally to look over one's shoulder to see who is following. UNESCO is unique amongst United Nations bodies with its role in protecting and promoting culture and heritage. The World Heritage Convention is often held up as the 'gold standard' of international conventions, and we must take care not to tarnish that reputation. In the General Assembly of States Parties to that convention we will be looking to see that the standard is protected and that developing countries in particular are supported in their work to protect and recognize their own sites of "outstanding universal value". And the best way to do that is not to lower the standard, but to help countries reach it with technical assistance, knowledge sharing and the elimination of unnecessary burdens during the process. So let us ensure that the advisory bodies really do advise.

62.5 UNESCO's work on science demonstrates well the globalized world we live in. Many of the problems which scientists are grappling with know no borders, and I urge the Natural Sciences Sector to continue its work focusing on these global challenges and on the practical policies to address them. Under the umbrella of the Sector, I wish to recognize the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Few things demonstrate better the value of international cooperation than the global tsunami warning system which proves its worth many times over.

62.6 This General Conference will adopt the budget for the next biennium. We should be clear when doing so that most Member States cannot afford more resources for the Organization, yet we still have high expectations. More than ever we need to prioritize, be efficient and make careful choices. As we have those discussions let us ask each time: Is this the *best* choice I can make with these resources? As we also debate our budgeting and planning system we should equally ask whether the system itself is fit for purpose.

62.7 I cannot end without thanking the Director-General personally. Ms Bokova's leadership of this Organization through turbulent waters remains critical to its success and its very survival. My government always recognized the importance of her role here and placed our faith in her. I am heartened at what I see so far but it will not surprise her if I say to her and her team, "Let us all get back to work please, because there is still plenty to do". Thank you.

63. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I give the floor to His Excellency Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of State at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defence of Singapore.

64.1 **Mr Wong** (Singapore):

Mr President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to represent the Government of the Republic of Singapore to address all esteemed delegates at the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference this evening. May I first congratulate Madam Katalin Bogyay of Hungary for her election as President of the General Conference and thank the outgoing President, Ambassador Davidson Hepburn of the Bahamas, for his contributions over the past two years. Please also allow me to express my appreciation to our Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her unwavering efforts in furthering UNESCO's capabilities and enriching its programmes and in advocating for greater accountability and efficiency in UNESCO's operations.

64.2 We are meeting in a period of unprecedented and rapid change around the world. In the short term, we face the risk of another global economic slowdown. But more fundamentally, globalization and technological advances are

transforming the way we live and the way we work. Competition is fiercer than ever and is threatening entire industries and jobs everywhere. In the past, companies would outsource their work to lower-cost countries. Now they can "crowd-source" all sorts of jobs, posting them on the Internet and making them available to anyone capable of coming up with the best solutions. In this new environment those who do well are the ones who can think critically, who can tackle complex non-routine tasks, and who can come up with entrepreneurial, innovative ideas. This is why education is so important to enable our young to think critically and independently and to enhance their capacity to fully harness the power of science, technology and machines.

64.3 Singapore has been steadfast in its mission to provide opportunities for all our children to be the best they can be. Our aim is to give every child a top-rate education and invest in where his or her aptitudes lie. Therefore our emphasis is on the quality of all our schools and not just a few elite schools. Our goal is to teach students how to think, to be creative in problem-solving and to keep on absorbing new knowledge and skills throughout their lives, rather than to merely absorb more facts and data. We give extra support to children from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds so that they can stay in school, take advantage of their education and make the most of their lives. Singapore also works closely with its partners to improve the education systems in Southeast Asia and achieve the goal of education for all. For example, our National Institute of Education has conducted a Train-the-Trainers programme to build capacity in school leadership for Laos with joint funding from the UNESCO Participation Programme and our Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In total, we have trained more than 75,000 participants from 170 countries through our Singapore Cooperation Programme in fields ranging from airport operation safety to water utilities management. Besides education, Singapore invests heavily in research, science and technology. Across different disciplines and institutions our researchers and scientists seek to be part of the global endeavour to push back the frontiers of knowledge and possibilities. We are happy that Dr Marissa Teo, one of our women scientists, was recently awarded the UNESCO-L'Oreal "For Women in Science" international fellowship for her contributions in cancer research. The research centres in our universities focus on areas where efforts can make an impact globally. One example is in sustainable development and water solutions. Despite our resource constraints, we have ensured a sustainable supply of water to serve our needs by exploiting technology to the full and efficiently using and reusing water resources. In July next year, Singapore will be hosting the fifth Singapore International Water Week to discuss water challenges and solutions for livable cities. We expect 10,000 participants from around the world and hope that UNESCO Member States will be able to join us in this knowledge exchange.

64.4 Science and technology may offer an exciting future, but we must also remember our history and culture for they define who we are as a people. While Singapore's history as a nation may be short we have long been at the crossroads of civilizations as a key hub along the trade routes between the East and the West. We have recently stepped up our efforts to preserve our cultural heritage and diversity. We have promoted multicultural appreciation and understanding through the organization of arts and cultural festivals. We have also stepped up efforts in the restoration and conservation of our historic buildings. For example, the Hong San See building in Singapore was recently honoured with the Award of Excellence, the highest accolade in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. Looking ahead, we will study the implications of ratifying the UNESCO World Heritage Convention with a view to nominating our cultural or natural sites for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

64.5 In closing, let me reiterate our full support for UNESCO's work. In order for this work to have the desired impact, UNESCO should review its operations and programmes. The recent Independent External Evaluation report has underscored the need for greater focus in UNESCO's efforts. Instead of spreading limited resources thinly across many areas, it may be better for UNESCO to be more selective in identifying programmes where it can make a significant and sustained impact and then concentrate its resources in these areas. Where it makes sense, we should also explore collaboration and synergies with other international organizations. By focusing our efforts and working together as one global community, I am confident that we can make progress in tackling our shared concerns, improve the lives of people everywhere and secure a better tomorrow for future generations. Thank you very much.

65. **The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Edgardo Angara, Senator of the Philippines. Please.

66.1 **Mr Angara (Philippines):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, I offer Her Excellency Ms Katalin Bogyay the warmest congratulations of the Philippines delegation. We gather at a time of global unrest and deepening crises. Political, social and economic upheavals are transforming countries and societies. The next two bienniums will be crucial to us for two reasons: first, we are drawing nearer and nearer to the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); second, the United Nations has projected that the Philippines' demographic window will commence in 2015, when our population hits nearly 103 million, and last until 2050. Societies of such States have proportionately large working-age populations; they possess, therefore, their highest demographic potential for economic growth. The Philippines will not be alone in entering such a period; the demographic window for South Africa, Tajikistan, El Salvador and French Guiana will begin at the same time; and every five years hence until 2070, developing nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America and the Caribbean will be entering theirs.

66.2 There are seven billion people today; by 2025 there will be eight billion, and 61% of them will come from the developing countries in Asia. By 2050 the global population will balloon to nine billion. What these figures underscore is the imminent and unparalleled opportunity for dozens of developing nations to ascend the economic ladder and realize a better quality of life for their peoples. Asia in particular holds enormous promise. The European Commission foresees Asia accounting for more than 30% of global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025. On the other hand, the Asian Development Bank believes that the Asian economies can sustain their present economic growth, that the region will generate 51% of global output by the year 2050 and that by then living standards in Asia will have improved to the level



enjoyed by Europe today. However, there is no guarantee that these projections will materialize. They merely represent potential - but extremely valuable potential - that UNESCO can help realize. The task at hand will be too demanding for any one nation to bear alone. International cooperation will be more crucial than ever in the coming decades if the world is to eradicate poverty, build lasting peace and create resilient societies. As we know, UNESCO was founded when a devastating world war had scarcely ended. Since then it has been working to foster an environment where peoples can get together in peaceful dialogue to achieve mutually beneficial goals. Armed conflicts persist in some parts of the world, but on the whole our problems have acquired a more complex character. Among them are extreme poverty and hunger, acute income and social inequities, financial crises, climatic disturbances and resource scarcities. At the same time advances in information and communication technology (ICT) are revolutionizing how we live, how we work, how we endure, how we do business. At the crux of this revolution is innovation. Indeed no society, no institution, no individual can survive such a rapid and relentless change by being stagnant or passive. We must all become innovators; we must harness technological innovations for our purposes. Connectivity through ICT can facilitate learning on a larger, more inclusive scale and make for dynamic and borderless intercultural dialogues. New media technologies can also promote understanding by showing us in real time what is happening around the world; and by investing in our countries' science and technology, we can sharpen our national competitiveness and leapfrog development in time for the demographic window at hand.

66.3 UNESCO must show visionary leadership by reviewing, revisiting and reinterpreting its mission in accordance with the present and future needs of its Members. To realize its potential the Philippines, like the whole of the developing world, needs the strategic guidance that only UNESCO and the United Nations can provide. Following the Great War, UNESCO was instrumental in ushering us into an era of peace. Now, UNESCO must again play a vital role in paving the way for the coming period of prosperity. Thank you very much, Madam President.

67. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I have the honour to give the floor to Her Excellency, Ms Grazyna Bernatowicz, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.

68.1 **Ms Bernatowicz (Poland):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and the five candidate countries, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey. Albania and Serbia associate themselves with this statement. This debate, in preparation for the future strategic and programmatic orientations of UNESCO, offers us the right setting to express the views of the European Union on the fundamentals of UNESCO and our vision for its future. The European Union is attached to UNESCO's unique place in the United Nations family as an agency endowed with a vocation for intellectual cooperation, standard-setting and policy action in the fields covered by its mandate. The European Union and UNESCO are relevant to each other since they essentially share the same values and have similar priorities, such as international peace, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to education, promotion of science, influence of culture and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

68.2 The important contribution that UNESCO can make in key areas for the European Union has become increasingly obvious over the recent past thanks to your active engagement, Madam Director-General, and your strong will to reform the Organization and reposition it to fully play its role. Sharing the same will, Member States have brought their contribution in designing and defining the reform. We are proud of this common achievement and ready to take our share of responsibilities to pursue the implementation of this reform, which requires focus and concentration on the core areas of UNESCO's mandate. You deserve the expression of our satisfaction, Madam Director-General, for achieving in a very short time the drafting of a new budget proposal which meets our expectations taking into account the present global context.

68.3 One of the challenges UNESCO increasingly faces is to bring a quick response to unexpected events, while not losing sight of long-term perspectives. We acknowledge in this respect the Organization's reactivity to the movements of the Arab Spring, which compel us to encourage a new dynamic for some of our activities. The European Union and UNESCO share a common concern for human rights – right to education, right to take part in cultural life, right to information, freedom of the media and protection of journalists being key areas for joint cooperation. Special attention should be granted in this framework to the role of the Internet and the new social media which have recently proved to be effective tools serving the empowerment of those striving for freedom of expression and democracy. We need to keep pace with developments in this field.

68.4 The importance of young people and their claims need to be given serious consideration, which points among others to the paramount role of education. No democratic and inclusive society is imaginable without a strong education fostering development and prosperity. Increased efforts are urgently required. Around 800 million individuals worldwide, of whom two thirds are women, still lack basic literacy skills. Most of them will still be on the labour market for the next decades. In this light, it seems obvious that we have to collectively reflect on the future of education for all after 2015. One of our major objectives is to enhance the quality of education. Enrolment is a first step, but its impact remains doomed to failure if it is not followed by achievement. Another objective is to develop a truly holistic approach, thus achieving a balance between all levels and kinds of education. One urgent challenge is the worrying rate of youth unemployment which calls out for the development of high-quality vocational education.

68.5 We hold that UNESCO can and should occupy an active role in the United Nations within the ongoing discussion on global governance. Besides the economic and financial issues, comprehensive factors call for new forms of global governance – the spread of social and economic inequalities, the rapidly growing loss of biosphere and natural resources, and climate change, to name just a few. We are all aware that global and complex challenges do not elicit

easy answers. The United Nations plays a very important role in this discussion. A strong, united and efficient United Nations is needed in which the specialized agencies and funds and programmes work well together. In this perspective, the European Union wants UNESCO to remain active in the system-wide United Nations reform process and “Delivering as One” initiative. UNESCO needs to further focus its action and find its visible place in the United Nations system. The Organization’s greatest comparative advantage in contributing to solutions for meeting global challenges is its pluridisciplinary capacity with regard to education, the sciences, culture, information and communication. It is important that UNESCO continues to devote itself to sustainable choices in which the cohesion of society and respect for people and their culture remain central. In this way, UNESCO will contribute to a strong United Nations in order to address these new complex challenges.

68.6 The new system of global governance which we are calling for should also be based on a set of values and principles. We believe that UNESCO’s goals and ideas like the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue or the protection of the diversity of cultural expressions should be the cornerstones of such a global agenda for the twenty-first century. The complexity of today’s context calls for an efficient and responsible response. This is the duty of the international community towards the international organizations it has created. More than ever, we need an efficient, strong and effective UNESCO as part of a responsible international system. Our priority should be to ensure the continuing relevance and role of UNESCO and that it functions at its full potential.

68.7 Ladies and gentlemen, let me now make a few remarks on behalf of Poland. The 36th session of the General Conference is taking place in a singular context. On the one hand, we are still facing the economic crisis, which necessarily puts some limitations on our activities; on the other we have seen the unprecedented move towards liberty, democracy and civic participation in many parts of the world. Looking for intellectual responses to these challenges, we realize that the mission of UNESCO of building peace in minds of men and women takes on new meanings and has not lost its pertinence and topicality. Poland is convinced that the Organization has a huge role to play in this regard as a forum for international dialogue that has particular competence to engender solidarity among peoples; solidarity that is possible only when it is backed by mutual comprehension, respect and understanding of others’ views, contentions and needs. We do believe that UNESCO is capable of finding adequate and prompt solutions to social challenges. These are the reasons why we strongly support the direction of the present UNESCO reform process, which aims at strengthening the Organization’s effectiveness through better identification of its goals, focus on priorities and enhanced impact of the Organization at the international level, as well as improved visibility in Member States. In this context the role of National Commissions is crucial. We also welcome the Secretariat’s efforts to get the most out of the Organization’s normative system, so that the needs of ongoing social changes in such domains as education and culture are better addressed. We have in mind especially technical and vocational training, concerning so many young jobless people in all our countries, and implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Furthermore, we note with satisfaction the role of UNESCO and its Memory of the World Programme in raising awareness of the value of documentary heritage. In the light of the recommendation of the fourth International Memory of the World Conference held in Warsaw this year, we wish to see the programme continuing to expand and develop in accordance with the new challenges in the field of preservation. We hope that the resolution on UNESCO and documentary heritage, which has already gathered the support of 50 countries, will prove useful in this regard.

68.8 UNESCO’s comparative advantage is in being a laboratory of ideas and unique forum for new concepts and solutions. All this leads us to the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme and biosphere reserves as an exemplary activity. Being a learning platform for sustainable development, they are an efficient tool for promoting environmental protection and conservation alongside economic and social growth. Poland is an ardent supporter of the MAB Programme and strongly believes that its values should be appropriately advocated at the Rio+20 conference. Seizing this opportunity, I would like to express our gratitude to Japan for its generous and invaluable contribution to the development of biosphere reserves in Central and Eastern Europe.

68.9 Let me conclude on a more epic note. The last king of Poland instituted a distinction: a medal called *Sapere Auso*, “to one who dared to be wise”. He wanted to encourage his peers to engage in reform process at difficult times in Polish history: *sapere aude, incipe* “dare to be wise, make a start”. We have already made a start. Let all of us have the courage to continue. There are difficult questions awaiting us during this General Conference. Let us have the courage to make wise decisions. This Organization deserves it.

69. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I have the honour to invite His Excellency, Mr Vladimir Galuška, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

70.1 **Mr Galuška** (Czech Republic):

Thank you, Mr President. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to start by congratulating Madam President on her election and wish her every success in presiding over this conference. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me on behalf of the Czech Republic to align myself with the joint declaration of the Member States of the European Union which we fully support. I should also like to express warm appreciation of the efforts and dedication with which Director-General Irina Bokova is moving forward her vision of UNESCO’s future direction in response to the many challenges facing her and the Organization. I will single out at least three which we consider to be important: the redefining of UNESCO’s role, in a context of division, of a new humanism; the reform of UNESCO delivering focus, efficiency and strong prestige for the Organization; and UNESCO’s rapid response, which we greatly appreciate, in providing aid and assistance to areas affected by conflict and natural disaster. I am keen to assure Madam Director-General that the Czech Republic fully supports her plans to make UNESCO a modern organization adapted to the challenges faced in the ever-accelerating and increasingly turbulent twenty-first century.

70.2 The flexibility to respond to political and economic change should also be a rational basis for the draft regular Programme and Budget for the year after next. We recommend that the draft be based *inter alia* on an analysis of the consequences of such change within the scope of UNESCO and on an evaluation of the impact of the actions taken by UNESCO in connection with such instability. We stress the need for ongoing open assessment of these actions and the Organization's ability to respond flexibly. We are now faced with the task of preparing the new Medium-Term Strategy. The cohesion of the Organization's activities requires consistency between the new Medium-Term Strategy and the envisaged reform of UNESCO while evaluating the current Medium-Term Strategy that is now ending. The future strategy must also take account of the facts rather than wait for any sudden changes to occur before responding. It is necessary to anticipate problems. The foreseeing of challenges connected with multiculturalism and the consequences of spreading migration, should, therefore, be an essential element that needs to be borne in mind when formulating the Medium-Term Strategy for the upcoming period. Approval of the 2012-2013 budget will be a decision that is crucial in determining UNESCO's future direction. In any case we support the indications from the Director-General that she plans to reduce administrative costs in favour of programme activities. We also welcome the fact that UNESCO will focus only on the priorities set out in the Medium-Term Strategy and that in the future it will be possible to cancel projects which despite all reasonable effort have failed to bear fruit.

70.3 We believe that it is very important to continue education for all (EFA). I would like to dwell on this point because the Czech Republic takes the view that the development and promotion of education is essential for the overall development of all countries without distinction. Recent EFA results showed that programme targets are unlikely to be reached by 2015. Nevertheless, UNESCO's efforts to tackle illiteracy and improve conditions for access to primary education in certain parts of the world are more than praiseworthy. The Czech Republic backs UNESCO's efforts to continue pursuing EFA objectives. Despite the economic challenges facing the world today, we will continue to support UNESCO's efforts to improve conditions for learning. The Czech Republic is keen to continue offering scholarships to applicants from developing countries so that they can study at our universities following a tradition going back many years. In culture, we believe that the priority is to take care of both the tangible and the intangible cultural heritage and to foster cultural diversity accompanied by intercultural dialogue. We welcome the completion of expert work on the recommendation on the historic urban landscape which we consider to be an acceptable compromise. We applaud the fact that it includes new principles of conservation against a backdrop of contemporary urban development. In the field of intangible cultural heritage, we consider it very important for UNESCO to involve towns and villages in the provision of care because communities very often play a vital role in their heritage. We are pleased that UNESCO has started to play a more significant and focused role in the field of freedom of expression. Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of every democratic society and UNESCO with its mandate can continue to strengthen its activities in areas where people long for the possibility to participate in democratic society. In terms of the development of the information society the Czech Republic, in line with UNESCO's overarching priorities, remains willing to provide active assistance in improving computer literacy and equal access to education in Africa by means of a participatory programme. The Czech Republic appreciates UNESCO's activities related to the International Year of Chemistry and places great hopes in UNESCO's involvement in preparation for the United Nations International Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

70.4 Mr President, I would like to close by noting that at this time of new challenges the Czech Republic wishes to participate in international intellectual cooperation that would pave the way for better understanding among the nations. Yet this cooperation is possible only if deep respect for human rights exists. Accordingly, we urge UNESCO to continue to take concrete steps in support of adherence to the universal human rights principles. Thank you for your attention, and congratulations again to Madam President on her election.

*Ms Bogyay resumes the Chair.*

**71. The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I give the floor to the Deputy Minister of Culture of the Dominican Republic, Her Excellency Ms Lourdes Camilo de Cuello

**72.1 Sra. Camilo de Cuello (República Dominicana):**

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General: felicidades. Señora Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo: felicidades. Señora Directora General de la UNESCO, sus excelencias, señoras y señores: asistimos a esta 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO en el momento más alto de las relaciones y de la colaboración entre nuestro país y esta prestigiosa Organización, lo que ha propiciado una aguda definición de las políticas nacionales relacionadas con sus ámbitos de competencia, como de inmediato veremos. Con la proclamación de la reforma constitucional en el año 2010, la República Dominicana amplió las normas que rigen la vida ciudadana. Se destaca lo referente a la preservación del medio ambiente, el respeto de los derechos colectivos y al reconocimiento de los derechos de nueva generación. La República Dominicana valora los temas incluidos en el Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto del bienio 2012-2013 que se discutirá ampliamente durante esta reunión de la Conferencia General, y ha definido por escrito, a través de varios proyectos de resolución, cuáles enmiendas enriquecerían el debate.

72.2 En lo concerniente al derecho a la educación, nuestro Gobierno enfatiza la necesidad de fortalecer un sistema educativo que ha sido desbordado por el crecimiento de las demandas de todo tipo, para lo cual espera contar con el apoyo de la UNESCO. Propugnamos una jornada educativa completa con mejor equidad, inclusión y calidad para todos y todas. Es una constante preocupación para el Estado dominicano la preservación del medio ambiente y la biodiversidad, junto a una adecuada adaptación al cambio climático y a la preparación ante desastres causados por fenómenos naturales, respondiendo así a nuestra condición de pequeño Estado insular en desarrollo. En el ámbito de las políticas sociales, priorizamos dos colectivos como población meta: los jóvenes y las mujeres. Un mundo en crisis nos ha reiterado que quienes primero pierden las perspectivas son los jóvenes. La mujer, por otro lado, ha visto

fortalecidos los mecanismos jurídicos e institucionales que pueden garantizar el pleno ejercicio de sus derechos en igualdad de condiciones y oportunidades. Sin embargo, ello cuenta con la resistencia de elementos culturales, por el momento al parecer insalvables. Todo ello hace muy delicada y lenta la gestión de las políticas de Estado en materia social. Es claro que las políticas públicas deben sustentarse rigurosamente en las ciencias sociales. Para lograr la integración e incorporación eficaz de la cultura en las políticas públicas, hemos desarrollado y consolidado un sistema nacional de cultura que contribuye al disfrute de los derechos culturales de la población, a la difusión de la diversidad de procesos y manifestaciones culturales y a la descentralización, a través de alianzas público-privadas, para el desarrollo integral y sostenible de las comunidades.

72.3 Distinguida señora Directora: siguiendo disposiciones del señor Presidente, el Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, la gestión del Ministro José Rafael Lantigua tiene por empeño dejar como uno de sus legados un Código de Leyes y Reglamentos Culturales fortalecido. Hasta la fecha, han sido promulgadas las leyes de Archivo, del Cine y del Libro junto a sus respectivos reglamentos para su instrumentación, mientras promueve las discusiones finales para la aprobación de la Ley de Salvaguarda, Protección y Fomento del Patrimonio Cultural de la Nación, a la vez que elabora el Proyecto de Ley para el Fomento de las Artes Escénicas y la Música. En lo concerniente al patrimonio cultural, y en colaboración con las autoridades aduanales, el Ministerio de Cultura implementa importantes acciones para prevenir el tráfico ilícito, como son la certificación para la exportación de bienes culturales y artesanías, y la capacitación para el personal de control fronterizo. Múltiples acuerdos se propician en el ámbito internacional con tales fines. En cuanto a la salvaguarda del patrimonio inmaterial, el proyecto de resolución dominicano pone énfasis en los actores y entes que mantienen vivas las manifestaciones culturales. Merecen destacarse el respaldo y la asesoría de la UNESCO, vitales para aumentar las capacidades nacionales en la gestión del patrimonio mundial. Hoy nuestra ciudad colonial de Santo Domingo, Primada de América y sitio del Patrimonio Mundial, exhibe nuevas ordenanzas, un nuevo organismo rector y un énfasis institucional en la participación social para la búsqueda de soluciones sostenibles.

72.4 Nuestro Presidente ha propugnado la promoción del diálogo intercultural y la creación de políticas a favor de una cultura de paz. Para destacar un solo hecho, la República Dominicana es miembro de la Comisión Interina de Reconstrucción de Haití, lo que ha fomentado nuevas vías de cooperación entre nosotros, cuya expresión más alta y trascendente a la vez es la construcción, por parte del Estado dominicano, de la planta física que albergará la Universidad Henri Christophe en Cabo Haitiano. Es propicia la ocasión para sugerir el apoyo de la UNESCO para el funcionamiento de esa institución educativa, pues si bien el terremoto de enero de 2010 acentuó notablemente la gravedad de la situación haitiana y movió ojos, oídos y sentimientos de todo el mundo en solidaridad a sus problemas, estos no respetan espacio alguno de su territorio. Es nuestro deseo final que la comprensión y la confraternidad entre los pueblos nos conduzcan a la consecución de una paz duradera y a un mundo más justo. Muchas gracias.

(72.1) **Mme Camilo de Cuello** (République dominicaine) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, permettez-moi de vous adresser mes félicitations. Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, cette 36e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO intervient à un moment où les relations et la collaboration entre notre pays et cette prestigieuse Organisation sont à leur apogée, favorisant la formulation de politiques nationales pointues dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, comme nous allons le voir immédiatement. Avec le lancement de la réforme constitutionnelle en 2010, la République dominicaine a étoffé les règles qui régissent la vie citoyenne, et en particulier tout ce qui concerne la préservation de l'environnement, le respect des droits collectifs et la reconnaissance des droits de nouvelle génération. La République dominicaine est très attachée aux thèmes proposés dans le Projet de programme et budget pour 2012-2013, qui sera longuement examiné au cours de la présente session de la Conférence générale, et a formulé par écrit plusieurs amendements, dans divers projets de résolution, afin d'enrichir les débats.

(72.2) S'agissant du droit à l'éducation, notre Gouvernement met l'accent sur la nécessité de renforcer un système éducatif débordé par les demandes croissantes de toutes sortes, et espère pouvoir compter sur l'appui de l'UNESCO pour y parvenir. Nous défendons une scolarité complète et plus équitable, inclusive et de qualité pour toutes et tous. Autre préoccupation constante de l'État dominicain : la préservation de l'environnement et la biodiversité, ainsi qu'une adaptation adéquate au changement climatique et la préparation aux risques de catastrophe naturelle, comme l'exige notre condition de petit État insulaire en développement. En matière de politiques sociales, nous privilégions deux groupes cibles : les jeunes et les femmes. Dans un monde en crise, les jeunes sont les premiers touchés par le manque de perspectives. Les femmes, quant à elles, ont bénéficié d'un renforcement des mécanismes juridiques et institutionnels leur garantissant le plein exercice de leurs droits et l'égalité des chances. Toutefois, ce renforcement se heurte à certains obstacles culturels qui, pour l'heure, paraissent insurmontables. Tout cela ralentit et complique la gestion des politiques publiques en matière sociale qui, de toute évidence, doivent se fonder de manière rigoureuse sur les sciences sociales. Afin d'intégrer efficacement la culture dans les politiques publiques, nous avons mis au point et consolidé un système national pour la culture qui favorise l'exercice des droits culturels et la décentralisation, par des alliances public-privé, en vue d'un développement intégral et durable des communautés.

(72.3) Madame la Directrice générale, sur instruction du Président de la République dominicaine, M. Leonel Fernández Reyna, le Ministre José Rafael Lantigua s'efforce de laisser comme héritage, entre autres, un cadre législatif et réglementaire renforcé en matière de culture. À ce jour, des lois ont été promulguées dans les domaines des archives, du cinéma et de l'édition, avec l'arsenal réglementaire nécessaire à leur application, tandis que se déroulent les dernières discussions en vue de l'adoption de la Loi de sauvegarde, de protection et de promotion du patrimoine culturel national, et qu'un projet de loi pour la promotion des arts du spectacle et de la musique est en cours d'élaboration. S'agissant du patrimoine culturel, le Ministre de la culture met en œuvre, en collaboration avec les autorités douanières, d'importantes mesures pour lutter contre le trafic illicite, telles que la certification pour les exportations de biens culturels et artisanaux, et le renforcement des capacités du personnel de contrôle aux frontières. Plusieurs accords sont conclus au niveau international à cette fin. Pour ce qui est de la sauvegarde du patrimoine immatériel, le projet de résolution présenté par la République dominicaine met l'accent sur les différents acteurs et entités qui perpétuent les manifestations culturelles. Il convient à ce titre de mettre en relief l'appui et les conseils apportés par l'UNESCO, qui sont essentiels pour accroître les capacités nationales en matière de gestion du patrimoine mondial. Aujourd'hui, notre Ville coloniale de Saint-Domingue, primat d'Amérique et site inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, a pris de nouveaux arrêts, s'est dotée d'un nouvel organe de gouvernance et met l'accent sur la participation sociale à la recherche de solutions durables.

(72.4) Notre Président a défendu la promotion du dialogue interculturel et la formulation de politiques en faveur d'une culture de la paix. Si l'on ne devait retenir qu'une seule chose, ce serait que la République dominicaine fait partie de la Commission intérimaire pour la reconstruction d'Haïti, ce qui a favorisé de nouvelles possibilités de coopération entre nous, dont l'expression la plus remarquable et la plus importante est la reconstruction, par l'État dominicain, du campus qui accueillera l'Université Henri Christophe, à Cap-Haïtien. Je saisis cette occasion pour suggérer à l'UNESCO de prêter son concours au fonctionnement de cette institution éducative, car si le tremblement de terre de janvier 2010 a considérablement aggravé la situation en Haïti, et a suscité un élan de solidarité de la part du monde entier face aux problèmes du pays, ces problèmes n'épargnent aucune partie de son territoire. Notre souhait ultime est que la compréhension et la fraternité entre les peuples nous conduisent à l'édification d'une paix durable et d'un monde plus juste. Je vous remercie.

### 73. The President:

Thank you so much, Your Excellency. I would now like to ask the President of the Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO, Mr Uladzimir Shchasny, to take the floor.

#### 74.1 Г-н Счастный (Беларусь):

Уважаемая госпожа Председатель, уважаемая г-жа Генеральный директор, дамы и господа, в ходе своего выступления 25 октября г-жа Генеральный директор упомянула в качестве одной из самых неотложных задач сохранение доверия к Организации. При этом г-жа Бокова отметила, что только на основе доверия может быть обеспечено влияние ЮНЕСКО и наглядность ее деятельности во всем мире. Наша делегация полностью разделяет это мнение. Ведь благодаря принципам наглядности и учета национальных интересов, которые наши предшественники мудро избрали в качестве одних из главных в деятельности Организации, ЮНЕСКО является одним из самых узнаваемых и уважаемых специализированных учреждений ООН.

74.2 Все регионы должны быть активными партнерами ЮНЕСКО, поскольку каждый регион, каждая страна могут поделиться своими достижениями и при этом испытывают потребность в опыте других. Кто и что может быть катализатором тех или иных направлений деятельности на национальном и региональном уровнях? Впервые, это представительства ЮНЕСКО на местах в виде региональных и национальных бюро. Например, благодаря деятельности Бюро ЮНЕСКО в Москве, удается в большей мере учитывать конкретные потребности государств кластера. Заслуживает внимания обсуждаемое в рамках реформы представительств на местах предложение по созданию секций при представительствах ООН. Еще одним важным каналом активизации сотрудничества стран с Организацией является Программа участия. Осуществляемые в ее рамках скромные с финансовой точки зрения проекты становятся эффективными катализаторами осуществления на национальном и региональном уровнях стратегических направлений деятельности ЮНЕСКО. Есть направления, в которых ЮНЕСКО доказала роль неоспоримого лидера и которые обеспечивают наглядность ее деятельности. Прежде всего, это обеспечение всеобщего доступа к инклюзивному и качественному образованию: начальному, среднему и высшему. Развитие профессионально-технического образования, несомненно, будет способствовать сокращению масштабов нищеты и содействовать экономическому росту.

74.3 ЮНЕСКО предстоит стать лидером в мобилизации международных усилий в области науки, инноваций и новых технологий. Серьезный шаг в этом направлении был сделан в ходе Международного года химии. Уже сейчас приоритетными в программах ЮНЕСКО стали исследования в области изменения климата, биоразнообразия в рамках деятельности биосферных заповедников, смягчения последствий стихийных и техногенных бедствий, управления водными ресурсами, биоэтика и философия. Сегодня состоялась церемония подписания соглашения о создании третьего в мире трехстороннего биосферного заповедника Западное Полесье: Беларусь, Польша и Украина. Это стало возможным во многом благодаря поддержке со стороны Секретариата ЮНЕСКО и японских целевых фондов, за что мы им искренне признательны. Сохранение культурного наследия – как материального, так и нематериального – и поощрение культурного разнообразия являются наиболее эффективными средствами в достижении идеалов гуманизма в условиях глобализации. Культура и образование содействуют укреплению мира, в частности в постконфликтных ситуациях, терпимости, уважению прав и достоинства человека.

74.4 ЮНЕСКО должна и в будущем содействовать осуществлению таких флагманских проектов, как «Память мира» и «Всемирная цифровая библиотека», а также «Стратегия открытого доступа к научной информации», которые способствуют диалогу и сближению культур. В результате использования новейших информационных технологий выявились реальные пути совместного использования культурных ценностей. Все эти направления выдержали испытание временем. Поэтому при подготовке проектов Программы и бюджета на четырехлетний период и на среднесрочную перспективу Секретариату необходимо предусматривать достаточное обеспечение этих направлений деятельности финансовыми и людскими ресурсами. А направления, не выдержавшие естественного отбора, должны сокращаться в целях экономии средств и концентрации усилий.

74.5 Однако даже такие актуальные направления, как культура мира и ее взаимодействие с устойчивым развитием, без конкретного воплощения в странах и регионах могут ограничиться риторикой, не выходящей за стены Штаб-квартиры. К счастью, ЮНЕСКО обладает для этого уникальным для всей системы ООН механизмом – национальными комиссиями, которые являются проводниками ее идеалов и рычагами решения конкретных задач.

74.6 В своем выступлении Генеральный директор отметила, что условия построения мира, в глобальном смысле этого слова, сегодня значительно отличаются от тех, которые существовали, когда создавалась ЮНЕСКО. И именно поэтому для содействия новому гуманизму нужна сильная Организация, способная стать интеллектуальным лидером мирового сообщества. Это возможно лишь в результате объединения всех наших усилий. Благодарю за внимание.

(74.1) **M. Shchasny** (Biélarus) (*traduit du russe*) :

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, dans son discours du 25 octobre, Mme la Directrice générale a rappelé qu'entretenir la confiance dans l'Organisation était l'une de ses tâches les plus urgentes et elle a ajouté que l'influence de l'UNESCO et la visibilité de son action dans le monde entier ne pouvaient reposer que sur cette confiance. Notre délégation souscrit totalement à ce point de vue. En effet, grâce à la visibilité et à la prise en compte des intérêts nationaux que nos prédécesseurs, dans leur sagesse, ont choisi comme principes premiers de son action, l'UNESCO est l'une des institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies les plus connues et respectées.

(74.2) Toutes les régions doivent être des partenaires actifs de l'UNESCO, parce que chaque région, chaque pays peut partager ses succès et tirer profit de l'expérience des autres. Quel peut être le catalyseur de tel ou tel axe d'action aux niveaux national et régional ? D'abord, la représentation de l'UNESCO sur le terrain, par l'intermédiaire de ses bureaux régionaux et nationaux. Ainsi, l'action du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Moscou a permis de largement prendre en compte les besoins propres aux États de ce groupe. La proposition faite dans le cadre de la réforme du dispositif hors Siège de créer une antenne auprès des représentations de l'ONU mérite d'être étudiée. Le Programme de participation constitue un autre instrument majeur pour intensifier la coopération des pays avec l'Organisation. Des projets modestes au plan financier qui sont menés dans son cadre deviennent des catalyseurs efficaces de la mise en œuvre des orientations stratégiques de l'UNESCO aux niveaux national et régional. Certaines orientations dans lesquelles l'UNESCO a fait la preuve de son leadership incontesté contribuent à la visibilité de son action. En premier lieu, la promotion de l'accès de tous à une éducation inclusive de qualité au niveau de l'enseignement primaire, secondaire et supérieur. Le développement de l'enseignement et de la formation techniques et professionnels permettra sans aucun doute de faire reculer la misère et de favoriser la croissance économique.

(74.3) L'UNESCO doit devenir un chef de file pour la mobilisation de l'action internationale dans le domaine de la science, l'innovation et les nouvelles technologies. L'Année internationale de la chimie a été une avancée majeure dans ce sens. D'ores et déjà, les recherches sur le changement climatique, la biodiversité dans le cadre des réserves de biosphère, la mitigation des effets des catastrophes naturelles et technologiques, la gestion des ressources en eau, la bioéthique et la philosophie occupent une place prioritaire dans les programmes de l'UNESCO. Aujourd'hui avait lieu la cérémonie de signature d'un accord portant sur la création de la troisième réserve mondiale de biosphère tripartite de Polesie Occidentale entre le Biélarus, la Pologne et l'Ukraine. C'est en grande partie grâce au soutien du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et du Fonds-en-dépôt japonais que ce projet a pu être réalisé, ce dont nous leurs sommes sincèrement reconnaissants. La conservation du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel et la promotion de la diversité culturelle constituent les moyens les plus efficaces d'atteindre les idéaux de l'humanisme dans un monde globalisé. La culture et l'éducation contribuent à la consolidation de la paix, particulièrement dans les situations de post-conflit, à la tolérance, au respect des droits de l'homme et à la dignité humaine.

(74.4) À l'avenir, l'UNESCO devra promouvoir des projets phares tels que la Mémoire du monde et la Bibliothèque numérique mondiale, ainsi que la stratégie d'accès libre à l'information et à la recherche scientifiques, qui favorisent le dialogue et le rapprochement des cultures. L'utilisation des nouvelles technologies de l'information a mis en évidence des modalités effectives de partage des biens culturels. Tous ces axes d'action ont fait leurs preuves. Par conséquent, lors de l'élaboration du Projet de programme et de budget pour la prochaine période quadriennale et de la Stratégie à moyen terme, le Secrétariat doit impérativement veiller à allouer à ces axes d'action des ressources financières et humaines suffisantes. Quant aux axes d'action qui n'auront pas résisté à la sélection naturelle, ils devront être abandonnés par souci d'économie et de concentration des efforts.

(74.5) Cependant, sans concrétisation dans les pays et les régions même des orientations comme la culture de la paix et ses interactions avec le développement durable peuvent finir par se limiter à une simple rhétorique, sans existence réelle au-delà des murs du Siège. Par chance, l'UNESCO possède pour cela un mécanisme unique dans le système des Nations Unies : des commissions nationales qui sont porteuses de ses idéaux et servent de leviers pour la réalisation de tâches spécifiques.

(74.6) Dans son discours, la Directrice générale a souligné que les conditions de l'édification de la paix dans le monde sont aujourd'hui très différentes de ce qu'elles étaient au moment où l'UNESCO a été créée. C'est précisément pour cette raison que pour promouvoir un nouvel humanisme, il faut une Organisation forte, capable d'asseoir sa position de leader intellectuel de la communauté internationale. Or, cela ne sera possible qu'en unissant nos forces. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

**75. The President:**

Thank you so much. And now I would like to give the floor to the Director of Education, Women and Culture of Tonga, Ms Emili Pouvalu. The floor is yours Madam.

**76.1 Ms Pouvalu (Tonga):**

President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General of UNESCO and my fellow delegates, Madam President, like all eloquent speakers before me, I, too, would like to add my congratulations on your election as the President of the current session. UNESCO's global campaign for women's empowerment and gender equality has indeed paved the way for many women to excel, even during difficult and challenging times. I believe that together we can inspire young girls and women across the globe to strive for excellence and to contribute significantly to the building of long-lasting peace and sustainable development. Ladies and gentlemen, Tonga is a small island developing State located in the South Pacific with a population of 100,000 people and with very limited resources. We belong to the UNESCO Asia and the Pacific (ASPAC) electoral group IV and are one of 17 Member States in the Pacific subregion. It was not too long ago that Tonga made a global household name for itself when it beat our good and humble friend, France, in the Rugby World Cup, 19 to 14. My people are still in a state of jubilation and inspiration after that monumental and historic win – a win that shocked many, but at the same time, illuminated how powerful human minds can be to realize and achieve their dreams and goals. This draws my attention back to the noble and founding cause of UNESCO, building peace in the minds of men and women, which Tonga fully and wholeheartedly supports because we strongly believe that wars and poverty of all kinds – individually, within groups, within countries, across borders – can be solved through the peaceful minds of men and women.

76.2 Madam President, the Kingdom of Tonga is currently going through a process of reform to ensure that we are able to survive in times of political and economic turmoil. Moreover, our new four-year Tonga Strategic Development

Framework 2011-2015 permits us to address and monitor progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and education for all (EFA) goals by 2015. I confidently reaffirm that all of these support and reinforce UNESCO's areas of competence.

76.3 Madam President, Tonga has achieved significant progress in the field of education. The achievement of quality education, however, remains a real challenge for my country. We have prioritized the improvement of education quality and learning effectiveness in our educational reforms. We therefore wish to ask UNESCO to increase and intensify its support to Tonga and other Pacific Member States to build effective and quality inclusive education systems, including the measurement and monitoring of education quality that will guide future policy development. Most of the Member States in the Pacific are not least developed countries (LDCs), but have been excluded from UNESCO's priority activities and target groups. We, however, face the same challenges and threats as LDCs and Africa and feel that we should not be excluded. One possible solution is to strengthen the Pacific Cluster Office in Apia with both human and financial resources to ensure that meaningful programmes designed for LDCs can be adopted and implemented for the rest of the Pacific group. Staffing at the Apia Office has been a constant problem in terms of adequate and timely placement and lack of understanding about Pacific cultures and agendas, and we hope that UNESCO will be able to resolve this issue as a matter of priority. We also happily note the progress of the reform of the Organization but are concerned about the future status of the Pacific Cluster Office. We, the Pacific, therefore humbly beg UNESCO to maintain the Pacific Cluster Office as one of the proposed three offices for the ASPAC group.

76.4 Madam President, in order to achieve the full set of MDGs and EFA goals by 2015, we believe that investment in teachers and the contribution of teachers is significant. On this note, Tonga fully supports the continuing inclusion of "teachers" as one of UNESCO's four priority areas in Major Programme I in the forthcoming biennium 2012-2013. It is unfortunate that we miss out on a good number of excellent initiatives for quality teacher development simply because we are not in Africa or in the LDC group. We reiterate that we definitely need UNESCO's assistance and the support of category 1 and 2 centres in order to have a comprehensive development of the teaching profession and the acquisition of inclusive quality teaching and learning.

76.5 Madam President, the Pacific is underrepresented in the governing bodies of UNESCO, as well as in the staffing of the Organization mainly on account of the fact that there is fierce competition amongst Member States for election to these positions. This contradicts and defeats the spirit of partnership, culture of peace and humanism that UNESCO is advocating. Is it too much to ask for one assured seat for the Pacific out of the 58 seats on the Board? Papua New Guinea will be contesting a seat on the Executive Board and we beg for your support. Likewise, Palau will be standing for election to the World Heritage Committee, and we again seek your support. In conclusion, despite the many challenges Tonga faces, I am happy to renew and reaffirm our support for and commitment to the ongoing work and reform of UNESCO. We very much look forward to strengthened cooperation between Tonga and the Secretariat and all other stakeholders upholding and harmonizing the mission and spirit of UNESCO. To our humble and good friend, Dr Davidson Hepburn, outgoing President of the 35th session of the General Conference, thank you so much for your overwhelming support for the Pacific and small island developing States. Your closing song at the opening ceremony shall never be forgotten. If I am singing it every few minutes, then no doubt my thousands of fellow colleagues at this General Conference must be doing the same thing, too. I wish everyone a successful General Conference, and may God bless you all – *Tu'a 'Ofa Atua*.

**77. The President:**

Thank you so much. And now it gives me great pleasure to give the floor to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Jamaica to UNESCO, Her Excellency Ms Marcia Gilbert-Roberts.

**78.1 Ms Gilbert-Roberts (Jamaica):**

Madam President, distinguished delegates, all, it has always been an honour for our minister to participate in the General Conference. On this occasion, however, her attendance has been overtaken by developments related to her swearing-in as a member of a new cabinet, led by a new and young 39-year-old Prime Minister, one of the world's youngest heads of government. The honourable Minister extends her regrets and wishes the Conference every success. On her behalf, let me reiterate the importance that Jamaica accords to its partnership with UNESCO. Indeed, our National Development Plan, Vision 2030, recognizes the crucial role of all forms of education, the development of the science and information technology sectors and the promotion of a world class culture for the attainment of the ultimate goal of developed-country status. In the rapidly changing international environment, the focus of this conference on the policy direction of the Organization is most timely. I assure you that my delegation looks forward to sharing its strategic perspectives in that regard.

78.2 The global financial and economic crises continue to pose a challenge for Member States. Jamaica therefore commends the Director-General's relentless efforts to develop an alternative zero nominal growth budget. The knowledge industries are assuming an ever-increasing role in national development policies. As a result, we cannot over-emphasize the importance of the transfer of technology to developing countries, through North-South, South-South or triangular cooperation. In this regard, Jamaica endorses UNESCO's reinforcement of its role as coordinator, facilitator and implementer of the agreed outcomes and related initiatives of the World Summit on the Information Society. We further note with appreciation the Secretariat's inclusive approach to diffusing information and communication technology (ICT) knowledge globally, as demonstrated by the regional conference on "Building Caribbean Knowledge Societies" held in Grenada earlier this year. Culture, and its inextricable linkages with sports, has never been more exciting for Jamaica. The global community watched in awe the truly outstanding and heightened performances of the Jamaican athletes in the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships in Daegu, Republic of Korea.

78.3 Jamaica's participation in UNESCO's cultural sector is paramount. We fully support the World Heritage Committee's global strategy for representational balance as well as the promotion and maintenance of the credibility of the World Heritage List. In fact, Jamaica is in the process of nominating two unique sites for inclusion in the List. We have also presented our candidature to the World Heritage Committee and look forward to making our contribution to the work of that important arm of UNESCO. Additionally, Jamaica continues to support the various conventions of UNESCO to which it is signatory, particularly those that govern underwater heritage, intangible heritage and the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. We are especially pleased with the establishment of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity with its potential for addressing the special needs of developing countries like Jamaica that depend on the cultural industries sectors for the diversification and consolidation of our economies, with the attendant benefits of youth employment, poverty reduction and the building of positive cultural identity.

78.4 Jamaica's history is closely linked to the transatlantic slave trade and the attendant ills of the act of slavery. That tragedy must never be repeated, but the invaluable lessons of human fortitude in adversity born out of slavery must never be forgotten. I am pleased therefore that UNESCO has agreed to manage the recently launched international competition for the erection, in New York, of a permanent memorial to slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. The year 2012 will represent a major milestone for Jamaica, being the fiftieth anniversary of our independence. The year-long celebrations will be a time for reflection on the journey that has taken the majority of our people from their origins in continental Africa and Asia, through slavery and indentureship, on to triumph over these excesses and into a process of statehood and self-governance, and ultimately the current wonderful vitality of Brand Jamaica. I invite all Member States to join with us during the year's celebrations and would welcome the opportunity for a process of collaboration with UNESCO to mark this significant achievement.

78.5 Madam President and distinguished delegates, I look forward to the important exchanges that follow as we work together to fulfil all the goals and objectives collectively agreed to ensure that UNESCO continues to enhance its contribution to the educational, scientific and cultural development of Member States.

79. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. I am now very happy to give the floor to the Ambassador of Italy to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Maurizio Serra.

80.1 **Mr Serra (Italy):**

Madam President of the 36th session of the General Conference, congratulations, Madam President, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, Italy would like to associate itself with the speech of the Polish Presidency in the name of European Member countries and Associate Members. The present global financial crisis, still ongoing, has pushed many States to pass austerity measures. My country has not been sheltered from these constraints, but I am proud to be here to announce that Italy will continue next year to be the sixth largest contributor to the UNESCO budget and its first contributor in terms of extrabudgetary resources. On top of that, our country hosts and financially supports many qualified UNESCO institutions: the International Centre for Theoretical Physics and the Third World Academy of Sciences in Trieste; the World Water Assessment Programme in Perugia; and the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Venice. Finally, during this General Conference, a new category 2 institute will be established in Turin in the field of world heritage and the culture of economics. Let me mention two more initiatives that exemplify the deep commitment of Italy to the overall activity of UNESCO: the organization in Monza of the second edition, in June 2011, of the World Forum on Culture and the Cultural Industries, focusing on the future of the e-book; and the ongoing preparation of the fourth edition of the Universal Forum of Cultures in Naples, in 2013. I would like to express full appreciation for the efforts deployed by the Director-General in order to achieve a long-lasting and coherent set of reforms based on the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation and of the ad-hoc working group.

80.2 Madam President, we live in very turbulent times. Yet unprecedented opportunities for dialogue among peoples, cultures and faiths are burgeoning in front of us. The Italian Government has placed these issues at the heart of its international agenda by promoting a reflection at international level on the topic of the inter-ethnic city and a world forum on the theme of sustainable urban development with a view to a possible resolution at the United Nations. We should promote these themes on the basis of our Charter that puts humanity, equality, peace and understanding at the basis of our joint values and efforts. This appeal stems from the young generation all over the world, from our students requesting means of education based on international standards, from our young girls whose aspiration to full equality in rights and representation cannot be compressed. UNESCO should listen to these requests and be able to respond to them with an open spirit.

80.3 One of the tasks ahead of us will be the approval of the Programme and Budget for 2012-2013. We consider that the last 36 C/5 proposal based on zero nominal growth goes in the right direction and takes into account the wishes and amendments expressed by the outgoing Executive Board. We are, therefore, fully in favour of its endorsement by the General Conference. We should live up to our commitment when we face the legitimate aspirations of people who have been deprived for too long of their national identity and recognition. Yet, we should do so in a balanced manner in order to preserve the overall representation of this invaluable institution in a context that will provide peace, security and cooperation for all. The Arab Spring has opened new, exciting opportunities for UNESCO's activities. Italy is ready to envisage projects of support in Tunisia and Egypt and of archeological conservation and restoration in Libya.

80.4 The reform of field offices and the new strategy for partnerships, to name just these two important elements, clearly demonstrates the intention of the Secretariat to move forward. We have still a long way to go, but you may rest assured that this delegation endorses the direction of the efforts of the Director-General and will continue to do so. During this General Conference we are confronted with complex issues, and diverse national and regional sensitivities



may emerge. Yet I know that we are all committed to this goal and that we will strive in our debates and negotiations, as passionate as they may be, to do so. The UNESCO of tomorrow starts indeed today. Thank you very much.

**81. The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency for your statement. I would now like to invite the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iceland to UNESCO, Her Excellency Ms Berglind Ásgeirsdóttir, to take the floor.

**82.1 Ms Ásgeirsdóttir (Iceland):**

President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to attend the General Conference of UNESCO for the first time and to address the prominent representatives of the Member States of the Organization on behalf of the Minister of Education, Science and Culture, Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir. At the outset, allow me to join others in congratulating you, Madam President, on your election. I would like to state that Iceland fully concurs with the statement made by Poland on behalf of the European Union.

82.2 Madam President, the importance of international cooperation has never been greater as we witness protests on the streets in the western world, protests outside banks and financial institutions, outbreaks of wars, uprising in northern Africa, starvation and famine in several parts of the world as well as the effects of climate change. All this demonstrates that venues for a dialogue of peace and understanding are essential for the survival of humankind. Madam President, UNESCO is such a venue and one of the most important ones to build on for the future. Therefore, we must carefully prepare and plan our actions in our efforts to make the world a better place. Iceland endorses the work that has been done on the basis of the results of the Independent External Evaluation. As the Hellenian philosopher Aristotle said: "Quality is not an act, it is a habit." Let us make those words a guideline in UNESCO's implementation of the recommendations that have been made following this evaluation. Our aims within UNESCO, to promote education for all, sustainable development, freedom of expression and the eradication of poverty, just to mention some of the areas of great concern, demand to be underpinned in the next Medium-Term Strategy. The outline and focus of the strategy must be honed to meet short-term goals but also to plan for the future and indeed for a longer period than six years. In this context, Iceland is looking forward to the 36th session of the General Conference as a venue for a debate on the strategic direction and the future focus of UNESCO. The organizing of the Leaders' Forum, as well as the Youth Forum, illustrates our desire to seek inspiration for the revitalization of UNESCO. As we all know, this is also high on the list of priorities of our Director-General.

82.3 Africa continues to be one of the global priorities of our Organization that Iceland strongly supports. Gender equality is also strongly supported by my government as a global priority of UNESCO. And education is the priority of priorities, at local as well as global level. It is therefore of great concern to my minister to note how far we still are from reaching the Dakar goals and the Millennium Developments Goals in education. Too many people, especially girls, are still without access to education, and the eradication of illiteracy is still a remote goal. Education is a human right and nobody should be deprived of this fundamental right.

82.4 Language is at the heart of cultural diversity, being one of the strongest components of cultural identity and the most forceful vehicle of the world's intangible heritage. Recently, the city of Reykjavík was granted the status of a UNESCO City of Literature and thereby became the first non-English speaking city to acquire that status. We also look forward to the approval by the General Conference of the World Language Centre of the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute in Iceland as a UNESCO category 2 institute. We are convinced that the institute will contribute in an important way to UNESCO's role in safeguarding the linguistic heritage, linguistic diversity and multilingualism in education. Thank you for your attention.

**83. The President:**

Your Excellency, thank you very much for your statement. Ladies and gentlemen, our next speaker is the representative of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). Before I give you the floor I would like to remind you that statements by the representatives of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations are limited to three minutes. So, I am very happy to welcome His Excellency Mr Abdulaziz bin Othman Altwaijri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

٨٤،١ السيد التويجري (للمنظمة الإسلامية للتربية والعلوم والثقافة - إيسيسكو):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، معالي رئيس المؤتمر العام لليونسكو، معالي المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء الوفود، حضرات السادة والسيدات، السلام عليكم. أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، حضرات السادة والسيدات، يسرني أن أتحدث إليكم في دورة المؤتمر العام لليونسكو التي تعقد في ظروف دولية شديدة الخطورة، من جراء عوامل متعددة، لعل في المقدمة منها تفاقم الأزمة الاقتصادية العالمية، وما يترتب عليها من مضاعفات لن تتأثر بها الدول المصنعة ذات القدرات الاقتصادية العالية فقط، بل ستتأثر بها الدول النامية والدول الأقل نمواً، وهي التي تمثل أكثر من ثلثي أعضاء هذا المؤتمر، الأمر الذي سينعكس سلبيًا على التنمية في مجالات التربية والتعليم والعلوم والتكنولوجيا والثقافة والاتصال، وهي المجالات الحيوية التي تعمل فيها اليونسكو والإيسيسكو والمنظمات الدولية والإقليمية الأخرى ذات الاهتمام المشترك.

٨٤،٢ يُضاف إلى ذلك، الأزمات السياسية المتفاقمة التي تشهدها مناطق في الشرق الأوسط، وفي شرق أفريقيا، وفي آسيا الوسطى، وفي المقدمة منها، الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة التي يتطلع شعبها إلى الاعتراف بدولته والانضمام إلى الأمم المتحدة واليونسكو عضوًا كامل العضوية لأن اليونسكو هي ضمير العالم الثقافي الرافض للظلم والعدوان.

٨٤،٣ إن هذه الأوضاع غير المستقرة التي تسود جلّ دول العالم، تملّي علينا جميعًا، نحن المسؤولين عن قطاعات التربية والتعليم والعلوم والثقافة، ومعنا النخب الفكرية والثقافية والإعلامية، واجبًا مؤكدًا لا بدّ من القيام به، وهو تعزيز الشراكة والتعاون والتنسيق والتكامل في هذه المجالات الحيوية، من أجل تعزيز الحوار والتعايش والاحترام المتبادل، والاعتراف بالاختلاف الذي هو مظهرٌ من مظاهر التنوع الثقافي. فهذه المجالات هي التي يُصنع فيها النمو والتقدم، فباعتبار أن السلام يبدأ فكرة في العقل وعقيدة في القلب فإن التربية البانية للقيم العليا والمبادئ السامية والتعليم الهادف الذي يصوغ الشخصية الإنسانية هما اللذان يصنعان

السلام الذي تعمل اليونسكو ومعها الإيسيسكو والمنظمات الدولية والإقليمية ذات الاهتمام المشترك من أجل استقراره في العقول والقلوب، واستتبابه في الواقع الإنساني المعيشي.

٨٤,٤ ومن منطلق أهداف اليونسكو والإيسيسكو، أوجه من فوق هذا المنبر، نداءً إلى المجتمع الدولي، مناشدًا إياه العمل بكل الوسائل، من أجل تعزيز التعاون العالمي والشراكة في مجالات التربية والتعليم والعلوم والثقافة والتكنولوجيا والاتصال، لإنقاذ العالم مما يهدده من مخاطر محدقة به، من جراء تفاقم دعوات الكراهية والعنصرية، واستفحال العنف والتطرف، وضعف النظام الاقتصادي العالمي، وانحراف النظام الدولي عن مبادئه الإنسانية السامية التي قام عليها، وما نتج عن ذلك من مظالم وتوترات وحرمان ومأس كثيرة. وهذه هي مسؤوليتنا في اليونسكو، وفي الإيسيسكو، وفي غيرهما من المنظمات الدولية والإقليمية ذات الاهتمام المشترك. التي لا محيص من القيام بما على خير وجه. أتمنى لمؤتمركم لهذا النجاح في تحقيق أهدافه وأرجو أن نرى فلسطين عضواً كامل العضوية في اجتماعكم يوم الاثنين المقبل. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(84.1) **M. Altwaijri** (Organisation islamique pour l'éducation, les sciences et la culture – ISESCO) (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux, Excellences, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, que la paix soit sur vous. Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai le plaisir de vous adresser la parole à l'occasion de cette session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO qui se tient dans des circonstances internationales extrêmement graves, en raison de nombreux facteurs, à commencer par l'aggravation de la crise économique mondiale et les répercussions complexes qu'elle a non seulement sur les pays industrialisés dotés de capacités économiques élevées, mais également sur les pays en développement et sur les pays les moins avancés, qui, ensemble, sont représentés par plus des deux tiers des participants à cette Conférence. Cela aura un impact négatif sur le développement dans les domaines de l'éducation, des sciences, de la technologie, de la culture et de la communication - les domaines vitaux dans lesquels travaillent l'UNESCO, l'ISESCO et les autres organisations internationales et régionales partageant les mêmes objectifs.

(84.2) S'y ajoutent les crises politiques de plus en plus graves que vivent les régions du Moyen-Orient, de l'Afrique de l'Est et de l'Asie centrale, et surtout les territoires occupés de la Palestine, dont le peuple attend la reconnaissance de son État et son adhésion à l'ONU et à l'UNESCO en tant que membre de plein droit - car l'UNESCO est la conscience culturelle du monde qui refuse l'oppression et l'agression.

(84.3) La situation instable qui règne dans la plupart des pays du monde nous donne, à nous tous, les responsables des secteurs de l'éducation, des sciences et de la culture, et avec nous les élites intellectuelles, culturelles et journalistiques, le strict devoir de renforcer le partenariat, la coopération, la coordination et l'intégration dans ces domaines vitaux afin de faire progresser le dialogue, l'acceptation de la coexistence, le respect mutuel et la reconnaissance des différences, qui sont un aspect de la diversité culturelle. Voilà les domaines dans lesquels se forment la croissance et le progrès. Étant donné que la paix commence comme une idée dans les esprits et comme une doctrine dans les cœurs, l'éducation qui inculque les hautes valeurs et les nobles principes, ainsi que l'enseignement bien ciblé qui forme l'individu humain, façonnent la paix que défend l'UNESCO et avec elle l'ISESCO et les autres organisations internationales et régionales, afin de l'ancre dans les esprits et dans les cœurs, pour que les hommes la vivent au quotidien.

(84.4) Compte tenu des objectifs de l'UNESCO et de l'ISESCO, je lance de cette tribune un appel à la communauté internationale, en lui demandant d'œuvrer par tous les moyens au renforcement de la coopération mondiale et des partenariats dans les domaines de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture, de la technologie et de la communication, afin de sauver le monde des dangers qui le guettent ou le menacent déjà, en raison de la multiplication des appels à la haine et au racisme et de l'aggravation de la violence et de l'extrémisme, de la faiblesse du système économique mondial, du détournement par le système mondial des nobles principes humanitaires sur lesquels il fut fondé, et de ce qui en résulte, à savoir injustices, tensions, privations et toutes sortes de tragédies. Il en résulte pour l'UNESCO, l'ISESCO et les autres organisations internationales et régionales partageant les mêmes objectifs une responsabilité que nous devons impérativement assumer de la meilleure manière possible. Je souhaite à la Conférence un franc succès dans la réalisation de ses objectifs, et j'espère que nous verrons la Palestine devenir un membre à part entière de l'Organisation lors de la séance de lundi prochain. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

## 85. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, towards the end of the day it is like a cosy family gathering here. I think it was again a very inspiring and a very interesting gathering with a lot of thoughts and ideas; very uplifting meetings took place during this day as well. So I would like to thank you for being here, for your wisdom, for all your speeches, for your thorough thoughts. The plenary will convene again tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. I wish you a very pleasant evening. The meeting is now adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 7.55 p.m.  
La séance est levée à 19 h 55  
Se levanta la sesión a las 19.55  
Заседание закрывается в 19.55  
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٧,٥٥ بعد الظهر  
会议于 19 时 55 分结束*

# Ninth plenary meeting

Saturday 29 October 2011 at 10.15 a.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

later: **Ms Sánchez Bello** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

later: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Neuvième séance plénière

Samedi 29 octobre 2011 à 10 h 15

Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

puis : **Mme Sánchez Bello** (République bolivarienne du Venezuela)

puis : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Novena sesión plenaria

Sábado 29 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.15

Presidente: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

después: **Sra. Sánchez Bello** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

después: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Девятое пленарное заседание

суббота 29 октября 2011 г. в 10.15

Председатель: **г-жа Бодяи** (Венгрия)

затем: **г-жа Санчес Белло** (Боливарианская Республика Венесуэла)

затем: **г-жа Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة التاسعة

السبت ٢٩ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً

الرئيسة: **السيدة بوجيائي** (المجر)

ثم: **السيدة سانشيز بيلو** (جمهورية فنزويلا البوليفارية)

ثم: **السيدة بوجيائي** (المجر)

# 第九次全体会议

2011年10月29日星期六10时15分

主席：**Bogyay女士**（匈牙利）

随后：**Sánchez Bello女士**（委内瑞拉玻利瓦尔共和国）

随后：**Bogyay女士**（匈牙利）

**General policy debate** (*continued*)

**Débat de politique générale** (*suite*)

**Debate de política general** (*continuación*)

**Обсуждение вопросов общей политики** (*продолжение*)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)

总政策辩论 (续)

**1. The President:**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I am very happy to welcome you. Good morning to everybody and I declare open the ninth plenary session of the General Conference. Today, we will continue with the national statements and, towards the end of the session, we will hear reports from the Credentials Committee and from the Administrative Commission. Since we have a full schedule, as usual, and a very interesting list of speakers, I propose we start immediately with our work. Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to welcome the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, His Excellency Mr Edward Nalbandian. Sir, the floor is yours.

**2.1 M. Nalbandian (Arménie) :**

Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter cordialement Mme Katalin Bogyay pour son élection en tant que Présidente de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO et lui souhaiter plein succès dans l'exercice de ses fonctions. Dès le premier jour de son adhésion à l'UNESCO, l'Arménie, en tant que membre actif de l'Organisation, a soutenu pleinement toutes les initiatives de l'UNESCO dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture. En Arménie, nous avons également bénéficié de l'appui consultatif, de l'expertise et de l'assistance technique de l'Organisation. L'UNESCO accorde une importance particulière à la participation de la jeunesse à la coopération internationale ainsi qu'aux programmes visant à promouvoir la paix et la stabilité. Nous partageons entièrement cette approche et sommes convaincus que le réseau rénové des écoles associées de l'UNESCO en Arménie constituera une base solide pour en assurer la promotion. Le succès des deux projets actuellement menés dans ces écoles, « L'UNESCO modèle » et « Connaissance des pays et des cultures », nous en donne la certitude.

2.2 L'Arménie appuie l'UNESCO dans ses efforts en vue de la réalisation des objectifs de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable, car elle est profondément convaincue de l'importance d'une telle éducation dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Je suis persuadé que la Chaire UNESCO « Éducation pour le développement durable », qui vient d'être fondée en Arménie, apportera une précieuse contribution dans ce domaine, notamment en ce qui concerne l'information du public et la sensibilisation de la société aux problèmes de l'environnement.

*(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)*

2.3 Madam President, Armenia is a country rich with cultural monuments dating back to the fourth millennium BC. There are some 33,000 historical and cultural monuments in Armenia under state protection, which are included in the State Register of National Heritage. For centuries, the Armenian people have created numerous and diverse cultural monuments most of which, due to known historical events, are now situated outside the Republic of Armenia. Our neighbours have displayed different approaches towards the preservation of Armenian historical heritage. We have good cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which takes proper care of the Armenian monuments situated in its territory. This is proved by the inscription of the St Thaddeus and St Stepanos monasteries and the Chapel of Dzordzor on the World Heritage List, presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Yerevan, an eighteenth-century mosque has been restored, through the joint efforts of Armenian and Iranian specialists. In this context we have also seen the start of promising cooperation with our neighbour, Georgia.

2.4 Unfortunately, this positive experience is not reciprocated by our other neighbours. As a result of the policy of destruction of Armenian historical heritage, thousands of cultural monuments that were of universal value have been lost forever. In an era when the protection and promotion of human rights are considered to be fundamental principles, damaging or destroying cultural or religious memory intentionally, consistently and repeatedly must be strongly condemned in order to prevent any future possible repetition of past mistakes. Last year, Armenian cross-stones art (Khachkars) was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This year, we were glad to exhibit the marvellous art of these Armenian Khachkars at an exhibition that was held at the UNESCO Headquarters. Unfortunately, thousands of these cross-stones in the medieval cemetery of Nakhijevan were completely destroyed over the course of a few years under the instructions and the watchful eye of Azerbaijan's leadership, turning this area into military ground. Such destruction of delicately carved cross-stones, created by the Armenian masters during the Middle Ages, is a manifestation of blind hatred towards other peoples' cultures. The resolution of the 16th General Assembly of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) states with regards to this vandalism that regretfully "this heritage that once enjoyed its worthy place among the treasures of the world heritage can no longer be transmitted today to future generations".

2.5 Madam President, next year will mark the 500th anniversary of Armenian book printing. This anniversary coincides with the proclamation of Yerevan by UNESCO as the World Book Capital 2012. On these occasions a number of special events will be organized and we look forward to the active participation of UNESCO Member States in these events. Thank you.

### 3. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. We are all looking forward to that. And now I am very happy to welcome the Minister of Education of Tunisia, His Excellency Mr Taïeb Baccouche. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

٤,١ السيد الكوش (تونس):

السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، السيدات والسادة، يطيب لي أن أستهل كلمتي هذه بتقدم خالص التهئة إلى السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام راجياً لها التوفيق في مهمتها، كما يطيب لي أن أعبر عن عميق شكري للسيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي وزملائها أعضاء المجلس لما يبذلونه من سخي الجهود لتكون اليونسكو وفيه لرسالتها السامية التي ما انفكت تدعم لتجعل من هذه المنظمة مرجعاً ومنازة في عالم أضحت تحزه ثورات الشعوب من أجل الكرامة والعدالة.

٤,٢ ولا يفوتني أن أعبر للسيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرية العامة لليونسكو، عن خالص التقدير لما برهنت عليه من حكمة في قيادة المنظمة في هذه الفترة الدقيقة الوجيهة التي يعيشها المجتمع الدولي، وهي فترة حافلة بالتحديات، من أجل تحديث هياكل المنظمة وترشيدها وأدائها. واسمحوا لي أن أنتهز هذه المناسبة لأنتقل إليها شكر تونس، حكومة وشعباً، على ما أبدته من اهتمام شخصي بالثورة التونسية ومساندتها الفاعلة لتحقيق الانتقال الديمقراطي في أفضل الظروف. لقد مهدت الندوات والدورات التدريبية ومهمات الخبراء التي أنجزت بالتعاون مع اليونسكو منذ ثورة كانون الثاني/يناير ٢٠١١ لنجاح أول انتخابات، يوم الأحد الماضي، منذ استقلال تونس اتسمت بالتعددية والشفافية طبقاً للمعايير الدولية.

٤,٣ حضرات السيدات والسادة، انعقد مؤتمرنا هذا والعالم يشهد أزمات حادة تفجرت من تراكمات خلل الأوضاع الاقتصادية والمالية والاجتماعية والغذائية والبيئية، وليس لنا أمام هذا الوضع المعقد من خيار سوى العمل على مواجهة التحديات ومواصلة السعي إلى تحقيق "الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية"، مع التركيز على البعد الذي تتميز به اليونسكو، وأعني البعد الثقافي للتنمية وما يواكبه من ضرورة ضمان الحقوق الثقافية للأفراد والشعوب.

٤,٤ حضرات السيدات والسادة، لئن راهنت تونس منذ استقلالها على التربية والتعليم، وسخرت لذلك النصيب الأوفر من إمكانياتها، فإن الثورة أبرزت نقائص وجب علينا تداركها، وأبرزت متغيرات لا بد من أخذها بعين الاعتبار. فعملنا على الإسراع بما حتمته ضرورة ضمان انطلاق السنة الدراسية في أفضل الظروف من إصلاحات، وفي مقدمتها رد الاعتبار للأسرة التربوية وإنصافها وضمان حقوقها. كما عملنا على رسم التوجهات العملية الكفيلة بتدارك نقائص الماضي والسعي إلى تحقيق ما التزمت به تونس من بلوغ التعليم الجيد للجميع بمختلف مسالكه ومستوياته، والعمل على أن تتجاوز العملية التربوية نقل المعارف إلى الممارسة الفعلية في إطار المدرسة ومحيطها الثقافي والاقتصادي والاجتماعي. ونحن مدركون أن ما تتيحه خطط اليونسكو وبرامجها في مجال التربية كفيل بأن يعزز تفاعلنا بتحقيق هذه الأهداف الاستراتيجية.

٤,٥ أما في مجال العلوم الطبيعية، فإننا نتمن ونقدم برامج اليونسكو الرامية إلى النهوض بالبحث العلمي وتقليص الفجوة المعرفية بين الدول، وبلورة أفضل الممارسات لمساعدة الدول الأعضاء على إحكام الربط بين اكتساب المعارف العلمية وتشارطها وربطها بمتطلبات التنمية المستدامة.

٤,٦ وأما في مجال العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية، الذي تتميز به اليونسكو، فإننا ندعو إلى دعم البرامج الرامية إلى تعميق فهم الانعكاسات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لما يشهده العالم من تغيرات وتحولات اقتصادية واجتماعية متسارعة النسق. كما ندعو المنظمة، من منطلق رسالتها المتمثلة في "بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر"، إلى تعزيز مساهمتها في دعم المسار الديمقراطي ونشر ثقافة حقوق الإنسان، والمساواة بين الجنسين والحوار بين الشعوب والثقافات. وفي هذا السياق، أكدت تونس، بما اتخذته غداة ثورة كانون الثاني/يناير ٢٠١١ من إجراءات حازمة لحماية تراثها الثقافي، التزامها الكامل بالمبادئ الأساسية النابعة من الميثاق التأسيسي للمنظمة، ومن الاتفاقيات الدولية التي صدقت عليها. ونحن نؤيد، من هذه المنطلقات، تركيز برامج المنظمة على دعم الدور المحوري الذي تضطلع به الثقافة في التنمية، ونشر المبادئ التي تعزز مختلف أشكال حرية الفكر والتعبير والإبداع والتشاقف.

٤,٧ ولا يمكن الحديث عن تكنولوجيا الاتصال والمعلومات دون الإشارة إلى الدور الرئيسي الذي لعبته في الثورة التونسية. فقد وظف الشباب هذه التكنولوجيات للتعبير عن ثورتهم على الأوضاع المتردية التي آلت إليها البلاد، كما كانت حرية الحصول على المعلومات وتداولها مطلباً أساسياً من مطالب هذه الثورة. ولذلك بادرت الحكومة الانتقالية إلى العمل على تحقيق هذا المطلب بإلغاء مؤسسات الرقابة وإنشاء هيئة وطنية مستقلة لإصلاح منظومة الإعلام والاتصال.

٤,٨ حضرات السيدات والسادة، لا بُدّ في هذا المقام من التعبير عن مساندة تونس الكاملة لما يطمح إليه الشعب الفلسطيني من بناء دولة مستقلة ذات سيادة، ودعمها لمطلبه المشروع المتمثل في الانضمام إلى اليونسكو أملاً في أن يساعده هذا الأمر على تدعيم منظومته التربوية وحماية تراثه الثقافي. وفي الختام، لا يسعي إلا أن يؤكد مجدداً التزام تونس بمبادئ اليونسكو وبرسالتها النبيلة، واستعدادها التام لخدمة التعاون الفكري الدولي في إطار ما تتخذه المنظمة من مبادرات لبناء مجتمع إنساني قادر على تحقيق السلم المبني "على أساس من التضامن الفكري والمعنوي بين بني البشر"، والسلام.

#### (4.1) Mr Baccouche (Tunisia) (translation from the Arabic):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to begin my statement by offering warm congratulations to the President of the General Conference, wishing her every success in her task. I am also pleased to convey my sincere thanks to the Chair of the Executive Board and her colleagues the Members of the Board for their sterling efforts to ensure that UNESCO remains true to its lofty mission to make the Organization a reference and a beacon in a world which is being buffeted by the revolutions of peoples seeking dignity and justice.

(4.2) I am bound to express sincere appreciation to Ms Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO, for the wisdom she has demonstrated in leading the Organization in this delicate moment so full of challenges in the life of the international community, in order to renovate the structures of the Organization and to rationalize its performance. Allow me to take this opportunity to convey to you the thanks of the Government and people of Tunisia for your interest in and active support for the Tunisian revolution in order to achieve a democratic transition under optimum conditions. The symposia, training courses and expert missions that have been undertaken in cooperation with UNESCO since the January 2011 revolution paved the way for the success last Sunday of the first elections since Tunisian independence to be characterized by pluralism and transparency, in accordance with international standards.

(4.3) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this General Conference is being held at a time when the world is undergoing acute crises which have erupted following an accumulation of economic, financial, social, nutritional and environmental imbalances. Faced with this complex situation, we have no option but to seek to meet the challenges and to continue to strive

to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), focusing on the aspect of particular concern to UNESCO, in other words the cultural aspect of development and the concomitant need to ensure the cultural rights of individuals and peoples.

(4.4) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, while, ever since independence, Tunisia has bet on education and devoted a large part of its resources to that end, the revolution brought to light defects which we have had to correct, taking the necessary variables into account. We hastened to ensure that the new school year got off to the best possible start with the reforms, and first and foremost that of restoring consideration, fairness, and respect for their rights to teaching staff. We also sought to devise guidelines to ensure that the defects of the past were avoided and to achieve what Tunisia had undertaken to do to attain quality education for all in the various streams and levels, and to enable the educational process to go beyond the mere transfer of knowledge to a veritable practice within the framework of the school and its cultural, economic and social environment. We are fully aware that what UNESCO educational plans and programmes offer is conducive to strengthening our optimism by achieving these strategic goals.

(4.5) With regard to the natural sciences, we value and support UNESCO's programmes aimed at promoting scientific research and narrowing the knowledge gap between countries, and devising best practices in order to help Member States to consolidate the link between the acquisition and the sharing of scientific knowledge and linking it to the requirements of sustainable development.

(4.6) In the field of the social and human sciences, in which UNESCO excels, we call for support for the programme attempting to deepen understanding of the economic and social impacts of the accelerating economic and social transformations. We also call upon the Organization, as part of its mission to "construct the defences of peace in the minds of mind," to strengthen its contribution to supporting the democratic course and disseminating a culture of human rights, gender equality, and dialogue among peoples and cultures. In this connection, Tunisia recalls the determined measures it took following the January 2011 revolution to protect its cultural heritage, and its full commitment to the basic principles enshrined in the Organization's Constitution and in the international conventions it has ratified. On these foundations, we support the focus of the Organization's programmes on the crucial role played by culture in development, and the dissemination of the principles which strengthen the various forms of freedom of thought, expression, creativity and acculturation.

(4.7) One cannot speak of information and communication technologies without noting the central role they played in the Tunisian revolution. Young people harnessed these technologies to express their revolution against the deteriorating conditions in the country. Furthermore, the freedom to obtain and circulate information is a fundamental demand of this revolution. That is why the transitional government took the initiative of working to achieve that demand by abolishing the censorship institutions and establishing an independent national body to reform the system of information and communication.

(4.8) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am bound at this juncture to express Tunisia's full support for the aspirations of the Palestinian people to build its own sovereign State and to support its legitimate request to join UNESCO, in the hope that this may help to support its educational system and protect its cultural heritage. Finally, I must reiterate Tunisia's commitment to the principles and noble mission of UNESCO, and its full readiness to serve international intellectual cooperation within the framework of the Organization's initiatives to build a human society which is capable of achieving peace based "upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind". Peace be upon you.

## 5. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. May I ask the Minister of Education and of Higher Education of Kuwait to take the floor. Your Excellency Mr Ahmad Al-Melaifi, the floor is yours.

٦,١ السيد المليفي (الكويت):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، سعادة السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، سعادة السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، سعادة المدير العام لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة ورؤساء الوفود وأعضاءها، أحبيكم أطيبت تحية. ويسرني أن أتقدم، باسم دولة الكويت، بالتهنئة إلى سعادة السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام لاختيارها لهذه المهمة متمنياً لها كل التوفيق، وراجياً أن يكون اختيار رئيس وفد دولة الكويت نائباً للرئيسة عاملاً من عوامل الدعم والمساندة والنجاح في هذه المهمة، والشكر لسعادة السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام السابق لما قدمه من جهود إبان توليه لهذه المسؤولية. وأعبر عن صادق تقديري للجهود التي تبذلها سعادة المدير العام لليونسكو، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، وكافة المسؤولين والعاملين في قطاعات اليونسكو وبرامج عملها لتحقيق أهداف المنظمة وترسيخ قيمها الإنسانية.

٦,٢ حضرات السيدات والسادة، طوال سنوات خلت، سعى من سقنا في مواجهة تحديات كبيرة إلى الحفاظ على كرامة الإنسان والبحث عن رفاهية الشعوب. وكانت اليونسكو دائماً محل ثقة العالم الذي ينشد التطور في شتى المجالات الثقافية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية والعلمية، لما تميزت به من طابع إنساني غير سياسي، وها نحن اليوم نعيش في عالم جديد نواجه فيه تحديات أعظم بحثاً عن المتطلبات نفسها في ظل متغيرات متسارعة تحمل في جعبتها صعوبات أكبر وعقبات أكثر تتجدد مع استمرار المفاجآت التي تجعل المستقبل أكثر ضبابية وتحملنا مسؤوليات حسام تجاه الجيل الحالي والأجيال اللاحقة.

٦,٣ وحيث إن اليونسكو، بيت الفكر ومنبر الحريات، تتطلع دائماً إلى أن ينعم الإنسان، مهما يكن عرقه ومعتقد، بحريته وكرامته، فإن علينا، بدافع التمسك بإسلامنا والشعور بإنسانيتنا، أن نؤيد رسالة اليونسكو وأن ندعم أنشطتها، وبخاصة تلك الأنشطة التي ترعى السلام وحقوق الإنسان وكرامة الأفراد. ونحن نتطلع إلى أن تتحد جلسات المؤتمر العام السبل والوسائل التي يمكن لليونسكو أن تواصل من خلالها تحسين إسهاماتها في تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية المتفق عليها دولياً، بما فيها الأهداف المزمع تحقيقها بحلول عام ٢٠١٥ والبرنامج الإنمائي المحدد لها.

٦,٤ حضرات السيدات والسادة، إن الكويت التي تنعم بقدر كبير من الديمقراطية والحرية ليجمعها توافق مبدئي على الحفاظ على كرامة الإنسان ونيل حقوقه، يتماشى مع المبادئ الأساسية لليونسكو التي هي جزء من الضمير الكويتي الذي ترسخ قناعاته بأهمية الإنسان وتحقيق أمنه وتلبية احتياجاته. ولا تزال الكويت تحمل مسؤولياتها الأخلاقية إزاء الإنسان، وهي حريصة على تقديم الدعم والمعونات له، وخاصة في مجال التعليم الذي تعدّه الركيزة الأساسية للقضاء على الفقر والعوز الذي يهدد كرامة الإنسان، إذ توفر الكويت ١٩٨ منحة دراسية سنوية لأبناء عدد من دول العالم من مختلف القارات. وتحرص الكويت في برامجها التربوية على تعزيز قيم العدالة والمساواة وحرية الفكر والعقيدة واحترام الآخر ونبذ التعصب والإرهاب. وتشارك في تجارب المدارس المنتسبة إلى اليونسكو من خلال ٤٥ مدرسة وناديين. وتولي الكويت عناية كبيرة لإعداد الفرد وتعليمه وترويضه بأحدث الخبرات والمهارات لكونه جوهر التنمية المستدامة وركيزتها، وهي تسعى جاهدة لينهل كافة أفراد المجتمع من العلم بمختلف صنوفه وفق قدراتهم التعليمية. وتسير الكويت قدماً في مشروع دمج الطلبة من ذوي الصعوبات في التعلم مع أقرانهم في مدارس التعليم العام، وقد افتتحت مدرسة متخصصة في صعوبات التعلم في إحدى مناطقها التعليمية ستتلوها مدارس أخرى من هذا النوع يشرف عليها مركز لتقويم الطفل وتعليمه. وقد أسست مركز صباح الأحمد للموهبة والإبداع ليرعى المواهب الكويتية في كافة المجالات.

٦,٥ وتفخر الكويت بأنها في المقدمة عربياً من حيث المساواة في التعليم بين الجنسين ومن حيث تقليل الفروق بينهما. وقد حققت المرأة في الكويت إنجازات طبية، إذ تبوأت أعلى المناصب في الدولة فأصبحت وزيرةً وعضواً في مجلس الأمة وحائزةً على أعلى الجوائز العالمية التقديرية في مجالات عديدة. وفي مجال الثقافة، فإن خطة التنمية التي أقرتها حكومة دولة الكويت تحتوي على إنشاء مراكز ثقافية وداراً للأوبرا خلال السنوات القادمة. وذلك إيماناً من دولة الكويت بأهمية الثقافة بجوانبها المختلفة في تفعيل ثقافة السلام. وفي مجال البحث العلمي، ينهض معهد الكويت للأبحاث العلمية الذي يعد من المؤسسات العلمية ذات المصداقية العالية بالعديد من البرامج والمشروعات المتصلة بالصناعات الطبيعية والمواد الغذائية، وفي طليعتها مشروع تأهيل البيئة المتضررة في الكويت، بالإضافة إلى برنامج للطاقة المتجددة يضم أكثر من ٢٥ مشروعاً بحثياً تعتمد على الرياح والطاقة الشمسية.

٦,٦ حضرات السيدات والسادة، إننا لنعلن أننا ندعم جميع الجهود التي تبذلها اليونسكو لصون المناظر الحضارية التاريخية وحماية اللغات المهددة بالاندثار، ونأمل أن تتضافر كافة الجهود لحماية التراث الثقافي للشعب الفلسطيني لاعتمادنا بعدالة قضيته وحقه في أن يحظى بحياة كريمة كغيره من الشعوب. وفي هذا المجال، تؤكد دولة الكويت دعمها لتوصية المجلس التنفيذي لنيل فلسطين عضوية كاملة في منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة.

٦,٧ حضرات السيدات والسادة، نظراً للحاجات الطارئة الملحة، وإلى أن مشاريع المنظمة للعامين ٢٠١٢ و٢٠١٣ ستزيد على الرغم من أن الميزانية المخصصة لها محدودة، فإننا نأمل أن تُغلب الدول ما يحقق كرامة الإنسان على أية حسابات أخرى، وأن تلي هذه الاحتياجات الملحة بالمزيد من الدعم المالي الإضافي ومواصلة التعاون بين كافة الشركاء. وختاماً أحييكم جميعاً وأشكر لكم حسن الاستماع والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(6.1) **Mr Al-Melaifi (Kuwait) (translation from the Arabic):**

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Clement, Your Excellency Madam President of the General Conference, Your Excellency Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellency Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellencies heads and members of delegations, please accept my warmest greetings. I am pleased, on behalf of the State of Kuwait, to offer congratulations to Her Excellency Madam President of the General Conference on her selection for that task, and to wish her every success. I hope that the selection of the head of the Kuwaiti delegation as Vice-President will be of assistance to her and help her to perform her task successfully. Thanks go to the previous President of the General Conference for his outstanding efforts during his term of office. I also offer sincere appreciation for the efforts of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova and all her colleagues in the various sectors of the Organization and its programmes of work to achieve the objectives of the Organization and consolidate its humanitarian values.

(6.2) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, over the past years, those who have preceded us have faced great challenges to preserve the dignity of human beings and to seek the wellbeing of peoples. UNESCO has always enjoyed the confidence of the world seeking development in the cultural, social, economic and scientific fields in view of its humanitarian and non-political nature. Today, we live a new world in which we face even greater challenges in seeking the same requirements in the light of new and accelerating variables bringing with them greater difficulties and more and constantly renewed obstacles with continued surprises which make the future even cloudier and give us enormous responsibilities for the current and future generations.

(6.3) Given that UNESCO is the house of ideas and the rostrum of freedoms, constantly striving to ensure that human beings, whatever their race or creed, are blessed with freedom and dignity, we need, as a result of our adherence to Islam and our feeling of humanity, to support UNESCO's message and its activities, especially those concerned with upholding peace, human rights and the dignity of individuals. As we look forward to the sessions of this General Conference defining the means whereby UNESCO can continue to enhance its contributions to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the goals to be achieved by 2015 and the related development programme.

(6.4) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Kuwait, which enjoys a large measure of democracy and freedom, also has a consensus of principle on the need to preserve human dignity and uphold human rights, in accordance with the basic principles of UNESCO, which are part of the Kuwaiti conscience, which is convinced of the importance of achieving security and meeting the requirements therefor. Kuwait still assumes its ethical responsibilities towards individuals, and is keen to provide support and equipment, particularly in the field of education, which we deem to be the mainstay of efforts to eliminate poverty and want, both of which threaten human dignity. Kuwait has provided 198 annual study grants to students from a number of countries of various continents around the world. Through its educational programmes, Kuwait is keen to strengthen the values of justice, equality, freedom of thought and religion, respect for the Other, and the rejection of fanaticism and terrorism. Kuwait participates in the Associated Schools Project network (ASPnet) through 45 schools and two clubs. Kuwait devotes great attention to the training and education of individuals, providing them with the latest expertise and skills, so that they may become mainstays of sustainable development. It also endeavours to ensure that all individuals in society may partake of the various branches of science in accordance with their educational abilities. Kuwait is moving ahead with a project for the mainstreaming of students with learning disabilities together with their peers in general education schools. It has opened a specialized school for those with learning disabilities in one of its educational zones, to be followed by other such schools, to be supervised by the Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching (CCET). Kuwait has also established the Sabah al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) in furtherance of gifted Kuwaitis in all fields.

(6.5) Kuwait is proud that it is among the foremost Arab countries with respect to gender equality in education and reducing gaps between male and female students. Women in Kuwait have outstanding achievements to their names, occupying the highest posts in the land, having become ministers and members of parliament, and having received the highest international prizes in numerous domains. In the field of culture, the Kuwaiti Government has adopted a development plan including the establishment of cultural centres and plans for an opera house in coming years, in the belief in the importance of culture, in all its various aspects, for promoting the culture of peace. With regard to scientific research, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), which is a highly regarded scientific institution, promotes numerous programmes and projects relating to natural industries and foodstuffs, foremost of which is a project on the rehabilitation of damaged environment in Kuwait, in addition to a renewable energy programme comprising 25 research projects using wind and solar energy.

(6.6) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to state that we support all the efforts exerted by UNESCO to preserve the historic urban landscape and to protect endangered languages, and we hope that efforts will be pooled to protect the cultural heritage of the Palestinian people since we believe in the justness of the Palestinian cause and in the Palestinians' right to enjoy a life of dignity, the same as all other peoples. In this connection, Kuwait supports the recommendation of the Executive Board that Palestine should be granted full membership in UNESCO.

(6.7) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in view of the pressing emergency needs, and the fact that the Organization's programmes for the 2012-2013 biennium will increase in magnitude despite the fact that the budgets allocated to them are

limited, we hope that the Member States will give preference to what has been achieved with respect to human dignity over any other considerations, and that they will meet these urgent needs with additional financial support and pursue cooperation among all partners. In conclusion, I salute you all and thank you for your attention. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

## 7. The President:

Thank you very much for your statement Your Excellency. And due to a sudden change, I would like now to give the floor to the Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO of Sudan, His Excellency Mr El Bashier Sahal Gumaa Sahal.

٨،١ السيد سهيل (السودان):

السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام لليونسكو، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، المديرية العامة لليونسكو، رؤساء لجان المؤتمر، رؤساء الوفود الوزراء والسفراء، ممثلي الهيئات والكيانات المعنية بعمل اليونسكو، السادة قادة الرأي وأسرة اليونسكو، يا من تؤمّنون هذه القاعة الرحبة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. يتسع هذا المكان ليكون في رمزيته سعة الأرض ليعبر عن الوحدة في التنوع. ذلك بأننا جميعاً نهض بمهمة واحدة هي المساهمة في صون السلم والأمن بالعمل عن طريق التربية والعلم والثقافة عنوان هذه المنظمة العريقة. ويُعقد مؤتمراً هذا ضمن سلسلة من التحضيرات وأعمال الهيئتين الرئاسيتين لليونسكو من أجل خدمة المستفيدين النهائيين، وهم الناس، على أساس السلام والتنمية المستدامة. وسمحوا لي هنا أن أحيي المديرية العامة على ما عكفت عليه من إصلاحات تلبيةً لمطالب أديدت أثناء الدورات السابقة، وكذلك على المشاورات المكثفة التي أجرتها في جميع مجالات عمل اليونسكو؛ هذه المشاورات الواسعة النطاق التي تجسّد الروح الجماعية وسيادة قيم الفكر والموضوعية وتكثف العمل الجماعي الممكن.

٨،٢ ويأتي هذا المؤتمر أيها الإخوة في بداية العقد الثاني للألفية، مما يجعل من عقدنا هذا عقداً استثنائياً في ظلّ الاستراتيجية المتوسطة الأجل للفترة ٢٠١٤-٢٠١٩. وسيكون هذا العقد، الذي نأمل أن يشهد ميلاد المنظمة الإفريقية للتربية والثقافة والعلوم، قد اكتمل عند انتقالنا إلى الاستراتيجية المتوسطة الأجل للفترة اللاحقة. وسيأتي بعد ذلك عام ٢٠٢٠ ليختبر قدرتنا جميعاً على العمل الخلاق، وبخاصة في ظلّ تنوع وتباين المصالح التي تمثل هومواً لدى الدول الصاعدة والنامية. وذلك نظراً لتأثير النظام المالي والدولي، وحتى حوكمة الغذاء واحترار المناخ، تأثيراً كبيراً فيما نفع.

٨،٣ أيها السادة، سيناقد هذا المؤتمر قضايا كبيرة مرتبطة بهذا الأمر منها ما أنتم بصدده في هذا المؤتمر، وهو إعداد مشروع إعلان عالمي بشأن المبادئ الأخلاقية المتعلقة بتغيّر المناخ ويتزامن انعقاد هذا المؤتمر مع مرور عشر سنوات على إعلان اليوم العالمي للعلوم من أجل السلام والتنمية وبداية الاحتفال به في العاشر من شهر تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر من كل عام، مما يعد في حدّ ذاته احتفالاً. وتضطلع اليونسكو بمبادرات وبرامج عمل وضعتها بنفسها، أو أوكلتها إليها الأمم المتحدة، وذلك على الصعيد الدولي ضمن إطار عمل الأمم المتحدة للمساعدة الإنمائية وعلى الصعيد الوطني. ويحتاج الأمر، على الرغم من مذكرات التفاهم مع اليونسكو ومنظمات الأمم المتحدة الأخرى المعنية، إلى المزيد من الإحكام في البلدان المعنية، وبخاصة عندما تبدأ عملية الإصلاح الجديدة فيما يخصّ البلدان الأفريقية أو البلدان العربية، ممّا يوفر قاعدة بيانات للبرامج الخارجة عن الميزانية.

٨،٤ أيها السادة المؤتمرين، يتيح واقع التعليم في السودان فرصاً للالتحاق ويُحسّن من كفاءته. ويُعتبر السودان من الدول التي بادرت إلى محو الأمية وتعليم الكبار والقراءة من أجل التمكين. وقد تجلّت هذه الخبرة في تطبيق الكثير والعديد من التجارب لجسر الهوة. وعلى الرغم من كثافة ما بذلته اليونسكو مع الشركاء، ما زال توفير التعليم للجميع أمراً بعيد المنال، ولا يركّز الممولون حتى الآن على برامج التنمية المستدامة. ولذا نؤيد بقوة الإعلان الذي صدر في أديس أبابا مؤخراً. وتضمّن أولويات عمل اليونسكو الابتكار فضلاً عن تسخير العلوم لاستخدام الموارد الطبيعية ومصادر الطاقة المتجددة. ويؤدي كل ذلك إلى تزايد حجم المسؤولية الملقاة على عاتقنا. لقد حان الوقت أيها السادة لاستشراف إمكانيات التحول العميق من أجل إرساء الدعائم لمجتمعات تتسع فيها مكونات التنمية لتكون أكثر إنصافاً مع الأجيال الصاعدة من الشباب لكي تتولى هذه الأجيال قيادة المساعي الرامية إلى صون الحياة الاجتماعية وثقافة السلم واللاعنف.

٨،٥ أيها السادة المؤتمرين، إن ركائز ترسيخ وتعزيز قيم العدل وتطوير السياسات الثقافية تحتم علينا أن نرتقي بهذا الجهد. وقد سنّ السودان قانوناً لترقية وتطوير اللغات، ووقع على اتفاقيتين هامتين مؤخراً بشأن تنوع أشكال التعبير الثقافي وصون التراث الثقافي غير المادي. وتنتقل إلى الاستفادة الناجعة في هذا الجانب من الجهود المنظمة. وسمحوا لي أيها الإخوة أن أركّز في هذا الاتجاه على دعم تعزيز وسائل الإعلام التابعة للمجموعات المحلية في مجال الاتصال من أجل الانتفاع بالمعلومات الحرة وسد الفجوة الرقمية، وتسخير التكنولوجيا لتمكين المجتمعات من الانتفاع بإنتاجها وتراثها الثقافي ومن رقمنة تراثها الوثائقي وفتح ذاكرتها للأحرار. وفي هذا قَدَمنا عدة مشروعات لإيجاد بيئة مواتية لضمان الانتفاع بالمعارف وتشاطرها.

٨،٦ أيها السادة المؤتمرين، إن بلوغ أهداف السلم الدولي، وتحقيق الصالح المشترك والحقوق المتكافئة، واستخدام ذخيرة المعرفة البشرية في بناء السلام العادل، والعزم على الانحياز التام إلى قيم الميثاق التأسيسي للمنظمة، تدعونا إلى إعلاء كلمة الحق وقبول فلسطين عضواً كامل العضوية في اليونسكو. وأود في الوقت ذاته أن أرحب بالتهنئة الخالصة لأشقائنا في جمهورية جنوب السودان بانضمامهم إلى اليونسكو. وباسم وفد بلادي، أرحب بالشكر كله لكل المؤسسات التي شاركت اليونسكو في برنامجها الخاص بالأنشطة الممولة من الموارد الخارجة عن الميزانية. وشكراً جزيلاً.

### (8.1) Mr Sahal (Sudan) (translation from the Arabic):

Madam President of the General Conference of UNESCO, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Chairs of the commissions and committees of the General Conference, heads of delegations, ministers, ambassadors, representatives of organizations and entities concerned with the work of UNESCO, opinion-shapers, UNESCO staff, and all those filling this great hall, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. This place is big enough to symbolize the whole Earth and to express its unity in diversity. We are all working in a single joint effort to contribute to preserving peace and security by working for education, science and culture, the emblems of this venerable Organization. This General Conference of ours is being held amidst a series of preparations and work by the two main organs of UNESCO with a view to serving the final beneficiaries, people, on the basis of peace and sustainable development. Allow me to salute the Director-General on the reforms she has undertaken in response to requests formulated at previous sessions, and also on the intense consultations she has held in all fields of UNESCO's work. The broad consultations embody the collective spirit and the pre-eminence of the values of the intellect and objectivity and enrich the potential collective work.

(8.2) This General Conference, dear brothers and sisters, comes at the beginning of the second decade of the millennium, an exceptional decade in view of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2019. This decade, which we hope will see the birth of the African educational, cultural and scientific organization, will become complete when we have gone over to the Medium-Term Strategy for the next period. Then the year 2020 will come and test the ability of all of us to work creatively, especially in the light of the variety and divergence of our interests, which reflect the concerns of the emerging and developing States. This is the result of the impact of the international financial system, and even food governance, climate warming, all of which greatly



affect what we do.

(8.3) Ladies and gentlemen, this General Conference will discuss great issues relating to this matter, including what you are doing at this Conference, and that is preparing a draft universal declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change. Furthermore, this General Conference is being held on the tenth anniversary of the proclamation of World Science Day for Peace and Development, celebrations of which are held on 10 November of every year, which in itself is a celebration. UNESCO is involved in initiatives and programmes of work which it has itself drawn up, or which it has entrusted to the United Nations at the international level, within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), or at the national level. The matter requires, despite memoranda of understanding with UNESCO and other United Nations agencies concerned, greater firmness on the part of the countries concerned, especially when the new reform process gets under way with respect to African or Arab countries, which should provide a database for extrabudgetary funds.

(8.4) Dear participants in the General Conference, the reality of education in Sudan affords opportunities for enrolment and the upgrading of competence. Sudan is among the countries that have striven to boost literacy and provide adult education for empowerment. This experience has taken the form of applying numerous methods to bridge the gap. Despite UNESCO's intense efforts in favour of its partners, the provision of education for all (EFA) is still far from being achieved. Funding partners still do not focus on sustainable development programmes, and that is why we strongly support the declaration made recently at Addis Ababa, which includes UNESCO's priorities for action: innovation rather than harnessing the sciences to use natural resources and renewable sources of energy. All that leads to greater responsibility being laid on our shoulders. The time has come, ladies and gentlemen, to seek the means of a deep transformation aimed at consolidating the foundations of societies whose development components are more equitable to the coming generations of young people so as to enable them to lead efforts aimed at protecting the life of society and the culture of peace and non-violence.

(8.5) Dear participants in the General Conference, if we wish to consolidate and strengthen the values of justice and develop cultural policies, we must promote such efforts. Sudan has enacted a law for the promotion and development of languages, and has recently signed two important conventions on the diversity of cultural expressions and the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage. We look forward to benefiting from this aspect of the Organization's efforts. Allow me, dear brothers and sisters, to focus, in this connection, on strengthening the information media of local communities in the field of communication for access to free information, on closing the digital gap, on harnessing technology to enable communities to gain access to the production of information, to their cultural heritage, to the digitization of their documentary heritage, and to open their memory to others. In this regard, we have proposed a number of projects to create a suitable environment for access to and sharing of knowledge.

(8.6) Dear participants in the General Conference, attaining international peace, achieving the common good and corresponding rights, using human knowledge in building a just peace, and being determined to adhere fully to the values of the Organization's Constitution all compel us to uphold what is right and accept Palestine as a full member of UNESCO. At the same time, I should like to offer sincere congratulations to our brethren in South Sudan on their admission to UNESCO. Finally, on behalf of my country's delegation, I should like to thank all institutions that UNESCO has helped by means of activities funded from extrabudgetary sources. Thank you very much.

## 9. The President:

Thank you very much for your statement. And now I am happy to welcome the Minister of Education of the Syrian Arab Republic, Your Excellency Mr Saleh Alrashid, the floor is yours.

١٠,١ السيد الراشد (الجمهورية العربية السورية):

السيدة المدير العام لليونسكو، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدات والسادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، الحضور الكريم، يسعدني والوفد المرافق أن نشارككم أعمال المؤتمر العام لليونسكو في دورته السادسة والثلاثين معبرين عن تقديرنا لاتساع آفاق التعاون في ميادين العمل المختلفة وتأييدنا للمنظمة ومديرتنا العامة السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا في رؤيتها وخطواتها الإصلاحية. وأتمن جهود أمانة اليونسكو التي وضعت بين أيدينا وثائق غاية في الأهمية لمناقشتها، كما أهني رئيسة المؤتمر العام بانتخابها وأتمنى لها التوفيق والنجاح في مهمتها.

١٠,٢ السيدات والسادة، أيها الحضور الكريم، إن بناء مجتمع بشري يمتلك أدوات التفكير العلمي والقدرة على استخدام التقنية الحديثة لتطويع الظواهر الطبيعية والانتصار عليها وتكييف الرؤى الفكرية خدمة لمصالحه هو طموح مشروع، تُعبر عنه مجتمعاتنا وتسعى مجدية نحوه على اختلافها. وهنا نؤكد دور التربية كأفضل استثمار في بناء مستقبل الإنسانية وازدهارها فكرياً وقيماً وحضارة. ونحن في سوريا، نواكب التطورات والانفتاح على التجارب والخبرات العربية والدولية، نتفاعل معها في ضوء تعزيز بناء الشخصية الوطنية من خلال إطلاق المشروعات التربوية الوطنية تحقيقاً لهذه الأهداف وفق مصفوفة زمنية وبرامج تنفيذية محددة بدأت بالمعايير الوطنية للمناهج التربوية وتعميق تأهيل المعلمين والمدرسين، ودمج التكنولوجيا بالتعليم ورعاية المتفوقين والتميزين، وافتتاح المركز الإقليمي لتنمية الطفولة المبكرة في دمشق بالتعاون مع مكتب اليونسكو الإقليمي للتربية في الدول العربية الموجود في بيروت، ومعالجة مشكلات التسرب ومواجهة ظاهرة الأمية بالحلول المناسبة، وتطوير التعليم في البادية من خلال المدارس الداخلية والمتنقلة وغيرها الكثير.

١٠,٣ السيدات والسادة أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، رؤساء الوفود، نعتقد بأن نتائج أعمال دورات المجلس التنفيذي التي ساهمنا فيها مجدية في أعقاب الدورة السابقة لمؤتمرنا العام، والتي أكدنا من خلالها تأييدنا مراحل تقدم برنامج الإصلاح الإداري وتبني سياسة جديدة للموارد البشرية تحقق أهداف اليونسكو كما تنتظرها الدول الأعضاء. ودعمنا برامج الشباب ومكافحة الفقر وتعليم النساء والمساواة بين الجنسين. ونجدد التزامنا ودعمنا قبول طلب عضوية فلسطين في اليونسكو بعد أن خذلت كبرى المنظمات الدولية نضال الشعب الفلسطيني وتضحياته التي قدمها على مدى أكثر من ٦٣ عاماً. وما تزال السلطات الإسرائيلية معنة في تدمير المؤسسات التعليمية والثقافية في الجولان السوري المحتل وفي فلسطين العربية. وقد بدأ هذا الأمر واضحاً بشكل إجرامي وسافر للمجتمع الدولي من خلال الاستمرار في التوسع الاستيطاني وفرض أبشع أنواع الحصار على غزة أرضاً وشعباً رغم كل النداءات الإنسانية والدولية. ونجدد أيضاً التزامنا، في إطار المجموعة العربية، بالقرارات الخمسة المتعلقة بالأراضي العربية المحتلة وبالاعتراف الرسمي بدولة فلسطين. ونؤكد مواقفنا المؤيدة لقضايا المجموعة العربية وقضايا مجموعة الدول السبع والسبعين والصين. ونشكر لجنة التراث العالمي والمجلس الدولي للمعالم والمواقع الأثرية على الجهود التي بُذلت من أجل اعتماد مشروع القرار القاضي بإدراج القرى الأثرية الأربع الواقعة في شمال الجمهورية العربية السورية في قائمة التراث العالمي باعتبارها منظراً طبيعياً ثقافياً.

١٠,٤ معالي رؤساء الوفود والسادة أعضاء المؤتمر، نحن في سورية بدأنا خطوات إصلاحية حقيقية للنهوض بوطننا في المجالات المختلفة والمتكاملة وانطلاقاً من حوار وطني واسع ومشاركة شعبية كاملة لمواجهة المؤامرات التي ترمي إلى التدخل الخارجي في شؤوننا الداخلية وقراراتها السيادية وفق استراتيجية وصفها السيد الرئيس بشار الأسد، رئيس الجمهورية العربية السورية، حين قال: إنها استراتيجية تطوير شاملة ومتكاملة تنطوي على برنامج إصلاح متدرج. وهي تعبر عن رؤيتنا

التنمية الوطنية لكل مناحي حياة المجتمع ومفاصل العمل فيه، وتتلازم فيها القطاعات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والعلمية والثقافية وغيرها من المجالات. وختاماً، نؤكد أن قرارات ونتائج مؤتمرنا العام في دورته الحالية السادسة والثلاثين سيكون لها الأثر الأكبر في مسيرة المشروع الوطني للتطوير التربوي في بلدنا الذي يفيد من التجارب العالمية الرائدة بهدف تقدم الإنسانية وتحقيق المستقبل المزهو والمشرق لوطننا وللإنسانية جمعاء. وشكراً جزيلاً لكم جميعاً.

(10.1) **Mr Alrashid** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*translation from the Arabic*):

Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Madam President of the General Conference, heads and members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, I and my delegation are pleased to share with you in the work of the General Conference of UNESCO at its 36th session and to express our appreciation of the broad horizons of cooperation in the various fields of work and our support for the Organization and its Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova and her vision and practical measures of reform. I appreciate the efforts of the UNESCO Secretariat, which has placed in our hands extremely important documents for discussion. I also congratulate the President of the General Conference on her election and wish her every success in her task.

(10.2) Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished participants, building a human society which possesses the tools of scientific thought and the ability to use modern technology in order to harness and conquer natural phenomena, and to adapt intellectual visions to the service of such thought is a legitimate aspiration which our societies express and towards which they strive earnestly. Here we stress the role of education as the best possible investment in the building of the future of humankind and its intellectual, ethical and civilizational wellbeing. We in the Syrian Arab Republic keep abreast of developments and remain open to Arab and international experience, with which we interact against the backdrop of strengthening the national character by launching national educational projects to achieve these objectives in accordance with a set timetable and programmes of action, beginning with national criteria for educational curricula, enhancing the qualifications of primary and secondary school teachers, incorporating technology into education, sponsoring excellent and outstanding students, opening the Early Childhood Development Regional Centre in Damascus in cooperation with UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States in Beirut, addressing the problems of dropping out of school and illiteracy by means of appropriate solutions, and developing education through boarding schools and itinerant schools, any many other types.

(10.3) Excellencies, heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, we believe that the results of the sessions of the Executive Board in which we participated earnestly following the previous session of the General Conference, and in which we stressed our support for the various stages of administrative reform and the adoption of a new human resources policy to achieve UNESCO's objectives, as expected by the Member States. We also supported the programmes on youth, the fight against poverty, the education of women, and gender equality. We renew our commitment to and support for acceptance of the request for Palestine to become a Member State of UNESCO even as the great international gatherings and organizations have disappointed the struggle of the Palestinian people and its sacrifices for more than 63 years. The Israeli authorities are still bent on destroying the educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and in Arab Palestine. This became criminally and blatantly obvious for the international community through the continued expansion of the settlements and the imposition of the ugliest kind of embargo on land and people of Gaza despite all the humanitarian and international appeals. We also renew our commitment, within the framework of the Arab States group, to the five decisions relating to the occupied Arab territories and the official recognition of the State of Palestine. We reiterate our positions in favour of the issues of the Arab States group and the Group of 77 and China. We thank the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for the efforts exerted to adopt a draft resolution to inscribe the 40 villages in the north of the Syrian Arab Republic on the World Heritage List as a natural and cultural site.

(10.4) Excellencies, heads of delegations and ladies and gentlemen participants in the General Conference, we in the Syrian Arab Republic have begun true steps towards reform in order to advance our country in various integrated fields, on the basis of a broad national dialogue with full participation by the public in order to face the conspiracies endeavouring to interfere in our internal affairs and our sovereign decision-making according to a strategy which President Bashar al-Assad of the Syrian Arab Republic has described as a comprehensive and integrated development strategy including a graded reform programme. This expresses our national development vision for all areas of the life of society and areas of work therein, in which the economic, social, scientific, cultural and other sectors all participate and contribute. Finally, we stress the importance of our resolutions at this 36th session of the General Conference, and hope that they may have a substantial impact on the course of the national project for educational development in our country, which benefits from pioneering global experience with a view to advancing humankind and achieving a flourishing and brilliant future for our country and for all humankind. Thank you all very much.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. I would like to ask the Minister of External Relations of Cameroon, His Excellency Mr Henri Eyebe Ayissi to take the floor.

12.1 **M. Ayissi** (Cameroun) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, ambassadeurs et chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les hauts responsables de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi à titre liminaire de présenter à la suite des éminents orateurs qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune mes chaleureuses félicitations à Mme Katalin Bogyay pour son élection comme Présidente de cette 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je saisis également cette occasion pour remercier M. Davidson Hepburn, Président sortant, pour le dévouement et l'abnégation dont il a fait preuve au cours de son mandat.

12.2 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la présente session de la Conférence générale se situe dans un contexte particulier, tant pour la vie de notre Organisation que pour ce qui est de la délégation du Cameroun. D'abord en ce qui concerne l'UNESCO elle-même, parce que c'est la première de « l'ère Bokova ». En effet, élue en 2009, dans un contexte mondial fort difficile, Mme Irina Bokova a injecté dès l'entame de son mandat une sorte de supplément d'âme, un nouvel humanisme dans notre Organisation. Les effets positifs de cette nouvelle donne sont déjà perceptibles, tant au niveau de la structuration de l'UNESCO qu'à celui de l'affectation des ressources budgétaires. Ensuite, cette session se tient au lendemain de la réélection du Président Paul Biya à la magistrature suprême au Cameroun. Le climat de paix dans lequel cette élection s'est déroulée et le programme baptisé « Programme des grandes réalisations », que le Président s'est engagé à appliquer au cours de son mandat dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, constituent une réponse à cet appel pour un nouvel humanisme. Enfin, cette session n'est pas seulement la première au

cours de laquelle l'élection aux différents organes sera basée sur le consensus et la rotation au sein des groupes régionaux, elle est aussi celle qui va valider le nouveau dispositif hors Siège, qui dote l'Afrique de cinq bureaux régionaux aux compétences et aux moyens plus élargis.

12.3 À ce sujet, le Gouvernement camerounais, par ma voix, saisit cette occasion pour exprimer sa gratitude à l'UNESCO et remercier à la fois le sous-groupe Afrique centrale, le Groupe africain et, en perspective, le Conseil exécutif, pour le choix porté sur Yaoundé, capitale du Cameroun, pressentie pour accueillir le futur Bureau régional de l'UNESCO en Afrique centrale, sur la base de données objectives et d'un très large consensus. C'est aussi l'occasion pour moi de réaffirmer que le Cameroun est constamment disposé à apporter son soutien à l'UNESCO, sous plusieurs formes, pour permettre à ce Bureau de fonctionner de manière efficiente dans l'intérêt de l'ensemble des parties de notre sous-région. La coopération entre l'UNESCO et le Cameroun n'a cessé au demeurant de se renforcer et de se diversifier au cours du dernier exercice biennal.

12.4 En ce qui concerne l'éducation, le regain d'activité pour l'Éducation pour tous coïncide avec les objectifs du Gouvernement camerounais. La Constitution de l'État du Cameroun consacre l'éducation comme une mission fondamentale de l'État et une priorité nationale. Une stratégie sectorielle a d'ailleurs été élaborée et validée dans ce domaine. En matière d'alphabétisation et d'éducation non formelle, une étude diagnostique a été lancée dans le domaine des sciences sociales et humaines. Différents projets sont également en chantier dans le domaine de la culture. L'Organisation appuie notamment le Cameroun dans la mise en œuvre de son plan d'aménagement de la réserve du Dja. Dans le domaine de la communication, l'UNESCO aide le Cameroun à promouvoir l'accès universel à l'information et au savoir, ainsi que le développement de la communication en milieu rural.

12.5 Madame la Directrice générale, la coopération entre l'UNESCO et le Cameroun s'est aussi enrichie depuis quelques années, en particulier dans le domaine de la santé grâce au soutien apporté aux activités du Centre international de référence Chantal Biya consacré à la lutte contre le VIH et le SIDA. Ce centre, dont la promotion est assurée par la Première Dame du Cameroun, Ambassadrice de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO pour l'éducation inclusive, mériterait selon nous, à la lumière des résultats obtenus et des espoirs légitimes qu'il suscite, d'être érigé en centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. Le rôle que l'UNESCO a toujours joué dans la protection et la promotion des droits de l'homme distingue cette Organisation des autres. Les positions univoques que prend l'UNESCO pour la défense des droits de l'homme témoignent de sa foi profonde en l'humanité. Le Cameroun soutient cet engagement irremplaçable de l'UNESCO et réaffirme sa détermination à consolider l'état de droit, la démocratie et la liberté d'expression. Dans le domaine de la jeunesse, qui représente 60 % de sa population, le Cameroun, conscient des enjeux que représente cette importante frange de la société, vient de porter à huit le nombre des universités d'État et de densifier l'offre d'enseignement supérieur privé, ainsi que l'offre de formation professionnelle, afin de répondre efficacement aux besoins croissants des jeunes en matière de formation et d'emploi.

12.6 Madame la Directrice générale, la place de choix que vous avez décidé de donner à l'Afrique, notamment dans le cadre de la Priorité Afrique, comme en témoignent la hausse effective des montants alloués pour l'exercice biennal 2012-2013 ainsi que la mobilisation des ressources humaines observée ces derniers temps, nous honore et nous stimule. Le Cameroun exprime le vœu que les crédits budgétaires votés pour l'Afrique soient effectivement dépensés en Afrique, à travers des réalisations et des projets concrets. Nous voulons terminer cette déclaration du Cameroun en réaffirmant et en renouvelant le soutien de notre Gouvernement à l'UNESCO, ainsi que sa volonté de concourir au succès des réformes courageuses et porteuses actuellement menées par la Directrice générale. Je vous remercie.

### 13. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Ministre.* And now I would like now to give the floor to the Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia His Excellency Mr Mohammed Nuh.

#### 14.1 **Mr Nuh (Indonesia):**

Ms Katalin Bogay, President of the General Conference, Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board, Excellencies, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen. *As-salamu 'alaikum wa-rah matu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). First of all, on behalf of Government of the Republic of Indonesia, it is my honour to address this highly regarded gathering of the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. Like previous speakers, I would like to congratulate Ms Katalin Bogay on being elected as the President of the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. Secondly, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia would also like to extend its appreciation to Ms Irina Bokova for all her hard work in the two years she has served as the Director-General of UNESCO.

14.2 Humankind has always been blessed with logical, aesthetic and ethical capabilities. Such capabilities compel us to always seek to create better living standards through the development of our daily necessities. This development should grow geometrically, even exponentially, considering that there are higher demands for the quantity involved and the quality expected. We have learned from the past that development based only on our logical capabilities does not necessarily create a better life. Living standards that measure the happiness of individuals must be multidimensional, comprised of at least economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Madam President, as reflected in its national policy, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia believes that education and culture are very important to ensure that any development is both peaceful and sustainable. Through education and culture and with the help of communication technology, we can encourage the spread of essential logical, ethical, and aesthetic thoughts and actions. In order to be peaceful and sustainable, development must be evenly spread across all regions, and throughout the world, since uneven development will cause an imbalance. The significance of education inclusivity is reflected in our policy to reach the unreachable by any feasible means, since education is a human right and hence must be accessible to all citizens as mandated by the Constitution of UNESCO. In that respect, the Government is taking the necessary steps to eliminate all

barriers to education, be they geographical, economic or social.

14.3 Madam President, UNESCO promotes diversity, and Indonesia continuously lives and sleeps at the heart of diversity. Indonesia is the largest archipelago country in the world with more than 17,000 islands, home to more than 240 million inhabitants originating from more than 500 ethnic groups with more than 700 local spoken languages as well as social and religious plurality. Mother Nature has endowed Indonesia with the world's greatest geo-diversity, biodiversity and ethno-diversity. Madam President, Indonesia appreciates UNESCO's efforts to protect cultural heritage, and adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003 which stressed the equal dignity of cultures. In Indonesia, UNESCO has recognized three world cultural heritage sites, four world natural heritage sites and has inscribed three elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, including the most recent, the Angklung, a bamboo percussion instrument. In conjunction with this effort, Indonesia has been actively participating as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and will be hosting the sixth session of the Committee next month on November 2011, in Bali. In 2012, we are planning to organize the first World Culture Forum with the aim of exploring the role of culture around the world. We would like to take this opportunity to invite all participants of this General Conference to this event. Thank you very much.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports of Romania, His Excellency Mr Daniel Petru Funeriu to take the floor.

16.1 **M. Funeriu (Roumanie) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégations, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, il m'est particulièrement agréable aujourd'hui de prendre la parole devant cette haute assemblée, à l'occasion de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, au moment où cette prestigieuse institution du système des Nations Unies s'apprête à opérer de profondes mutations. Au nom du Gouvernement roumain, je voudrais féliciter la Présidente de la Conférence générale pour son élection. Le Gouvernement de la Roumanie exprime son appui aux priorités de l'UNESCO pour ce nouveau millénaire. Cela vaut tout particulièrement pour son mandat en matière de développement du potentiel intellectuel de la communauté mondiale. Je souhaite également manifester notre appui aux programmes internationaux et intergouvernementaux de l'UNESCO. La Roumanie tient tout particulièrement à souligner l'importance de l'éducation et de la recherche en tant qu'instruments du développement et du dialogue à travers le monde. De ce point de vue, je voudrais insister sur l'importance que le Gouvernement que je représente accorde au développement du capital humain et à la croissance de la compétitivité par la formation initiale et continue.

16.2 Le Ministère que je représente est devenu le principal pilier dans l'application de la stratégie nationale « Éducation et recherche pour la société du savoir ». La Roumanie dispose depuis le mois de février 2010 d'une nouvelle loi concernant l'éducation qui vise l'instauration d'un système éducatif stable, équitable, efficace et pertinent. Les points clés de cette nouvelle loi sont donc l'éducation du jeune enfant, la décentralisation et l'enseignement pré-universitaire, le renforcement de l'autonomie des écoles, l'introduction de programmes scolaires et universitaires centrés sur le développement des compétences, l'assurance de la qualité et l'encouragement de l'excellence dans l'enseignement supérieur, l'accent étant également mis sur l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie. L'application de cette nouvelle loi soutiendra et renforcera la position de l'enseignement supérieur roumain dans l'espace européen et stimulera le dialogue professionnel et scientifique international en amplifiant, à n'en pas douter, la contribution de la Roumanie à la promotion des idéaux de l'UNESCO à l'échelle nationale et internationale.

16.3 Dans le domaine des sciences, l'UNESCO adopte une approche globale que la Roumanie soutient pleinement. Faisant du développement durable sa priorité en matière scientifique, l'UNESCO a lancé il y a 40 ans le Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère. La Roumanie y contribue par un travail approfondi qui vise à promouvoir la biodiversité au service des populations locales, ainsi que par ses nouvelles propositions qui vont dans le sens de la stratégie de Séville pour les réserves de biosphère. Dans le même temps, nous soutenons les efforts que l'UNESCO déploie pour amplifier la recherche sur le réchauffement climatique. Le travail interdisciplinaire, doublé d'un effort collectif de la recherche dans les domaines des sciences sociales, de l'éthique des sciences et des technologies ainsi que de l'environnement, permettront à notre Organisation de favoriser d'importantes avancées dans ce domaine. La Roumanie contribue de manière considérable au programme de l'UNESCO en matière de sciences fondamentales et je souhaite ici souligner l'étroite collaboration entre le Centre international de physique théorique de l'UNESCO, à Trieste, et l'ensemble des instituts de physique de Bucarest, qui a débouché sur la proposition présentée par la Roumanie à cette session de la Conférence générale concernant la création, à Bucarest, d'un centre international de formation et de recherche avancées en physique, en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO.

16.4 L'UNESCO a toujours été très dynamique en matière de culture. La constitution progressive des listes du patrimoine mondial matériel et immatériel est l'un des résultats unanimement reconnus de son action et la Roumanie prend une part active à ce processus. Le patrimoine historique et culturel commun de l'Europe centrale et orientale fait partie intégrante de l'histoire et de la civilisation européennes. Nous sommes également en train d'amplifier notre action en faveur des populations roms, en soulignant les valeurs traditionnelles de leur culture.

16.5 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la Roumanie est pleinement consciente du fait que l'UNESCO doit aujourd'hui, tout comme les autres organismes du système des Nations Unies, mener à bien les réformes nécessaires pour recouvrer sa force et son caractère universel. La situation mondiale, fortement marquée par la crise globale, donne l'occasion de mener une réflexion en ce sens. Face à ce défi, il est fondamental de formuler correctement la Stratégie à moyen terme et le Programme et budget. La Roumanie, en tant qu'État membre de l'Union européenne, est prête à contribuer à l'accomplissement de ces tâches difficiles.

16.6 Mesdames et Messieurs, nous vivons de toute évidence des temps de grands changements. Comme cela a été le cas par le passé, l'UNESCO se doit aujourd'hui d'être à nouveau un repère de stabilité pour la communauté internationale. Plus encore, l'UNESCO est sans doute à même de jouer le rôle de gardien du temple des valeurs de l'humanité. Le changement le plus marquant ces dernières années a probablement été le passage d'un monde bipolaire à un monde multipolaire, sous l'effet inévitable de la globalisation. Dans cette dynamique de changement, nos peuples cherchent de nouveaux repères. Certains considèrent même que nos peuples peuvent se retrouver, du fait de cette mutation rapide, dans un véritable vide axiologique qui demande à être comblé par des valeurs saines faisant progresser la paix. Quelles sont, Mesdames et Messieurs, les valeurs les plus sûres ? Quelles valeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, sont mieux à même d'unir nos peuples que les valeurs de la culture, de l'éducation et des sciences ? Ce sont là les raisons pour lesquelles l'UNESCO peut et doit jouer un rôle de plus en plus important, que le Gouvernement de la Roumanie soutient pleinement. Permettez-moi de soumettre à votre attention l'un des éléments qui se trouvent au cœur de notre réflexion sur l'éducation et le développement durable. Pendant des siècles, nous avons transféré les ressources, y compris les ressources humaines, là où se trouvait le savoir. N'est-il pas temps, Mesdames et Messieurs, de renverser la vapeur et de commencer à partager davantage notre savoir et à transférer le savoir là où se trouvent les ressources, au plus proche de ces ressources, qu'elles soient humaines ou naturelles. N'est-ce peut-être pas là la meilleure manière d'accompagner cette transition, pas toujours facile, d'un monde bipolaire à un monde multipolaire ? Nous pensons que c'est à travers le partage du savoir que nous pourrions au mieux atteindre les objectifs de notre Organisation. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr Pehin Abu Bakar Apong. The floor is yours, Sir.

18.1 **Mr Apong (Brunei Darussalam):**

Your Excellency Madam President of the General Conference, Your Excellency Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh. Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm.* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.)

18.2 It is indeed a great pleasure to be here with colleagues and friends from UNESCO Member States on this auspicious occasion to represent the Government of Brunei Darussalam. As with many countries, education is a key priority in Brunei Darussalam, and it can never be understated. And as we continually adapt to global changes, the Government of Brunei Darussalam continues to embark on major educational reform to ensure that our standards and targeted skills and knowledge remain relevant for the future. Our Twenty-First Century National Education System is focused on injecting greater flexibility into education to suit a wide range of student learning needs and styles. This educational development aims to accelerate the achievement of the Brunei Vision 2035 and to situate Brunei as a developed country. The provision of quality universal primary education is of critical importance for all children in Brunei Darussalam in shaping our future both economically and socially. The Government of Brunei Darussalam will continuously strive to deliver quality education so that all children have the opportunity to become valued and contributing members of society. Brunei Darussalam shares the view that all children should have access to education. Provisions towards achieving this in Brunei Darussalam include: equal educational opportunities for a child to succeed through a balanced and relevant curriculum; a conducive, child-centred learning environment; effective professional development of teachers through continuous, regular in-service training; improved school facilities, increased educational resources; increased specialist support, and improved administration and management of the education system in schools.

18.3 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, technical and vocational education in Brunei Darussalam has shifted its paradigm and is more focused to meet the development needs of the nation as it moves towards Brunei Vision 2035. This places emphasis on a well-educated, highly-skilled society with a world-class education system that promotes lifelong education. Under the new education system, a three-tier qualification system is implemented to meet the diverse needs of students and to provide multiple pathways to higher education. Changes in the technical and vocational curriculum will ensure that students are given a suitable learning timeframe to acquire in-depth knowledge and perform to a high level of competency. With an increase in student numbers within the next few years the Government of Brunei Darussalam continuously strives to upgrade the current infrastructure of our vocational and technical institutions such as the establishment of a new polytechnic in 2012 and the construction of new technical and vocational education institutions. This shows the very strong and firm commitment of the Government of Brunei Darussalam to realizing and developing a high quality technical and vocational education system within the country.

18.4 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, one of the concerns of the Government of Brunei Darussalam is for our children to acquire the necessary values and attitudes to cope with current and future challenges. Therefore, values education, based on our national philosophy, has been a core subject in our school curriculum since independence with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of citizenship, nationhood and cultural and religious identity. These important values will facilitate our children's overall growth and holistic development so that they may integrate well into the community with purpose, respect and confidence. Brunei Darussalam is also embarking on Digital-Age Literacy which serves as a crucial tool and essential skill for teaching and learning. By raising the levels of literacy we will be enhancing the nation's skills, developing a more responsive and stable economy and providing employment opportunities for all. Brunei Darussalam strongly believes that early childhood care and education (ECCE) as well as inclusive education are very important in a child's development, which become a crucial education strategy and remains a national priority of Brunei Vision 2035. As we near 2015, the target for us to achieve the education for all goals, we continue to work earnestly to improve on and maintain our previous successes of 100% enrolment rate at primary level, 95% literacy rate for adults and 100% for youth, a very low dropout rate at the primary level and no gender disparity.

18.5 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Brunei Darussalam fully supports UNESCO's regular programme priorities and projects and Participation Programme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank UNESCO for assisting Brunei Darussalam in educational, scientific and cultural developments, either through financial contributions or the supply of expertise and publications. Finally, I would like to conclude by wishing the Director-General of UNESCO and the President all the best in guiding this Conference to a successful conclusion. Thank you Madam President.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr Sethy Im. The floor is yours, Sir.

20.1 **M. Im (Cambodge) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, il m'est agréable de féliciter Mme la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour son rapport, ainsi que pour le projet de programme et de budget soumis à notre examen, et d'évoquer les efforts déployés par le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge pendant l'exercice biennal 2009-2011, sous la haute égide du Premier Ministre Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

20.2 Dans le domaine de l'éducation, nous devons recruter 5 000 enseignants chaque année pour répondre aux besoins éducatifs, avec une population scolaire de 3,5 millions, soit un quart de la population cambodgienne. Cet immense effort pour le Cambodge traduit la volonté de notre Premier Ministre de considérer l'éducation comme un domaine prioritaire. Malgré un taux de scolarisation en hausse dans l'enseignement primaire, atteignant désormais 95 %, la transition entre le primaire et le secondaire reste encore à améliorer. Dans un pays en situation de post-conflit comme le nôtre, la quête de valeurs et d'une éducation de base de qualité constitue un défi quotidien auquel nous souhaiterions voir l'UNESCO s'associer plus étroitement, tout en gardant à l'esprit que ces efforts resteront vains s'ils ne portent pas en amont sur la formation d'enseignants qualifiés et compétents. En outre, le Royaume du Cambodge, avec 30 % de sa population âgée de 15 à 25 ans, doit faire face à l'arrivée de 700 jeunes par jour sur le marché du travail. Ce chiffre représente un défi pour notre gouvernement et nous comptons sur l'aide de l'UNESCO pour renforcer la formation professionnelle et technique des jeunes, afin que leurs capacités répondent aux nombreux besoins d'une économie en pleine expansion. Le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge axe ses efforts sur l'éducation informelle, en coopération avec l'UNESCO dans le cadre du Programme CapEPT, et se réjouit à cet égard de l'intensification de programmes d'alphabétisation nationaux efficaces proposée dans le Projet de programme et de budget (36 C/5).

20.3 Le Royaume du Cambodge peut s'enorgueillir d'avoir lutté efficacement contre l'épidémie de VIH/SIDA et a reçu à ce titre une distinction de la part des Nations Unies lors de la cérémonie des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, en 2010, en reconnaissance de son engagement et des progrès réalisés en vue de la réalisation de l'Objectif 6, et plus particulièrement pour avoir enrayeré et inversé la propagation du VIH.

20.4 Dans le domaine de la culture, comme vous le savez, le Royaume du Cambodge connaît depuis une quinzaine d'années, grâce à sa coopération étroite et fructueuse avec l'UNESCO, une renaissance sans précédent de ses arts traditionnels, de ses industries créatives, ainsi que de la restauration et de la mise en valeur de son patrimoine, démontrant ainsi que la culture constitue un atout majeur pour le développement durable du Cambodge. Fort de cette expérience, le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, toujours en partenariat avec l'UNESCO, nourrit l'ambitieux dessein de se doter d'une politique culturelle nationale qui permette de préserver cette diversité et cette richesse culturelles redécouvertes. Aussi, dans cet esprit, avons-nous déjà adopté un décret-loi sur les « trésors humains vivants » visant à garantir la transmission des savoir-faire dans une société en pleine mutation. Par ailleurs, le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge travaille activement, en collaboration avec l'UNESCO et d'autres acteurs concernés, à la restitution d'objets d'art disparus. Par ailleurs, dans le cadre du programme de soutien aux industries créatives généreusement financé par le Fonds PNUD/Espagne pour la réalisation des OMD, d'importants efforts ont été faits pour allier esprit entrepreneurial et compétences artisanales parmi les populations rurales, tandis que des programmes culturels participatifs sont élaborés et mis en œuvre au sein de centres culturels novateurs dédiés aux cultures minoritaires du Cambodge. Le Comité international de coordination pour la sauvegarde et le développement du site historique d'Angkor, quant à lui, demeure un forum de coopération internationale, actif et original, dont les fructueux travaux permettent depuis 18 ans de maintenir ce que l'on peut désormais appeler « l'esprit d'Angkor », c'est-à-dire un équilibre entre sauvegarde du patrimoine et développement durable, dans un site vivant du patrimoine mondial.

20.5 Enfin, dans le domaine de la communication, le temps me manque pour décrire l'ensemble des activités menées en faveur de la liberté de la presse et de la formation des journalistes. Le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge est heureux de vous annoncer la création du Comité national du Programme Mémoire du monde. Nous entrevoyons déjà l'immense potentiel d'associer des éléments du Registre « Mémoire du monde », tels que le Musée du génocide de Tuol Sleng, avec des sites du patrimoine mondial tels que Auschwitz-Birkenau et le Mémorial de la Paix d'Hiroshima, afin de contribuer également à une réflexion internationale qui pourrait s'intituler « Mémoires pour la Paix ». Je vous remercie de votre attention.

21. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* I would like to ask the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs of Palau, Her Excellency Ms Faustina Rehuher-Marugg, to take the floor. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

22.1 **Ms Rehuher-Marugg (Palau):**

Madam President of the 36th session of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. At the outset I would like to congratulate UNESCO for its great success advocating for gender equality and I trust that the barriers have been reduced to allow women to take their place in the Organization. I wish to congratulate these three women for their

esteemed accomplishments and especially in gaining the trust of the Member States to lead UNESCO, the Executive Board and the General Conference as you move forward in these challenging and trying times. This affirms Palau's vision to strengthen the role of women in developing States as we believe that they play a key role in the economic and social development of smaller island States. For the past 17 years, Palau has held an annual gathering of women called the Palau Women's Conference to discuss new and emerging challenges facing women, men and children as well as social changes in the community. In this era of globalization, information sharing is critical to ensure that our cultural identity is strengthened as we tackle the issues of economic and sustainable development. With the guidance of UNESCO, Palau has made many milestone achievements. Palau was one of the first countries to complete its education for all action plan under the Dakar Framework for Action. Further to that plan, Palau was instrumental in chartering a course for improving the quality of education through different platforms. These included continued development of school administrators, advancing teacher education and mainstreaming school programmes to ensure success in higher education. Similarly, new and innovative programmes have been developed to expand and enhance life skills education as well as vocational and technical education. It is hoped that such programmes will embrace those who wish to pursue goals outside of the normal school curricula. Palau shared its accomplishments with all of our partners in the Pacific in the recently completed Pacific heads of education systems subregional consultation hosted by Palau just a few months ago with more than 16 Member States participating. For that consultation, a regional review of what has been accomplished in the Pacific subregion under the UNESCO education programme was completed and the way forward was crafted for the next biennium. We hope it will be included in the formulation of the new Medium-Term Strategy focusing on small island developing States (SIDS) particularly those in the Pacific.

22.2 Madam President, as a small island developing State, currently dependent on outside resources, sustainable development is at the heart of every Palauan, including our leadership. For this reason, and for the pursuit of peace and sustainable livelihood for our people, our President travelled half way around the globe to address the Leaders' Forum with its theme "How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development?". It reflects our commitment to strengthen our efforts to join UNESCO in contributing to peace in the region. At this year's United Nations General Assembly Palau signed seven conventions on human rights including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and our country has taken steps to combat human trafficking and to stop the trafficking of cultural artefacts.

22.3 Madam President, at the heart of the development platform is education and Palau has invited civil societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), regional agencies and local governments to join in its Partnerships for Education. Small island developing States are geographically and culturally remote from major continents and developed countries. As a result we have been struck by a series of social challenges, especially issues of immigration and emigration. Many of our youth and expert professionals have moved to live in different countries in pursuit of grander lifestyles. With a small population, Palau is home to over 30 diverse cultures and ethnic groups from all over the world. Being a small island State, cultures are influencing our youth and children so we applaud UNESCO's effort in the social and human sciences, in the area of youth meetings and e-dialogue through Voices of Youth.

22.4 Madam President, UNESCO's partnership with other organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to bring young people together to address challenges important to them and to allow them to have a voice in the social and economic development of the small island communities have been very helpful, and Palau is doing an ongoing project on the progress and cultural mapping, planning and policy. Speaking not only for Palau but for all Member States in our region, climate change is causing problems such as sea-level rise. Madam President, I have one minute left and I would like to inform you that Palau has just ratified the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and I would like to share with you a chant that says that "we do not own the earth, it is the rocks, the water and the core of the earth". So, here it goes:

Obil ngesul iang  
Ke du el mirrael e mei.  
Me ng ka el beluad a ikang  
Me a ka el chetemed a ikang.  
Ng di bad me a ralm me a bad ngeasek a  
Merreder er a chutem iang.

22.5 Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.

23. **The President:**

Bravo. Thank you so much. And I would like now to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr Farooq Wardak.

24.1 **Mr Wardak (Afghanistan):**

*Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm* (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate). Your Excellency Madam President, Your Excellency Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, my fellow global citizens. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

24.2 It is indeed a great honour for me to address this august assembly of the UNESCO General Conference, especially at a time when the entire world is looking at us with hope and expectation. It is equally my honour to represent the aspirations of millions of children and youth from a country which is partly in war and partly in post-war, a country that over the past ten years, despite daunting challenges, has witnessed unprecedented progress and continues to rely heavily on education as the most powerful means of achieving peace and prosperity. Every day over eight million children, 39% girls, leave their homes to attend school in the hope of a better future, when ten years ago our disabled

and dysfunctional education system was providing poor quality education services to only one million children. What makes me especially proud is Afghanistan's membership in the Global Partnership for Education (previously called Fast-Track Initiative) in March of this year. Through this partnership, we will increase our focus on the most deprived children, especially girls, in the most remote and least secure parts of our country. Instead of waiting for security to come, we decided to invest more in education as a means of achieving stability. I would also like to mention our progress in transitioning responsibilities from our international partners to Afghan institutions, which will help us in further aligning available resources on our national priorities of making education accessible to all. In this regard, I am especially thankful to UNESCO-Afghanistan for facilitating the transition of its literacy programme to my Ministry. On the cultural front, compared to the one State radio and a couple of newspapers available in 2001, today Afghanistan has over 4,000 media outlets, most of which are owned by private citizens. Most significant of all is the access of 17 million Afghans, 52% of our population, to mobile phones. We have come a long way in safeguarding our cultural heritage through reclamation, restoration and preservation. We have also taken concrete steps in promoting a culture of peace through education by incorporating non-violence, reconciliation, conflict resolution and psycho-social well-being into our curricula and textbooks. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the fact that we would not have been able to come this far without the generous support of our friends in the international community.

24.3 Excellencies, the achievements of the past ten years, however, have not made us lose sight of the enormous challenges still ahead of us: 38% of our school-age children and youth, the majority of them girls, do not have access to education. This constitutes 6.6% of the entire world's out-of-school children. Over nine million adults, 30% of our population, are illiterate and lack employable skills; around 50% of the existing schools do not have buildings; only 2% of our grade-nine graduates find their ways to technical schools. Finally, we have learned a few lessons that would determine our way forward: social mobilization and community empowerment is at the heart of our strategic focus of strengthening and reinforcing multiple pathways to take us to our ultimate goal of education for all. It has been through the communities that we persuaded some of the insurgents to make peace with education and allow us to reopen 500 of our closed schools in the insecure areas. It has been through the communities that we have succeeded in establishing single classroom community-based schools for one million children, 60% of them girls in hard-to-reach corners of our country. It is through the communities that we will experiment with innovative initiatives that will connect mosque-based and home-based schooling with formal education system. It is through the communities that we will relocate female teachers from urban centres to educate girls in disenfranchised areas that lack female teachers of their own.

24.5 Excellencies, I am glad to join Statesmen, ministers, advocates and others, to stand firm on demanding substantial reductions in military expenditure and a significant increase in investment in education. This is an area where UNESCO can play a key role; and we will remain your dedicated partner. As a nation which has experienced first-hand how vulnerable a less-educated population is to exploitation, I call on all of you to invest more in education today to prevent costly and debilitating human calamities tomorrow. It is not the shortage of war machines that the world is suffering from, but it is the lack of equitable access to a useful and meaningful education, which is making us vulnerable to violence and destruction. Let me conclude by assuring you, Excellencies, that we are fully committed to the principle that guided the creation of UNESCO, we will strongly support its objectives, we will remain your loyal partners in promoting the culture of peace and sustainable development, and we will continue to take an active part in achieving the Organization's noble mission. Thank you very much.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education, Culture, Young and Sports of Sint Maarten, Her Excellency Ms Rhoda Arrindell.

26.1 **Ms Arrindell (Sint Maarten):**

Madam President, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Director-General, Excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is, indeed, a privilege for me to address this august body and an honour to have been invited into your fold. This honour comes at a most propitious time for Sint Maarten, having just marked the first anniversary of our new constitutional status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It is by virtue of this new status that we are here today, and my Government intends to take full advantage of this opportunity to the benefit our nation and our people. Sint Maarten, as you may know, is an island of 37 square miles divided between the Republic of France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. That political divide is, however, artificial in a sense because there are no physical borders in the minds of our people, for whom freedom of movement of goods, services and, persons has existed since the very beginning of our history. Madam President, size is really a relative concept. Our attitude to size is summed up in these lines by one of our poets: "If 37 square miles of land/ seems like a grain of sand/In your hand/Drop it in your eye and/Come again". Our size has not prevented us from facing the same challenges as countries a thousand times larger than we are, yet, our dreams are as big as those of the biggest nations in the world.

26.2 Education is the key to the success of the new nation we are trying to build on the foundation of a virile, resilient, and dynamic culture. In his acceptance speech at International Literacy Day in 2009, the representative of the Pashai people of Afghanistan said that his people were "determined that their heritage, language, and culture will not die." We, on Sint Maarten, are also determined that our heritage, language, and culture will not die. We have similarly recognized how language impacts learning and have consequently made English the language of instruction in our schools. In fact, the language issue on Sint Maarten has been at the heart of our education reform process. We are a multi-lingual society, but despite our being a half-Dutch, half-French condominium, English is the mother tongue of our people, while Spanish is the second most spoken language. Cognizant of the role language plays in our education system, as well as in the development of our nation, my Government is pursuing a policy of linguistic versatility, which seeks to make each student who completes secondary education proficient in at least three to four languages: English, Dutch, French, and Spanish. This, we believe, is the way forward for the new Caribbean man and woman.



26.3 In line with UNESCO's Education for All programme, I am pleased to report, Madam President, that compulsory education is in its third phase of implementation in Sint Maarten. First implemented in 2008, it requires that our children be schooled between the ages of 4 and 18. The implementation of compulsory education has been complicated by the issue of undocumented immigrants. However, my Government has separated the two issues thus facilitating the integration of children of undocumented immigrants into our educational system. Compulsory education in Sint Maarten, however, is still a work in progress, and we will be calling on UNESCO to assist us where necessary so that, hopefully, we will soon be able to report that the process has been completed. Another issue we are faced with in our education system is that of gender parity, not only in the classroom, but also in front of the classroom. As with students, there is a huge disparity between teachers, as female teachers greatly outnumber their male colleagues. We are actively seeking ways to balance this equation.

26.4 Madam President, accurate, reliable, and timely education statistics are essential for our education system to achieve its goals of using our limited material resources optimally. We have, therefore, developed an "Education Digest" as a first step in our effort to efficiently and effectively deal with the challenges we face in the twenty-first century. Culture, Madam President, is inseparable from identity, and identity is not only about who we are, but also about who we want to be. Sint Maarteners are a resilient people who know that true peace is not only the absence of war, but rather an indispensable condition for all of us, big and small, rich and poor, to pursue happiness and live in harmony with each other and also with our environment. That peace starts and must grow and flourish in the minds of every man and woman, indeed of every child and teenager. If there is a message a small Caribbean island like Sint Maarten can offer the world, it is that we must focus on what unites us as a human family rather than on what divides us. There is no other way to create a culture of peace. "Culture," as Sint Maarten's foremost poet sings, "is work" and work is what we are here to do. We hope to benefit from the experience and expertise of UNESCO especially in the areas of the tangible and intangible heritage.

26.5 Madam President, I did not come here to present a shopping list. In fact, Sint Maarten believes its associate membership of this Organization will enable it to make a meaningful contribution in areas such as language and publishing to the rest of the Caribbean region, and perhaps even beyond, as our destiny calls us to do. We are, therefore, eagerly looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship. May I end, Madam President, by congratulating you on your election and wishing you continued wisdom and strength to guide this Organization successfully. I also wish to thank all Members for the unanimous support given to Sint Maarten's admission to this global body. We pledge to uphold its ideals and to work diligently with its institutions to ensure that, together, we can achieve the goal of universal solidarity based on "the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace which are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance," as the UNESCO Constitution states. I thank you.

*Ms Sánchez Bello (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) takes the Chair.*

27. **Sr. Presidente:**

Ahora tenemos el gusto de invitar a que tome la palabra el Ministro de Educación de Guatemala, el Excmo. Sr. Dennis Alonzo.

(27) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

We now have the pleasure of calling His Excellency Mr Dennis Alonzo, the Minister of Education of Guatemala, to take the floor.

28.1 **Sr. Alonzo** (Guatemala):

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, estimados colegas: sesenta y seis años después de la creación del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y de la UNESCO, los principios fundamentales de la Organización adquieren una particular significación en el contexto de la compleja crisis global que se vive hoy. Vemos cómo se derrumban mitos y sistemas que por alejarse de los principios y valores inherentes a los seres humanos pierden legitimidad y presencia. El principio de que la UNESCO fue creada para construir la paz en la mente de los hombres, a través de la educación, la ciencia y la cultura, recobra hoy una flagrante vigencia, a la vista de los múltiples conflictos y transformaciones de las sociedades actuales. Es por ello que el referente ético y moral de la UNESCO, asignado desde sus orígenes, no debe disminuir frente a los nuevos desafíos que nos impone la globalización, que pretende hacer depender el progreso humano exclusivamente del mercado. Aplaudimos ese "nuevo humanismo" del que habla la Directora General.

28.2 La Constitución de la UNESCO establece que "una paz fundada exclusivamente en acuerdos políticos y económicos entre gobiernos no podría obtener el apoyo unánime, sincero y perdurable de los pueblos" y que, por consiguiente, esa paz debe basarse en la sociedad intelectual y moral de la humanidad. Sesenta y seis años después, este mandato ha sido ratificado en la Cumbre Mundial de 2005 sobre los Objetivos del Milenio, al reafirmar el Programa de Acción sobre una Cultura de Paz, la agenda para el diálogo y la Alianza de Civilizaciones. Desde la experiencia de Guatemala, podemos decir que hemos transitado por la etapa de lograr la paz y de mantener y construir la paz. Como sociedad en situación de posconflicto, nuestro desafío es construir todos los días una paz social basada en la diversidad y la igualdad de oportunidades para todos. Hoy, aquí, expresamos nuestro agradecimiento y reiteramos un nuevo llamamiento a la UNESCO para que nos acompañe en esta nueva y decisiva etapa, la cual requiere un programa nacional de educación para la cultura de paz y la prevención, dirigido a jóvenes en riesgo ante el peligro del avance de la violencia juvenil y la expansión del fenómeno de las "maras", cuya dimensión internacional amenaza la gobernabilidad de la región centroamericana.

28.3 La educación para todos a lo largo de toda la vida nos enseña a saber, a ser, a hacer, a convivir pacíficamente. Es por la educación que se adquiere el propio discernimiento y se alcanza la autonomía personal con la cual se logra la

libertad y la emancipación. Siendo la educación el motor de la paz, del desarrollo y de la democracia, el Gobierno de Guatemala está comprometido a mejorar la cobertura, la calidad y la eficiencia del sistema escolar, y a garantizar el fortalecimiento de la identidad multicultural de nuestro país. En materia de calidad, se ha sostenido la política de transformaciones curriculares y actualmente se cuenta con nuevos currículos nacionales básicos para la primaria y la secundaria. Respecto a la condición de los docentes, se ha impulsado, de común acuerdo con el sindicato de maestros, el programa académico de desarrollo profesional docente, para elevar el nivel profesional de los maestros. En lo que se refiere a la alfabetización, se ha logrado reducir el índice de analfabetismo al 18,4%; el Gobierno de Guatemala, con el apoyo de la UNESCO, ha declarado ya libres de analfabetismo a doce municipios y están en proceso de serlo otros once.

28.4 El Programa de Participación ha permitido la implementación de proyectos prioritarios del Sector de Educación y del Sector de Cultura. El programa conjunto “Ventana de construcción de paz”, financiado por la cooperación española, ha creado el programa de educación para la paz y la unidad de equidad de género con pertinencia étnica, generando así una política pública de educación para la paz y el impulso de la educación integral de la sexualidad. Reiteramos el interés del país en continuar recibiendo apoyo de la UNESCO para estas temáticas, así como para otros programas prioritarios del Estado: el programa para situaciones posteriores a conflictos y desastres y el proyecto estratégico regional para docentes. Guatemala se encuentra hoy entre los diez países más vulnerables del mundo debido a los efectos del cambio climático, por lo que la asistencia de emergencia ha sido de vital importancia. Al respecto, para afrontar en las actuales circunstancias los devastadores efectos de la depresión tropical 12-E en las escuelas y la población escolar, estamos solicitando a la Organización una intervención en el marco del Programa de Participación de Emergencia.

28.5 El desarrollo de las ciencias sociales como herramienta de formulación de políticas públicas resulta fundamental para nuestros países. Por tal razón, apoyamos fuertemente el Programa MOST, la democracia y los derechos humanos, manifestando nuestra preocupación por la nueva reestructuración del Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, que pretende eliminar la unidad que se ocupa de los temas mencionados. Guatemala reconoce el papel que la UNESCO ha desempeñado en la promoción de la ciencia al servicio de la paz y el desarrollo integral. A este respecto, estamos interesados en la promoción del desarrollo científico y del acceso al conocimiento, para que sean los propios países los que utilicen mejor sus recursos naturales, a través de la implementación de un plan nacional de biotecnología. Deseo finalmente expresar que Guatemala ha articulado los Objetivos del Milenio de las Naciones Unidas con los acuerdos de paz y las prioridades nacionales de desarrollo. Saludamos a la UNESCO por la designación de Guatemala como sede del Día Mundial de la Filosofía para el año 2012, esto permitirá que la milenaria filosofía maya pueda dialogar con las otras tradiciones de pensamiento en el mundo, en un momento en que es urgente promover la sociedad universal de los conocimientos. Muchísimas gracias.

(28.1) **Mr Alonzo** (Guatemala) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, 66 years after the creation of the United Nations system and UNESCO, the fundamental principles of the Organization have become particularly meaningful in the context of the current, complex global crisis. We see the disintegration of myths and systems, so far removed from inherent human values and principles, that they have lost all legitimacy and ubiquity. The principle stating that UNESCO was founded to build peace in the minds of men through education, science and culture, today regains its full pertinence in the face of the various forms of conflict and changes in contemporary societies. For this reason, UNESCO's ethical and moral framework, assigned to it from the beginning, must not weaken in the face of new challenges brought about by globalization, which presents human progress as wholly dependent on the market. We applaud the Director-General's vision of a 'new humanism'.

(28.2) UNESCO's Constitution states that “a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind”. Sixty-six years later, this mandate has been ratified in the 2005 World Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, by reaffirming the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and the Alliance of Civilizations. From Guatemala's experience, we can say that we have gone through a process of achieving, sustaining and building peace. As a country in a post-conflict situation, our challenge is to continuously develop social peace based on diversity and equal opportunity for all. Here today, we thank UNESCO and call upon it once again to support us in this new and decisive step, which implies a national education programme for a culture of peace and conflict prevention aimed especially at youth, facing the danger of rising juvenile violence and the proliferation of gangs such as the *marras*, whose international dimension threatens the South American region's governability.

(28.3) Education for all and lifelong learning teaches us to how to know, to be, to do and to coexist peacefully. It is through education that we learn how to decide for ourselves and attain our personal independence, which leads us to freedom and empowerment. Because education is the driving force of peace, development and democracy, the Guatemalan Government is committed to improving the reach, quality and efficiency of the school system and ensuring the strengthening of the country's multicultural identity. As concerns quality, we have supported the policy for curricula change, which has introduced new basic national curricula for primary and secondary school. Concerning the status of teachers, the academic programme for professional development has been promoted with the mutual agreement of the teachers' union to raise teachers' professional standards. With regard to literacy, the illiteracy rate has been brought down to 18.4%, and the Guatemalan Government with the support of UNESCO has now declared 12 municipalities free from illiteracy, and 11 others are next in line.

(28.4) The Participation Programme has enabled the implementation of priority projects for the education sector and the culture sector. The joint programme “Thematic Window for Peacebuilding”, financed by the Spanish Fund, created the education for peace and the unit for gender equality and ethnicity issues, leading to the creation of public policies on education for peace and the promotion of comprehensive sexuality education. We reaffirm our country's interest in having UNESCO continue to support us in these issues and in other priority State programmes: post-conflict and post-disaster programmes and regional strategic projects for teachers. Guatemala is currently listed as one of the ten most vulnerable countries in the world owing to the effects of climate change, which means emergency help has been vitally important. In this

respect, we are asking the Organization to intervene within the framework of the Participation Programme and Emergency Assistance to deal with the devastation of the tropical depression 12-E and its impact on schools and schoolchildren.

(28.5) The development of social sciences as a public policymaking tool is fundamental for our countries, which is why we strongly support the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, democracy and human rights, expressing our concern about the recent restructuring of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, which will remove the unity between all the aforementioned issues. Guatemala acknowledges the role that UNESCO has played in promoting science for peace and comprehensive development. In this respect, we are interested in promoting scientific development and access to knowledge, so that countries make better use of their own natural resources, through the implementation of a national plan on biotechnology. Lastly, I would like to say that Guatemala has linked the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with peace agreements and national priorities for development. We thank UNESCO for giving Guatemala the opportunity to host events for the 2012 World Philosophy Day, as this will allow the age-old Mayan philosophy to exchange with other schools of philosophical thought at a time when it is critical to promote universal knowledge-based societies. Thank all you very much.

29. **Sr. Presidente:**

Gracias señor ministro Alonzo. Ahora tiene la palabra el Excmo. Sr. John Phiri, Ministro de Educación, Ciencia Tecnología y Formación Profesional de Zambia.

(29) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Minister Alonzo. I would now like to call on His Excellency Mr John Phiri, Minister of Education, Sciences and Vocational Training of Zambia to take the floor.

30.1 **Mr Phiri** (Zambia):

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, I wish to congratulate you on your election and to thank you Madam President for according me the opportunity to address this session of the UNESCO General Conference. Madam President, in our quest to build a strong democratic culture and on the basis of our national constitution, allow me to report to this conference that Zambia held presidential, parliamentary and local government elections on 20 September 2011. Local as well as international election observers passed the elections as transparent, peaceful, free and fair. The elections culminated in the election of a new president, His Excellency Mr Michael Chilufya Sata, who was sworn in as Zambia's fifth Republican President on 23 September 2011. We salute the former president for graciously accepting defeat and peacefully handing over power to the new Government. The peaceful transition will no doubt allow the country to continue to enjoy the peace it has enjoyed since its independence in 1964. It will also allow the country to concentrate on making the lives of our people a little more bearable than before. Madam President, His Excellency the President, Mr Michael Chilufya Sata, sends through me a message of goodwill to UNESCO and wishes this General Conference success in all its deliberations.

30.2 Madam President, Zambia has continued to make progress in socio-economic development over the past five years. There has been progress in terms of the gross domestic product (GDP) increasing to an average of six percent. The country has seen a significant drop in inflation to a single digit in the last two years. However, economically, we admit the majority of Zambians continue to be worse off even as the macro-economic environment is reported to be good, the reason being that the benefits are not reaching the majority of our people. This can only happen when there is a policy environment and good governance system which responds to people's needs. The new Government expects more growth as more investments are channelled into the mining, agriculture and tourism sectors.

30.3 Madam President, let me turn my attention to the education sector. My Government commends UNESCO for its continued support of education. As you know, education not only plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of a country but it also opens up opportunities for poverty reduction, employment growth and human development. Let me also mention that Zambia has benefited from the UNESCO-Republic of Korea-sponsored technical and vocational education and training (TVET) pilot project called 'Better Education for Africa's Rise'. I would like to express our gratitude to you for this.

30.4 Madam President, Zambia has made strides in expanding access to the primary school sector. However, the low performance of learners at this level is worrying and calls for further intervention. At the secondary school sub-sector, there has not been corresponding infrastructure development to absorb learners from the primary sector where enrolment has expanded. The Government needs to invest heavily in post-primary education as current evidence has demonstrated that the potential of post-primary education to break the cycle of the intergenerational transfer of poverty is high. Needless to say that it is at this level that learners develop the knowledge, skills and competencies essential for success in the job market which leads to national development. Madam President, like the secondary school sub-sector, investment in tertiary education has lagged behind. I am, however, happy to report that my Government is determined to address the imbalances and inequalities noted in the current delivery of education and vocational training. Allow me to highlight the consequences of the imbalances I have just mentioned: high youth unemployment. There are a lot of girls and boys on the streets having gone through the educational system. On behalf of my Government I appeal to UNESCO for support to deal with this challenge.

30.5 Madam President, Zambia has a rich cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. In this regard, we call upon the support of UNESCO as we submit our dossier on the Barotse cultural landscape. We look forward to its speedy approval at the 2012 meeting of the World Heritage Committee. Madam President, in the area of communication and information, it is gratifying to note that UNESCO has been very supportive of the promotion and establishment of community radio stations and the computerization of media institutions in Zambia. These projects, Madam President, have played a pivotal role in enhancing the access to, and free flow of, information in an emerging democracy such as ours. Let me take this opportunity to thank UNESCO for the support rendered and to add that we are looking forward to UNESCO's continued support.

30.6 Madam President, my Government welcomes the reforms being proposed in UNESCO. It is our view that the proposed reforms are progressive and necessary. Above all, we feel that Africa will benefit because it will be the first region in which the reforms will improve practice. In the same vein, we would like to see a strengthened cooperation between the UNESCO Secretariat and the National Commissions. For this reason, Zambia looks forward to the speedy establishment of a UNESCO national office in our country. In conclusion, Madam President, let me take this opportunity to thank all Member States who supported Zambia during our tenure on the Executive Board from 2007 to 2011. In the same vein, we thank Member States for elevating Zambia to the vice-presidency. We pledge to do our best. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

31. **Sr. Presidente:**

Gracias, señor ministro Phiri de Zambia. Tiene la palabra el Excmo. Sr. João Câncio Freitas, Ministro de Educación de Timor-Leste. Adelante señor ministro.

(31) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Minister Phiri. Now His Excellency Mr João Câncio Freitas, Minister of Education of Timor-Leste will take the floor. Welcome.

32.1 **Mr Câncio Freitas** (Timor-Leste)

(*Statement delivered in Portuguese; interpretation into English*):

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Timor-Leste is a young and fledgling nation in terms of institution building and legal frameworks. Next year, we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our independence. It is, indeed, a great honour and pleasure for me to be here before such a distinguished assembly and to be able to report that, despite the fact that we are building our country from scratch both in terms of infrastructure and human resources, we have taken all the necessary measures to ensure that Timor-Leste has in place the foundations for a robust and vibrant democracy and State institutions in which people have faith. In 2002, with independence, we faced major challenges in terms of our natural and human resources. With these obstacles facing us we received the support of many governments and UNESCO to work on sustainable development and education in our country. We launched the education for all programme and we are attempting to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) despite the fact that our education law was only approved in October 2008. We have managed to achieve virtually all of the objectives set for the education sector. We have restructured the education sector, we have introduced universal and compulsory primary education up to the age of nine and we have developed national curricula. We have developed the Education Strategic Plan with specific goals for the next five years. In the context of a longer-term 20-year plan, highlighting the Government's commitment to achieving the MDGs and other international obligations to which Timor-Leste has adhered, with the Education Strategic Plan we have established mechanisms for supporting education access and equity for all. The results of the 2010 census show that the enrolment rate of children of school age has reached 92%. However, we have major challenges still to overcome; for example, we must reduce the school abandonment rate as well as developing mechanisms to reduce disparity in educational opportunities between boys and girls, open and remote rural areas, and we must improve the overall quality of education.

32.2 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen. All our efforts are centred on the objective of developing and improving access and quality education for all in order to provide our people with the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully in the national development process and also in the global market. We are implementing institutional reforms to ensure that our policies are delivered with efficiency and professionalism throughout the entire nation. In order to develop the pool of much needed quality teachers, we have approved the teacher-competency framework and a new teacher career regime providing better incentives and motivation for teachers to perform their tasks ethically and professionally. Nationwide training and retraining programmes have been put in place including an accelerated Bachelor's degree programme devised specifically for teachers who have not got to that level in order to increase their ability to deliver quality education as mandated by the law. As mentioned earlier, new national curriculum contents with the view of promoting and building the knowledge base for improving literacy and numeracy programmes at basic and secondary schooling level are being implemented. Guided by UNESCO's extensive research over decades on the importance of local languages in education, we are currently developing a national early childhood education and development policy adopting a mother tongue-based multilingual education approach. To ensure social and economic inclusion, we are promoting technical and vocational training and education, also skills for work as part of a lifelong learning project, concentrating on secondary and post-secondary training in formal and non-formal settings. In the area of higher education we are completing the international external accreditation of our national tertiary institutions and have awarded successful accreditation to certain institutions with operating licences since 2009. In the informal education area, we have been working on an intensive national literacy campaign since mid-2007 with the well-known Cuban method and we have reduced illiteracy rates significantly.

(*The speaker continues in English*)

32.3 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen. Finally, we are doing our best in terms of preserving our rich cultural heritage and national patrimony. Some foreign researchers have identified 65 sites of ancient rock paintings, some dating back thousands of years, which we would like to protect and preserve, not only for future Timorese generations but as a possible world heritage site. May I take this opportunity to convey our sincere and profound gratitude to the Director-General of UNESCO for the support given to the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO, the newest National Commission to get on its feet and to undertake a range of innovative programmes to advance UNESCO's goals and priorities in our country. I thank you, *muito obrigado*.

33. **Sr. Presidente:**

*Muito obrigada*, señor Ministro de Educación de Timor-Leste. Ahora le damos la palabra a la Excm. Sra. Mamphono Khaketla, Ministra de Educación y de Formación de Lesotho. Tiene la palabra, señora ministra.

(33) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

*Muito obrigada*, Minister. I now call on Her Excellency Ms Mamphono Khaketla, Minister of Education and Training of Lesotho. You have the floor.

34.1 **Ms Khaketla** (Lesotho):

Madam President, Madam Chairp of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Let me start by conveying warm and peaceful greetings from His Majesty King Letsie III, the Government and the people of Lesotho. Lesotho is grateful for the cooperation that has existed over the years between the Kingdom of Lesotho and UNESCO, and we would like to express our wish that there be more years of this warm relationship. I wish to further thank the field office in Windhoek for the supportive role it has consistently given our National Commission, providing it with advice to ensure that it adheres to the guidelines and priorities of the Organization. The people of Lesotho have benefited from projects and activities carried out by UNESCO over many biennia.

34.2 Madam President, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Kingdom of Lesotho launched free primary education in 2000 and ten years later the Government has made remarkable progress in legislating free and compulsory education through the enactment of the Education Act 2010 in line with Millennium Development Goal 2, which calls for the universalization of good quality primary education by 2015. I am pleased to report that Lesotho is well on track to achieve investment in primary education by 2015. I have noted with a sense of appreciation the Director-General's report to the Executive Board on progress and challenges in achieving education for all by 2015. And one method of scaling up efforts towards the realization of this goal is by achieving the political will to invest in education and making primary school education compulsory. Another strategy recently introduced in Lesotho is the rationalization of fees in secondary and high schools to maximize access into that level of education, especially because data has shown that the transition rate into secondary school has been compromised due to the high fees charged, among other factors. It is the belief of the Government of Lesotho that with the introduction of the system of rationalized fees in January 2012 most students will access a secondary school education. Additionally, to achieve the education for all goals Lesotho is also benefiting from another UNESCO programme called the Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa. This project, which started in December 2010, is on schedule to help in the study and analysis of all issues related to teachers such as their pre-service and in-service training, recruitment, deployment, conditions of service, absenteeism and attrition to name but a few. This is a project which realizes the critical role of the teacher to successfully achieve education for all by 2015.

34.3 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, the Kingdom of Lesotho will be holding general elections in early 2012, the fifth general elections to take place since the country returned to democratic rule in 1993. The Government of Lesotho is doing all in its power to ensure that the elections will be run freely and fairly. Despite the positive outlook that I have put before this august gathering, HIV and AIDS continue to have an adverse effect on the country and, in particular, the education system. Through UNESCO's Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS (EDUCAIDS) a number of projects have been carried out including one with the Lesotho Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (LENEPWA) which culminated in the production of a photovoice exhibition, where children aged between seven and fourteen years who have the virus shared their experiences. The exhibition was documented through a video and will be used as a teaching aid to advocate prevention. Again around this virus the Southern and Eastern African Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality (SACMEQ) has introduced a new HIV-AIDS knowledge indicator suitable for administration to grade six pupils and their teachers. Responses to this indicator in Lesotho have shown that much needs to be done to raise the knowledge levels of primary school children about HIV and AIDS, because their teachers have knowledge about this pandemic. To address this learning gap, UNESCO is working with other United Nations agencies to support the Ministry of Education and Training, to review and revise the current life skills education curriculum, to make it more HIV-responsive and ensure that the knowledge of learners around HIV and AIDS is improved. For other competencies, Lesotho will soon be opening a community radio and multimedia centre whilst in the science sector a project is being run to improve the teaching of mathematics and science in secondary and high schools. In the social and human sciences, a campaign is under way to create awareness around human trafficking; and lastly within the culture centre, the development of an inventory of intangible heritage is near completion.

34.4 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to wish Ms Irina Bokova the best in the momentous task of being at the helm of the Organization, especially within the current economic crisis. Our government assures her of our support and looks forward to working with her as a partner. In conclusion, I wish to congratulate you Madam President on your election and believe that you will undertake the responsibility with honour and diligence. Thank you very much.

35. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias, señora ministra de Lesotho. Ahora invitamos a tomar la palabra al Excm. Sr. Ministro de Educación del Ecuador, Pablo Cevallos Estarellas. Bienvenido.

(35) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Minister. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Pablo Cevallos Estarellas, Vice-Minister of Education of Ecuador. Welcome.

36.1 **Sr. Cevallos Estarellas** (Ecuador):

Señora Presidenta, distinguidos delegados: el Gobierno del Ecuador viene aplicando el *Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir*, concepto que, retomando los saberes ancestrales, propone una interrelación armónica entre individuo, naturaleza y sociedad. La Constitución del Ecuador consagra la educación como un derecho humano básico y establece que, cito: "La educación es un derecho de las personas a lo largo de su vida y un deber ineludible e inexcusable del Estado". A fin de hacer efectivo ese derecho, el Gobierno ecuatoriano aplica políticas de Estado para transformar la educación, tanto

en sus aspectos cuantitativos, referidos a la cobertura del servicio educativo, como cualitativos, es decir, referidos al mejoramiento de la calidad de dicho servicio. Entre otros resultados concretos, el Ecuador alcanzó en 2010 una tasa neta de escolarización del 95,6% en educación primaria (es decir, de 6 a 11 años de edad). Adicionalmente, hemos alcanzado la igualdad de escolarización en educación general básica entre hombres y mujeres mientras que, a nivel de bachillerato, actualmente hay más mujeres que hombres asistiendo a clases. Estos logros y otros han sido posibles debido a que el presupuesto asignado a la educación primaria y secundaria ha crecido aproximadamente en un 247% desde 2006, es decir, se ha casi triplicado en cinco años, alcanzando hoy más del 4% del producto interno bruto (PIB).

36.2 Con el fin de fortalecer las capacidades de investigación de las instituciones dedicadas a la ciencia en el país, se han promovido proyectos como el denominado “*Ciudad del conocimiento*”, para apuntar a la transformación de nuestra economía en una economía basada en el conocimiento. Los ámbitos estratégicos en los que se enfoca son: la biotecnología, las energías renovables, la nanotecnología, las ciencias de la vida, la petroquímica y las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación. Otro punto destacable e histórico en el Ecuador es el incremento de la inversión en ciencia y tecnología, que pasó de casi 2 millones en 2006 a 32 millones de dólares estadounidenses en 2009, y cuyos resultados ya han comenzado a observarse. La inversión en investigación, desarrollo e innovación creció en un 120% desde 2006 y la inversión en becas creció un 694% de 2007 a 2008 y en 2009 hubo un incremento del 44%. Asimismo, estamos fortaleciendo el sistema de *educación intercultural bilingüe*, cuyo objetivo es la inclusión de los pueblos y nacionalidades indígenas para garantizar su acceso a una educación de calidad en sus lenguas maternas. Este proyecto es de gran importancia, puesto que ayuda a potenciar el sentimiento de pertenencia cultural de las comunidades indígenas, al tiempo que promueve la preservación de las lenguas ancestrales.

36.3 Señora Presidente: el Ecuador considera que, cuatro décadas después de la firma de la Convención sobre las Medidas que deben Adoptarse para Prohibir e Impedir la Importación, la Exportación y la Transferencia de Propiedad Ilícitas de Bienes Culturales, es imprescindible encontrar nuevos caminos y métodos de cooperación internacional en el marco de la UNESCO para enfrentar el fenómeno de la expoliación de los bienes culturales, en particular los arqueológicos. La reunión de los Estados Partes en la Convención de 1970 debe brindar la ocasión de revisar el funcionamiento del instrumento y consensuar cambios en la normativa que permitan enfrentar un sistema de tráfico de bienes creciente, que moviliza sumas millonarias. Las acciones que en este campo se consideran en la Organización son complementarias y refuerzan a las que en otros órganos de las Naciones Unidas se llevan a cabo con el fin de penalizar a nivel internacional el tráfico ilícito.

36.4 En el ámbito de las ciencias sociales, el Ecuador hace un llamamiento a que se asignen suficientes recursos al presupuesto del Programa ‘Gestión de las Transformaciones Sociales’ –(MOST) y a que se continúen llevando a cabo actividades como el Foro de Ministros de Desarrollo Social, los estudios relativos a “Repensar América Latina” y una aplicación efectiva del convenio suscrito entre la UNESCO y la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO). El Ecuador destaca el valioso aporte de las reuniones del Foro de Ministros de Desarrollo Social, por cuanto conjuga el pensamiento de la academia con los entes estatales que formulan políticas públicas en la materia.

36.5 Finalmente, sobre la reforma de la red de oficinas de la UNESCO fuera de la Sede, el Ecuador considera necesario que se tenga en cuenta, de manera primordial, la especificidad de cada región. En cuanto a la de América Latina y el Caribe, la Oficina multipaís que funciona en Quito ha tenido un buen desempeño y, por lo tanto, se deberían solventar las deficiencias que aún se perciben, mediante la dotación de un equipo adecuado de funcionarios para cada ámbito de acción de la Organización, y hacer efectiva la política de descentralización diseñada hace una década. Al concluir el bienio 2012-2013 debería evaluarse de modo riguroso la eventual aplicación de la opción 3 en otras regiones y, luego de las consultas correspondientes con todos los países del área, determinar si se aplica en América Latina y el Caribe y las modalidades de su puesta en práctica. Muchas gracias.

(36.1) **Mr Cevallos Estarellas** (Ecuador) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Madam President of the General Conference, distinguished delegates, the Government of Ecuador is in the process of implementing the National Plan of Good Living which revisits ancestral knowledge and proposes a harmonious interaction between people, nature and society. Ecuador's Constitution gives a special place to education, considering it a basic human right, and states that: “Education is a right of persons throughout their lives and an unavoidable and mandatory duty of the State”. So as to bring this right into effect, the Ecuadorian Government implements national policies to transform education both quantitatively, with regard to the reach of education, and qualitatively, so as to improve the quality of the service. Among other solid results, in 2011, Ecuador achieved an enrolment rate in primary education (six to eleven year-olds) of 95.6%. In addition, we have managed to attain equal enrolment in general basic education between boys and girls, while for the higher secondary education level, there are currently more girls than boys attending classes. These and other achievements have been possible because the budget allocated to primary and secondary education has grown by approximately 247% since 2006, which means it has practically tripled in five years, currently standing at over 4% of the GDP.

(36.2) With the aim of building the research capacities of the country's institutions dedicated to science, projects such as “cities of knowledge” have been promoted with the aim of transforming our economy into one based on knowledge. The areas of strategy being focused on include biotechnology, renewable energy, nanotechnology, life sciences, petrochemistry and information and communications technology (ICT). An outstanding and historical achievement in Ecuador is the increased investment in science and technology, which grew from just under \$2 million in 2006 to \$36 million in 2009, with results already apparent. The investment in research, development and innovation has grown by 120% since 2006, and investment in scholarships rose by 694% from 2007 to 2008, with a 44% increase in 2009. In the same way, we are strengthening our intercultural bilingual education system, whose goal is the inclusion of indigenous peoples to ensure they have access to quality education in their mother languages. This project is very important as it helps the indigenous communities to develop a sense of cultural belonging while also preserving ancestral languages.

(36.3) Madam President, Ecuador considers that, 40 years after the signature of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, it is imperative that we find new ways and methods of international cooperation within the framework of UNESCO so as to tackle the phenomenon of

spoliation of cultural property, especially archaeological objects. The meeting of State Parties to the 1970 Convention should provide the opportunity to revise the operation of the instrument and reach agreements on normative changes that would combat the growing traffic in cultural property, which involves multi-million dollar transactions. The action being considered by the Organization in this field is complementary and reinforces the action carried out by other United Nations agencies in order to penalize trafficking at the international level.

(36.4) In the field of social sciences, Ecuador is calling for more resources to be allocated to the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme budget. It is also requesting that activities such as the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America, studies related to 'Rethinking Latin America', and the effective application of the agreement signed by UNESCO and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLASCO) continue to be carried out. Ecuador would like to highlight the invaluable contribution of the meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America, combining academic thinking with the policy-making of State entities in the field.

(36.5) Finally, with regard to the UNESCO field network reform, Ecuador deems it necessary to very carefully consider each region's specificity. In the Latin American and the Caribbean region, the Cluster Office in Quito, has been managing well, but it is nonetheless necessary to remedy persistent shortcomings, through the provision of a qualified team of officials for each sphere of the Organization's action and implementation of the decentralization policy that was drawn up a decade ago. At the end of the 2012-2013 biennium there should be a detailed evaluation of the possible implementation of Option 3 in other regions, and, after due consultations with all neighbouring countries, an assessment as to whether it should be implemented in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and the modalities of that implementation. Thank you very much.

37. **Sr. Presidente:**

Gracias señor Viceministro de Educación del Ecuador. Ahora tiene la palabra el Excmo. señor Gheorghe Postica, Viceministro de Cultura de la República de Moldova.

(37) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Vice-Minister. I now call on His Excellency Mr Gheorghe Postica, Vice-Minister of Culture for the Republic of Moldova.

38.1 **M. Postica** (République de Moldova) :

Madame la Présidente, Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est avec un grand plaisir que j'adresse mes salutations cordiales aux invités présents aujourd'hui à la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. L'enjeu est majeur pour tous les États participants. L'importance de cette session de la Conférence générale s'explique, en grande partie, par le fait que notre monde globalisé est actuellement marqué par une crise sans précédent. Une crise économique, sociale et environnementale qui aura des répercussions substantielles sur nos futurs objectifs prioritaires. Dans ces conditions, aucun pays ni organisation ne pourrait, seul, faire face aux problèmes tellement complexes de la réalité contemporaine. C'est dans ce contexte de changements dynamiques à l'échelle mondiale que devient décisive la mission fondamentale de l'UNESCO, en tant qu'institution chargée de promouvoir la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de l'humanité. À cet égard, la République de Moldavie soutient l'UNESCO dans ses efforts d'intensification des réformes menées dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies. Ainsi, nous sommes prêts à participer aux diverses activités destinées à mettre en œuvre les programmes de l'UNESCO. Nous constatons avec satisfaction les résultats de la coopération de la République de Moldavie avec l'UNESCO dans des domaines tels que l'éducation, la science, la culture, l'information et la communication, qui a permis d'affirmer les principes démocratiques fondamentaux de l'UNESCO.

38.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, les objectifs stratégiques de l'UNESCO, exposés dans la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013, représentent une base solide pour notre activité. L'accent qu'ils mettent sur l'instauration d'une culture de la paix, de la compréhension et du dialogue, ainsi que la préférence qu'ils accordent à la résolution des problèmes sociaux dans toutes les régions du monde, correspondent à nos aspirations communes à une vie meilleure, à la paix, à l'égalité, au respect des droits de l'homme et à l'éducation pour tous. Certes, l'une des priorités de notre pays reste la réalisation de l'objectif primordial de l'UNESCO concernant l'éducation de qualité pour tous, surtout dans les domaines des sciences exactes et appliquées, des technologies, ainsi que de la sensibilisation des jeunes concernant la recherche.

38.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, pour ce qui est de la coopération avec l'UNESCO, la République de Moldova a déployé un ample mouvement d'adhésion aux instruments normatifs élaborés sous l'égide de cette importante instance internationale. Je voudrais notamment citer la ratification de la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel et la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. Je saisis cette occasion pour souligner l'importance que notre pays accorde aux thèmes liés au dialogue interculturel et au respect de la diversité. L'une des priorités majeures, conformément aux objectifs de l'UNESCO en matière de développement durable et de protection du patrimoine culturel et naturel, pourrait être la coopération régionale dans le domaine du tourisme culturel. Il convient de mentionner qu'à l'heure actuelle, en Moldavie, des projets d'itinéraires touristiques sont mis au point en ce qui concerne les sites vitivinicoles, les paysages culturels et le patrimoine ecclésiastique, en particulier les monastères rupestres. Dans ce contexte, nous proposons d'étudier la possibilité de créer un Centre régional d'architecture rupestre et de paysages vitivinicoles en République de Moldova, ce qui contribuerait à l'identification, la préservation et l'utilisation durable du patrimoine culturel et naturel de la région, et offrirait des possibilités d'échanges culturels dynamiques afin de promouvoir le développement économique durable et la communication dans le respect des valeurs de la diversité culturelle. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

39. **Sr. Presidente:**

*Merci.* Muchas gracias al señor Ministro de Cultura de Moldova. Ahora le damos la palabra al Sr. Karomatullo Olimov, Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Tayikistán para la UNESCO. Tiene usted la palabra Sr. Presidente.

(39) **The President:**

*Merci.* Thank you very much Minister. I would now like to call on Mr Karomatullo Olimov, Chairperson of the Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO. Welcome, President.

40.1 **Г-н Олимов** (Таджикистан):

Уважаемый Председатель, уважаемый Генеральный директор, уважаемые делегаты, разрешите прежде всего поздравить г-жу Каталину Бодьяи с избранием на высокий пост Председателя Генеральной конференции и пожелать ей успехов в столь ответственной работе.

40.2 Одновременно хотел бы выразить признательность Генеральному директору Ее Превосходительству г-же Ирине Боковой за ее стремление к реформированию ЮНЕСКО, укреплению всесторонних связей между странами – членами ЮНЕСКО. Представление нового бюджета и программы Организации на 2012-2013 гг. имеет особое значение, поскольку речь идет о последнем этапе осуществления Среднесрочной стратегии 2008-2013 гг. Девиз ЮНЕСКО «Культура мира» как нельзя лучше отражает характер деятельности этой организации. Несомненно, что данная благородная цель достижима только путем улучшения качества образования людей, сохранения и передачи будущим поколениям культурных ценностей, развития науки, охраны окружающей среды.

40.3 Правительство Таджикистана во главе с Эмомали Рахмоном стремится к укреплению и повышению роли ЮНЕСКО в стране, в регионе и в мире в целом. Мы разделяем стремление руководства Организации к укреплению ее роли в странах-членах путем укрепления потенциала национальных комиссий. Особенно это касается стран, в которых отсутствует представительство ЮНЕСКО.

40.4 Как вам известно, основная часть проекта бюджета и программы ЮНЕСКО на 2012-2013 гг. посвящены развитию в области образования. Правительство Республики Таджикистан поддерживает эту линию, ежегодно увеличивая средства из государственного бюджета. В 2011 г. этот показатель достиг 4,7% ВВП, что по сравнению с 2005 г. больше в 5,3 раза. Наша страна стремится обеспечить выполнение обязательств в рамках международных программ, в частности целей тысячелетия в области развития и программы ЮНЕСКО «Образование для всех», которые должны быть реализованы к 2015 г.

40.5 Усилия ЮНЕСКО по сохранению материального и нематериального культурного наследия человечества органически связаны с идеей культуры мира. Мы выражаем признательность Комитету всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО и его членам за содействие во включении памятника культурного наследия Таджикистана – поселения Саразм, имеющего 5,5-тысячелетнюю историю, в Список всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО. Одновременно мы признательны Комитету за содействие, оказанное национальной комиссией при подготовке документов, а также при проведении экспертной оценки таджикского национального парка. В рамках регионального сотрудничества Таджикистан выступает за скорейшее завершение подготовки документов по серийной номинации «Памятники Великого шелкового пути».

40.6 Уважаемые делегаты, развитие науки и технологии является неотъемлемой частью общего прогресса мирового сообщества. В текущем году в Таджикистане созданы два национальных комитета по программе «Человек и биосфера» и Международной гидрологической программе. В настоящее время экспертами и руководством Академии наук в стране проводится работа по подготовке первой заявки на включение в сеть всемирных резерватов ЮНЕСКО. Надеемся, в будущем данная заявка будет удовлетворена, что позволит обогатить всемирную сеть резерватов. Управление водными ресурсами является одной из важнейших глобальных проблем современности. На 66-й сессии Генеральной ассамблеи ООН министр иностранных дел Республики Таджикистан особо отметил угрозу интенсивного таяния ледников в Таджикистане, где формируется 60% всех водных ресурсов Центральной Азии. За последние 30 лет площадь ледников сократилась более чем на 35%. Считаем, что этот вопрос заслуживает большего внимания и участия международного сообщества, поскольку непосредственно касается обеспечения водой и продовольственной безопасности. В связи с этим мы поддерживаем предложение Республики Казахстан о создании регионального гляциологического центра и одновременно выступаем за создание международного фонда спасения ледников под эгидой ЮНЕСКО.

40.7 Уважаемые делегаты, за годы независимости моей страны ее сотрудничество с ЮНЕСКО позволило добиться существенных результатов. Одним из последних примеров проведения ярких культурных мероприятий стало празднование 100-летия великого таджикского поэта и борца за мир Мирзо Турсун-Заде. В своем выступлении по этому поводу президент Эмомали Рахмон выразил признательность руководству ЮНЕСКО за уважение к нашей культуре и великому его представителю.

40.8 Многие из выступивших с этой трибуны говорили об угрозе терроризма, ксенофобии и т.д. Полагаем в связи с этим очень важным, чтобы ЮНЕСКО уделяла внимание вопросам нравственного воспитания молодого поколения, развитию образования, поиску путей предотвращения всех форм насилия и его пропаганды различными средствами во вред общечеловеческим ценностям. Эта задача общепланетарная, имеющая стратегическое значение для распространения культуры мира и жизни будущих поколений.

40.9 Уважаемый господин Председатель, Таджикистан, поддерживает усилия руководства ЮНЕСКО и уверен в том, что ЮНЕСКО будет оставаться авторитетной и дееспособной организацией, адекватно реагирующей на события в мире, что Организация будет эффективно противодействовать современным глобальным вызовам, успешно продвигая свои гуманистические ценности. Мы желаем руководству ЮНЕСКО и г-же Боковой больших успехов и созидательной работы на этом пути.

(40.1) **Mr Olimov** (Tajikistan) (*translation from the Russian*):

Distinguished President, distinguished Director-General, distinguished delegates, allow me first of all to congratulate Ms Katalin Bogyaay on her election to the lofty post of President of the General Conference, and wish her success in this crucial work.

(40.2) I should also like to express gratitude to the Director-General, H.E. Ms Irina Bokova, for her endeavours to reform UNESCO and strengthen the multilateral ties between UNESCO Member States. The presentation of the Organization's new Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 is of particular significance, since this entails the next stage in the implementation of



the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013. UNESCO's watchword "culture of peace" has never reflected better the nature of this organization's work. There is no doubt that this noble purpose may only be realized by improving the quality of education for people, safeguarding and transmitting cultural values to future generations, developing science and protecting the environment.

(40.3) The Government of Tajikistan under Emomali Rahmon is striving to strengthen and enhance the role of UNESCO in the country, the region and the world as a whole. We share the aim of the Organization's leadership to reinforce its role in Member States by means of reinforcing the potential of the National Commissions, and this concerns in particular those countries where UNESCO is not represented.

(40.4) As you know, the lion's share of UNESCO's Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 is dedicated to development in the field of education. The Government of Tajikistan follows this model, annually increasing the resources from the State budget. In 2011, the indicator rose to 4.7% of GDP, which in relation to 2005 is a more than five-fold increase. Our country is working to ensure the fulfilment of its obligations in international programmes, in particular the Millennium Development Goals and the UNESCO education for all goals, which must be reached by 2015.

(40.5) UNESCO's efforts to safeguard the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity are inherently linked to the ideal of a culture of peace. We are grateful to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and its members for their assistance in the inclusion of Tajikistan's cultural heritage site, the settlement of Sarazm with a history stretching back 5,500 years, in the UNESCO World Heritage List. We also thank the Committee for its assistance to the National Commission in preparing documents, and in the expert evaluation of the Tajik National Park. In the framework of regional cooperation, Tajikistan is in favour of completing without delay the preparation of documents for the serial nomination of the Great Silk Road monuments.

(40.6) Esteemed delegates, the development of science and technology is an integral part of the overall advancement of the international community. This year in Tajikistan, two national committees were established for the Programme on Man and the Biosphere and the International Hydrological Programme, respectively. At present, work is being carried out by experts and the management of Tajikistan's Academy of Sciences to prepare the first request for inclusion in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The management of water resources is one of the most important global problems today. At the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan made a point of referring to the threat posed by the intensive melting of glaciers in Tajikistan, where 60% of all Central Asia's water resources are formed. Over the past 30 years, the area covered by glaciers has shrunk by more than 35%. We consider that this question warrants greater attention and involvement by the international community, as it directly concerns ensuring water and food security. In this connection, we endorse the proposal of Kazakhstan for the establishment of a regional glaciology centre and we are also in favour of establishing an international fund to safeguard glaciers under the auspices of UNESCO.

(40.7) Distinguished delegates, in the years since it has become independent, my country's cooperation with UNESCO has enabled essential results to be achieved. One of the most recent examples of outstanding cultural events was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Tajik poet and freedom fighter, Mirzo Turzun-Zoda. In his address on that occasion, President Emomali Rahmon expressed thanks to the leadership of UNESCO for respecting our culture and its great representative.

(40.8) Many of those who have spoken from this podium have referred to the threat of terrorism, xenophobia, and so on. We suggest in this regard that it is extremely important for UNESCO to pay attention to the issue of the moral upbringing of young people, the development of education and the search for a way to prevent all forms of violence and its propaganda by various means from damaging universal human values. This is a task for the whole world, with strategic significance for the spread of a culture of peace and the life of the coming generations.

(40.9) Mr President, Tajikistan supports the efforts of UNESCO's leaders and is convinced that UNESCO will remain a prestigious and active organization, responding appropriately to events in the world, that the Organization will act to effectively rise to global challenges, successfully promoting its humanistic values. We wish the UNESCO leadership and Ms Bokova great success and constructive work in this respect.

41. **Sr. Presidente:**

Gracias, señor Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Tayikistán. Tiene ahora la palabra la Sr. Elnura Korchueva, Secretaria General de la Comisión Nacional de la República Kirguisa para la UNESCO.

(41) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Mr President. I would now like to call on Ms Elnura Korchueva, Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO.

42.1 **Ms Korchueva** (Kyrgyzstan):

Your Excellency Madam President, Madam Director-General, Madam Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address this distinguished audience today. First of all allow me on behalf of my Government, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to heartily greet all countries participating at the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I am also pleased to congratulate you Madam President on your election. I would also like to congratulate Curaçao, Sint Maarten and South Sudan on joining UNESCO's family and wish them fruitful cooperation with the Organization and its Member States. Distinguished participants, let me continue in Russian.

*(The speaker continues in Russian)*

42.2 Уважаемые участники, Кыргызстан после чрезвычайно тяжелых и трагичных событий 2010 года вновь становится на путь созидания и развития. В тот чрезвычайно тяжелый момент для Кыргызстана, когда страна стояла на грани политического кризиса, только сильная политическая воля нового руководства нашей страны, а также помощь со стороны международного сообщества, в том числе ЮНЕСКО, позволила Кыргызстану стабилизировать ситуацию. Одной из мер по предупреждению подобных ситуаций в будущем, предпринятых правительством, стало принятие концепции развития этнической политики. Кроме того, на 2012 год запланировано проведение в Кыргызстане Международной конференции по образованию в постконфликтной ситуации, которая пройдет при поддержке ЮНЕСКО и ряда других международных организаций. Завтра 30 октября в нашей стране состоятся выборы Президента Кыргызской Республики. Многонациональный народ Кыргызстана надеется и верит,

что избранный лидер при поддержке народа сможет найти верный курс к многостороннему сотрудничеству, интеграции в региональное и мировое пространство.

42.3 Уважаемые дамы и господа, мир переживает экономический кризис, что отражается на каждой из наших стран и, возможно, отразится на деятельности ЮНЕСКО. В этой связи мы приветствуем намерения ЮНЕСКО строить свою деятельность с ориентацией на получение конкретных результатов. Создание условий для обмена новыми идеями и новым видением поиска ответов на вызовы, которые стоят перед человечеством на современном этапе, всегда были и остаются силой ЮНЕСКО. Мы призываем использовать возможности ЮНЕСКО как глобального форума идей. Кыргызстан планирует провести в следующем 2012 году совместно с ЮНЕСКО и другими международными организациями третий Международный Иссyk-Кульский форум, одним из основателей которого был всемирно известный кыргызский писатель-гуманист Чингиз Айтматов. В свое время Иссyk-Кульский форум стал предвестником многих процессов и событий, имевших место в конце XX века. Падение «железного занавеса», создавшего искусственный ментальный барьер для развития межкультурного диалога, торжество общечеловеческих ценностей над диктатом политических режимов – все это было уже предугадано и предсказано участниками первого Иссyk-Кульского форума. Актуальность этих идей жива и сейчас, и это является лучшим доказательством необходимости возобновления Иссyk-Кульского форума как глобального движения интеллектуалов.

42.4 Уважаемые участники, несколько дней назад завершил свою работу Молодежный форум ЮНЕСКО. Проведение ЮНЕСКО в 1999 году первого Молодежного форума было очень мудрым и дальновидным решением. События, которые происходят в странах Ближнего Востока и ранее произошли в Кыргызстане, показали роль молодежи в происходящих социально-политических изменениях во всем мире. Как отметила Президент Кыргызской Республики Роза Отунбаева в своем выступлении на 66-й сессии Генассамблеи ООН: «Молодежь – это не только будущее, но уже и сегодняшний день каждой страны». Мы призываем страны максимально претворять в жизнь рекомендации седьмого Молодежного форума ЮНЕСКО. Кыргызстан разработал новую стратегию образования на 2012-2020 годы, в рамках которой большое внимание уделено повышению качества образования молодежи и взрослых. Важная роль в документе отведена также развитию межкультурного и многоязычного образования.

42.5 Дамы и господа, в 2012 году исполнится 20 лет с момента вступления Кыргызстана в ЮНЕСКО, сотрудничеству с которой всегда уделялось приоритетное внимание. Приветствуя реформы, начатые г-жой Боковой, Кыргызстан и далее будет прилагать усилия для развития плодотворного партнерства. Благодарю за внимание.

(42.2) (*translation from the Russian*) Distinguished participants, after the particularly painful and tragic events of 2010, Kyrgyzstan is once more on the road to construction and development. At that very difficult time for Kyrgyzstan, when the country was on the verge of a political crisis, only the strong political determination of the new leadership of our country and assistance from the international community, including UNESCO, enabled Kyrgyzstan to stabilize the situation. One of the measures taken by the government to prevent a similar situation arising in the future was the adoption of the concept of the development of an ethnic policy. Furthermore, there are plans to hold, in 2012, an international conference on education in post-conflict situations, which will take place with backing from UNESCO and a range of other international agencies. Tomorrow, 30 October, there will be elections in our country for the post of President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The multi-ethnic people of Kyrgyzstan hope and trust that the chosen leader with the support of the people will be able to set the right path to multilateral cooperation and integration in the regional and international arena.

(42.3) Ladies and gentlemen, the world is in the midst of an economic crisis that is felt in each of our countries and, possibly, has an impact on UNESCO's work. In this connection, we welcome UNESCO's intention to build its action with the aim of achieving tangible results. Creating the conditions to exchange new ideas and new visions of seeking answers to the challenges facing humanity right now, always has been and will remain UNESCO's strength. We call for UNESCO's potential to be used as a global forum for ideas. In 2012, Kyrgyzstan plans to hold, together with UNESCO and other international organizations, the Third International Issyk-Kul Forum, one of whose founders was the world-renowned Kyrgyz writer and humanist, Chingiz Aitmatov. The Issyk-Kul Forum turned out to herald many processes and events that took place at the end of the twentieth century. The fall of the "iron curtain", which had erected an artificial mental barrier to the development of intercultural dialogue, the triumph of universal humanist values over the diktat of political regimes – all of that was already guessed at and predicted by the participants of the First Issyk-Kul Forum. The relevance of these ideas is still alive now and is one of the best proofs of the need to renew the Issyk-Kul Forum as a global movement of intellectuals.

(42.4) Distinguished participants, a few days ago the UNESCO Youth Forum completed its work. UNESCO's decision to hold the first Youth Forum in 1999 was very wise and far-sighted. The events that are taking place in the Middle East and took place earlier in Kyrgyzstan have shown the role of young people in the social and political changes taking place across the world. As the President of Kyrgyzstan, Roza Otunbaeva, said when she addressed the United Nations General Assembly at its 66th session, young people are not only the future, but already the present of our countries. We call on countries to do all in their power to implement the recommendations of the seventh UNESCO Youth Forum. Kyrgyzstan has elaborated a new education strategy for 2012-2020, under which significant attention will be paid to improving the quality of education for young people and adults. An important role in the document is also given to the development of intercultural and multilingual education.

(42.5) In 2012, ladies and gentlemen, 20 years will have passed since Kyrgyzstan joined UNESCO, and cooperation with the Organization has always been given high priority. Kyrgyzstan welcomes the reforms started by Ms Bokova and will furthermore make efforts to develop a constructive partnership. Thank you for your attention.

43. **Sr. Presidente:**

Gracias, Sra. Korchueva de Kirguistán. Ahora tiene la palabra el Excmo. Sr. Wafic Rida Said, Embajador de San Vicente y las Granadinas ante la UNESCO. Tiene usted la palabra.

(43) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you Ms Korchueva from Kyrgyzstan. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Wafic Rida Saïd, Ambassador of

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to UNESCO. Minister, the floor is yours.

44.1 **Mr Said** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines):

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Madam President may I congratulate you on your well-deserved election as President of the General Conference and say that my country is absolutely delighted that UNESCO is leading the way on gender equality. We wish you every success. I would also like to join those who have paid tribute to my friend Davidson Hepburn, the outgoing President, the first from our Caribbean community to hold this important position; he was an outstanding President and also as we now know, a great singer. Since the last General Conference, only two years ago, the world has suffered many crises with tragic consequences: natural disasters, armed conflict, famine and huge financial and economic crises. These terrible events have affected all countries from large to small, from the richest to the poorest. But, as ever, it is the poorest communities and small, vulnerable countries such as small island developing States that are least able to react and adapt. An urgent response is needed at the international level and it is thus most pertinent and timely that the Leaders' Forum discussed how UNESCO contributes to building a culture of peace and sustainable development. We believe that UNESCO through its wide-ranging policy advice, savoir faire, expertise, and its role in capacity building is uniquely placed to help find solutions. These are the key over-riding issues for our future strategy. But UNESCO's priority must remain education because education is the key to development and it is through education that we can address conflict, intolerance and extremism and foster peace in the minds of men and women.

44.2 Madam President, education is also the priority of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and that is one of the reasons why UNESCO is so important to us. Our education programmes have achieved universal access to secondary education and have significantly reduced illiteracy. But we know there is much more to be done. The education system in the Caribbean is not working for boys, many of whom leave school early and turn to drug abuse and crime. With their needs in mind, we have implemented the UNESCO programme on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) which is very important for my Government. This programme is vital given growing levels of unemployment and the need for young people to have the skills to meet new demands from employers. As a small island developing State in the front line of climate change, education for sustainable development is essential to enable us to address the changes and to mitigate their disastrous effects. UNESCO has a major role to play in this field. We thank the Director-General for her continued work to ensure the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. We also urge the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to accelerate the full establishment of the tsunami early warning system in the Caribbean.

44.3 Regarding culture, it is important that the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions be given adequate financial and human resources to enable their better implementation. Director-General, since you took over the Organization, you have undertaken significant reforms in management and restructuring which we welcome and fully support. We believe that such reforms are important to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, to rationalize our operations and to focus our efforts where they are most needed. As you rightly said, Director-General, we must "reform to perform". We also support the recommendations of the ad hoc working group following the independent external evaluation of UNESCO. We are also in favour of an eight-year rolling strategy which should be concise and focused so as to privilege quality rather than quantity. And we strongly support a four-year programme cycle to improve stability and coherence.

44.4 Madam President, to conclude I would like to stress that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains firmly committed to supporting the ideals, objectives and work of UNESCO. We believe that in these difficult times, UNESCO's values are more relevant and its role more important than ever before. Thank you.

45. **Sr. Presidente:**

Gracias, señor Embajador de San Vicente y las Granadinas. Ahora tiene la palabra el Excmo. Sr. Gürçan Türkoğlu, Embajador de Turquía.

(45) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. I would now like to call on His Excellency Mr Gürçan Türkoğlu, Ambassador of Turkey.

46.1 **Mr Türkoğlu** (Turkey):

Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to begin by expressing our gratitude to the UNESCO family for sincerely sharing Turkey's sorrow after the earthquake which occurred last week. The Director-General's opening statement at the Leaders' Forum of the General Conference, where she made a reference to the international compassion for a 16-day old premature baby girl rescued from the rubble after the earthquake as "a symbol of a strong feeling of empathy which is at the heart of humanism" has widely resonated throughout the Turkish media, deeply touching the people. The call made by Ms Bokova on this occasion "to strengthen our ties and stay united to efficiently respond to global challenges" was also heard. This reference, even though it came out of a tragedy, has once again confirmed UNESCO's relevance with regard to a variety of core issues, from girls' education to disaster relief and from communication to humanism and empathy. Indeed UNESCO has already proved capable of responding to these challenges. UNESCO's relief activities in Haiti and Pakistan, the Initiative for a Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education, UNESCO's leading role at the thematic Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting on education, the report presented by UNESCO to the United Nations General Assembly on culture and development and the progress achieved in tsunami early-warning activities are only some of the indications of the energized role of UNESCO in all these fields. The enthusiastic responses and contributions received from intellectuals all over the world to the Director-General's call for a new humanism has shown that UNESCO can revive its role as a laboratory of ideas.

46.2 Madam President, Turkey, as one of the 20 founding States of UNESCO and a candidate to the Executive Board, sees the 36th session of the General Conference as an opportunity under your dynamic Presidency and with an able new team at the helm of the Secretariat. It is a fresh opportunity to give UNESCO's global vocation the full relevance, focus and visibility it deserves. We consider the initiatives launched by the Director-General both in management and programmes as steps taken in the right direction.

46.3 Madam President, you will recall that during the deliberations at the previous General Conference, there were times when youth and cities were considered to be hotspots of problems and conflicts. However, it is now very clear that young people of the world from Wall Street to Tahrir Square should not be considered as sources of problems but voices of solutions. While voicing demands and expectations on justice, transparency, accountability, democracy and human rights, they are in fact presenting solutions and outlining principles related to global, political, economic and cultural issues for a better future not only for themselves but for humanity as a whole. These are not unrelated to UNESCO's principles. Therefore UNESCO's efforts to be connected to these young voices are to be praised. In the same way, UNESCO's admittance of Palestine as a Member State would constitute a contribution to peace, enhancing its credibility and inclusiveness. Palestine's membership of UNESCO would also help to ease the problems of the Palestinian people regarding their educational institutions and the conservation of their heritage. When peace matters are concerned, Turkey, as a co-sponsor of the United Nations Initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations together with Spain, considers UNESCO's new Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence as a very important means to promote dialogue and reconciliation and also to act against all forms of religious and ethnic extremism from anti-Semitism to Islamophobia, from racism to xenophobia.

46.4 Madam President, UNESCO's medium-term priorities are Turkey's priorities as well. As a follow-up to the 2008 Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit, a conference at ministerial level will be held in Istanbul next December. Turkey will also be vigorously following up the conclusions of the 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries summit which we hosted in Istanbul with the participation of the Director-General of UNESCO. On the issue of gender, Turkey has included the principle of "positive discrimination for women" in its legislation and has been among the first few countries to sign a landmark convention against domestic violence. Madam President, my Government, in cooperation with our UNESCO National Commission, will promote the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and the 10th anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as valuable occasions to improve awareness and diligence on these issues. I am also pleased to inform you that the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions has been approved by the relevant parliamentary commission for imminent ratification. Thank you.

*Ms Bogyay resumes the Chair.*

**47. The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency for your statement. And now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Togalese National Commission for UNESCO His Excellency Mr Akoété Kougblenou. The floor is yours, Sir.

**48.1 M. Kougblenou (Togo) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi d'adresser à Madame la Présidente mes chaleureuses félicitations pour sa brillante élection à la présidence de notre présente session. Que Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif trouve également ici toute notre gratitude pour la qualité du travail accompli tout au long de l'exercice biennal qui s'achève. Je voudrais enfin féliciter Mme la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour les actions qu'elle mène en faveur de la paix et du développement depuis son élection à la tête de notre Organisation, il y a deux ans.

48.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, la paix et la sécurité internationale, au cœur des préoccupations de l'UNESCO, se trouvent une nouvelle fois fortement menacées en raison de la persistance des conflits, notamment en Afrique, au Moyen-Orient et ailleurs dans le monde. Nous remarquons avec amertume que plus de 65 ans après la création de l'UNESCO, la mission qui lui a été confiée de « cultiver la paix dans l'esprit des hommes » est mise à rude épreuve, alors même que les conflits internes au sein des États, dus à la xénophobie, à la haine et au déficit démocratique, prennent le pas sur les conflits entre les États. Il me paraît impérieux de rappeler que l'éducation est l'un des déterminants incontournables d'une culture de la paix. Les fondements essentiels de la culture de la paix demeurent la tolérance, la compréhension mutuelle et la justice. Ces valeurs sont à l'origine de la mise en place, au Togo, d'une « Commission vérité, justice et réconciliation », outil destiné à relever le défi de l'avènement d'un monde de paix et de réconciliation.

48.3 Le Projet de programme et de budget 2012-2013 soumis à notre examen réaffirme un certain nombre d'axes prioritaires de l'UNESCO qui interpellent le gouvernement de mon pays. Depuis 1989, l'Afrique fait partie des premières priorités de notre Organisation. Il importe que cette priorité soit maintenue au cours de l'exercice biennal à venir et se traduise par des actions concrètes au niveau des programmes de notre Organisation. En vue d'accroître la contribution de l'éducation au développement économique et social, une déclaration de politique sectorielle et un plan sectoriel pour l'éducation ont été adoptés pour la période 2010-2020. Selon cette politique, le système éducatif est conçu dans une perspective holistique, chaque niveau et chaque type d'apprentissage étant envisagé comme faisant partie d'un tout interconnecté. Dans cette perspective, même si l'éducation de base constitue le socle du système, les enseignements secondaire et technique, l'alphabétisation et l'enseignement supérieur sont également au cœur de nos préoccupations, ainsi que la mise en place d'une bonne politique de la question enseignante. Nous nous félicitons du choix porté sur notre pays, dans le cadre de l'Initiative pour l'alphabétisation : savoir pour pouvoir (LIFE), pour bénéficier du projet d'appui au renforcement des capacités en vue de l'amélioration de la qualité de l'alphabétisation et de l'éducation non

formelle (CapEPT), dont le lancement officiel a eu lieu à Lomé en septembre 2010. Nous nous félicitons également du lancement à l'Université de Lomé, en août 2011, de la production de cours en ligne, avec la formation d'enseignants, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Campus virtuel africain au Togo.

48.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, le renforcement des systèmes et des politiques scientifiques, techniques, technologiques et d'innovation en vue du développement durable et de l'élimination de la pauvreté est au cœur des préoccupations de l'UNESCO à l'orée de ce nouvel exercice biennal. Nous nous réjouissons de la décision prise à l'issue de la 23<sup>e</sup> session du Conseil international de coordination du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère, tenue récemment en Allemagne, en vue de l'inclusion dans le Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère du complexe Oti-Kéran/Oti-Mandouri du Togo.

48.5 Madame la Présidente, la nécessité de promouvoir la participation accrue des femmes à la science et à la recherche doit demeurer l'une de nos priorités. La Chaire UNESCO sur les femmes, la science et la gestion raisonnée de l'eau en Afrique de l'Ouest, à l'Université de Lomé, est un atout à cet égard. La priorité sectorielle biennale dans le domaine de la culture, notamment celle relative à la protection et à la promotion du patrimoine et des expressions culturelles, est une préoccupation constante de l'UNESCO que le Togo a fait sienne. Elle a donné lieu, au cours de l'année 2010, à des activités de promotion du tourisme culturel avec la matérialisation des sites des vestiges de l'esclavage sur toute l'étendue du territoire national. Une fois encore, nos compliments et notre appui vont à Mme la Présidente du Conseil exécutif et à Mme la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mme Irina Bokova, ainsi qu'à toute son équipe. Je vous remercie.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Ukraine to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Oleksandr Kupchyshyn. The floor is yours, Sir. Good Morning.

50.1 **Mr Kupchyshyn (Ukraine):**

Madam President, distinguished delegates. First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election to the high office of the President of the General Conference. As we are well aware, today's globalized world is increasingly marked by rapid changes that affect all areas of human activities. We share the Director-General's view that progressively increasing crises of an economic, environmental and ethical nature require response in the form of a new humanism. We believe that UNESCO's recently declared vision of its role in improving the world model constitutes its legacy and prestige. It is our task to elaborate new universal ethical principles of living together in harmony, sharing knowledge, resources and good practices.

50.2 Madam President, new challenges are often accompanied by new opportunities which UNESCO can generate. The Organization's goal is to continue mobilizing science, technology and innovation practices to ensure enhancing good quality programme delivery and achieving expected outcomes. Ukraine commends the continuing efforts by the Director-General to reform UNESCO's programmes and organizational structures. We support the alignment of the planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system. Also, at a time of overall financial restraints, we consider that the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 with zero nominal growth corresponds to existing possibilities. We believe that UNESCO's focus on scientific programmes such as the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) is quite reasonable. It is a pleasure to inform you that yesterday the Governments of Ukraine, Belarus and Poland signed a trilateral agreement on establishing the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve "West Polessie". The ceremony of inauguration of this new ecosystem will take place on 3 November here in UNESCO Headquarters, when the International Biosphere Reserve Day will be celebrated. Let me express our sincere gratitude to the Japanese Fund-in-Trust and MAB Secretariat for the generous support of this trilateral project which is aimed at contributing to the preservation of biodiversity and ensuring sustainable development. Ukraine will also follow its commitments on sustainable development, working intensively within UNESCO's MAB programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to which our country has been devoted since its inception. We also believe in the important role of UNESCO in the protection of populations and the environment from the negative consequences of technological catastrophes. Education is and should continue to be at the heart of UNESCO's mandate. In this respect, Ukraine supports the idea of holding a high level annual summit to reflect on the importance of this topic.

50.3 Distinguished delegates, initiated in 2010, the "rapprochement of cultures" should remain one of UNESCO's key tools for the culture of peace. As co-sponsor, Ukraine supports the proposal of Kazakhstan to proclaim the years 2013-2024 as an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures. We can also speak about our own initiative in this direction. Last year the capital of Ukraine pioneered the international seminar on "The role of religious communities in the management of world heritage properties". Its outcomes are reflected in the decision of June's 35th session of the World Heritage Committee that envisages further elaboration of this new emerging initiative. To this end, a fund of Member States' voluntary contributions was created. Contributions of Member States, both financial and intellectual, are most welcome.

50.4 UNESCO's integration into the world of modern communication technologies proves its strong effectiveness. It is therefore crucial that this vector of the Organization's activities is further developed and implemented in its major programmes, in particular through the Information for All Programme. Next month Ukraine is to host an international conference on information and communication technologies to elaborate respective strategies.

50.5 Madam President, I am confident that the General Conference will take value-added decisions, reinforcing UNESCO's efficiency, competitiveness and great potential in confronting new threats and challenges of the modern world. It is our shared responsibility. Thank you Madam President.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now we come to Observers who will take the floor. I will give them three minutes. First I would like to ask the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO, His Excellency Monsignor Francesco Follo, to take the floor.

52.1 **Mgr Follo** (Observateur permanent du Saint-Siège) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, au nom de Sa Sainteté le Pape Benoît XVI, j'ai le grand honneur de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette assemblée prestigieuse. Excellences, le Saint-Siège appuie le document 36 C/5 et vous propose des pistes de réflexion sur la culture de la paix. Afin de rendre effectif le projet de la paix universelle, il conviendrait d'y ajouter des projets de paix locale, à trois niveaux. Le premier de ces niveaux est la famille. Si l'homme doit apprendre à être humain, c'est au sein de la famille qu'il commencera à le faire. C'est dans la famille que l'on apprend à être et à devenir homme. Apprendre à vivre en cette cellule sociale originelle est donc une priorité. Le second niveau est l'école, deuxième société locale, où l'enfant apprend, mais aussi acquiert un comportement d'être social. L'enfant a besoin d'une culture et de connaissances diversifiées. Il a aussi besoin d'être éduqué, par l'école et une vie commune sereine, et à rencontrer l'autre, différent de lui. Dans un monde profondément divisé, l'école peut former des agents de paix et promouvoir une culture de la paix. Le troisième niveau est la cité. Il faut donc œuvrer pour que la ville soit humaine, c'est-à-dire fondée sur la vérité de personne humaine, qui se développe dans la paix. Une paix qui a une culture, avant d'être un réseau concret de relations paisibles au sein de la famille, à l'école, dans la ville et entre les nations. Ceci nous renvoie au problème de la culture, entendue dans son sens le plus large. La culture est l'ensemble des gestes, rites, actes de parole et pratiques qui structurent la vie d'une communauté. De ce fait, la plate-forme intersectorielle pour une culture de la paix et de la non-violence revêt une importance toute particulière à l'UNESCO, et grande pour l'humanité, car ce sont toutes les activités humaines qui doivent relever d'une culture de la paix.

52.2 Aujourd'hui, j'ai beaucoup entendu parler de paix et de développement. C'est très juste, mais je me permets simplement d'ajouter une phrase de Benoît XVI selon qui, « s'il n'est pas de tout l'homme et de tout homme, le développement n'est pas un vrai développement ». Je vous remercie de votre attention.

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now I will give the floor to the President of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations Mr George Christophides.

54.1 **Mr Christophides** (President of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations – WFUCA):

Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is my honour and privilege to address the General Conference and on this occasion I pay tribute and respect to all contributors to the development of WFUCA, the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations. Last August, during the 8th World Congress of WFUCA held in Hanoi, Viet Nam we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our movement and we had the pleasure to receive the reconfirmation of the continuous support of UNESCO through the video message of the Director-General of UNESCO Ms Irina Bokova, who was represented on that occasion. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Ms Bokova for her strong support of the civil society partnership and particularly the UNESCO Clubs movement. We really appreciated her statement regarding the involvement of youth in our movement of UNESCO Clubs. I would also like to mention the video message of the former Director-General of UNESCO Mr Federico Mayor and the message of the former Director-General of UNESCO Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, who attended the events in Hanoi. It was in Hanoi that we approved the action plan of WFUCA for the next four years including the omnibus project "Global Ethics – Save the Planet Earth". The challenge of globalization as well as the current economic and political crisis has underlined the increasing importance of the role of civil society. For this reason our Organization, UNESCO, together with international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like WFUCA, provides the ideal platform on which we can jointly cooperate in promoting the ideals of UNESCO for a new brave world. WFUCA will be at the disposal of UNESCO to work together, as we have done for the past three decades, promoting global communication and understanding for the development of a framework of global ethics and sustainable development.

54.2 I express our full respect to UNESCO for the support shown to our organization since 1981. Although current challenges with which our world is confronted have created new obstacles towards reaching certain goals, we are ready to cooperate. We propose that UNESCO declare an international day of global ethics and to organize a United Nations ethics summit. The International Year of Youth has set a new goal in encouraging young people to be more active in societies, for worldwide sustainable development. Youth can and must play an important role in confronting the new challenges of our time. Recent national disasters and political tensions summon the world for urgent mobilization. We have in mind a project regarding the symbiosis of compatible forms which should live together like "ego" and "geo". It is generally recognized that for UNESCO to achieve its goals, its message must reach not only leaders but also the civil society. WFUCA confirms its commitment to cooperate with UNESCO. Thank you.

55. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to the Director-General of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Mr Ali Abdulkhalig Alkarni. The floor is yours, Sir.

٥٦,١ السيد القرني (المدير العام لمكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، معالي رئيس المؤتمر العام، أصحاب المعالي الوزراء، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، هل لي في البداية أن أحييكم وأشكر جهودكم وأبارك هذا اللقاء الذي يأتي معبراً عن اهتمامكم الكبير بالعلم والحضارة. وهل لي أن أنقل إليكم تحيات التربويين والمتقنين في الدول الأعضاء بمكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج، وهي الإمارات العربية المتحدة ومملكة البحرين والجمهورية اليمنية ودولة الكويت والمملكة العربية السعودية

وسلطنة عُمان ودولة قطر. وتقدير هذه الدول جميعها حرصكم الشديد على مستقبل الثقافة الإنسانية كلها. وكم يطيب لي ويسعدني أن أقف بينكم اليوم فأشارككم تطعاتكم إلى عالم يسوده السلام ويزينه العدل ويؤمن أهله بأن الحياة الكريمة هي أساس الحياة الأول، وهي الهدف الأسمى الذي ينشده الإنسان أينما كان. وفي هذا السياق، اسمحوا لي معاليكم أن أتقدم إليكم بالتحية الفضلى والشكر الأجل على توصية منظمكم الزاهرة بقبول دولة فلسطين عضواً كامل العضوية في منظمكم. وما هذه التوصية إلا دليل ساطع على بعد النظرة الحضارية، وتمثل محطة سامية المعنى في مسيرتكم الإنسانية الشاملة. ونحن في مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج نؤمن بأن التربية والتعليم والثقافة الحقيقية لا يمكنها إلا أن تجل من هذا العالم المترامي الأطراف والمتعدد النزعات عالماً واحداً يقوم على أساس من التسامح والاحترام المتبادل بين أهله.

٥٦،٢ السيدات والسادة، يتطلع مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج إلى مزيد من التعاون مع منظمكم الزاهرة. ويعمل بكل الطاقات الممكنة وبجميع الجهود المحلصة من أبنائه بالتعاون مع وزارات التربية والتعليم في الدول الأعضاء على تطوير التربية في مختلف مناحيها. ويتقدم تقدماً حثيثاً في ميدان محو الأمية بمفاهيمها المتعددة وجوانبها المختلفة لتشمل الأمية الثقافية والعلمية والحضارية. ويزداد اهتمامنا بدور المرأة وتركيزنا عليه في مجتمعاتنا متسلحين في ذلك بكل ما هو متاح من أدوات التقنية المتسارعة والانفتاح على الخبرات الدولية الحديثة والمتطورة. ويشهد واقع التعليم في دول الخليج العربي انطلاقاً نوعية تستهدف الإنسان، باعتباره هدفاً وغاية. وتسرع دولنا الخطى نحو البناء والتنمية والتطوير. وتشهد ميادين التربية والتعليم فيها نمواً استثنائياً في أعداد المدارس والمنشآت المدرسية، وفي أعداد الطلاب والمعلمين. وقد بذلت هذه الدول جهوداً مكثفة ومتواصلة في التعليم عبر خطط تنموية نفذتها وأحاطتها بكثير من جهود المتابعة والتقييم. وأثمرت تلك الخطط نجاحاً تمثل في قوافل الخريجين من أبناء الدول الأعضاء في مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج، الذين انخرطوا في مختلف ميادين العمل وأخذوا يتحملون مسؤولياتهم في مسيرة البناء والتحديث والتطوير. ويعتبر متابعو النهضة التعليمية ما حققته دول الخليج العربية في ميدان التعليم في فترة قصيرة نقلة نوعية تستحق الإعجاب. وفي الختام، أحييكم وأتمنى لمؤتمركم التوفيق وأن تتحقق الأهداف. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(56.1) **Mr Alkarni** (Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States – ABEGS) (*translation from the Arabic*):

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Clement, Your Excellency the President of the General Conference, Your Excellencies ministers, ladies and gentlemen, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. Allow me to begin by saluting you, thanking you for your efforts, and blessing this gathering, which reflects your great interest in science and civilization. Allow me also to convey to you the greetings of educationalists and intellectuals in the Member States of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), which are the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Yemen, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, and the State of Qatar. All these countries greatly appreciate your concern for the future of human culture as a whole. How pleased I am to stand before you today to share in your aspirations for a world in which peace rules supreme, which is adorned by justice, and whose people believe that a life of dignity is the primary basis of life as a whole – the noblest goal that may be sought by any person, wherever they may be. In this connection, allow me, Excellencies, to offer you warm greetings and sincere thanks for the recommendation of your esteemed Organization to accept the State of Palestine as a full member of UNESCO. This recommendation is clear proof of your civilizational far-sightedness, and represents a stage of great significance in your overall humanitarian course. We in ABEGS believe that education and true culture can but make this sprawling world with its numerous conflicts a single world which exists on a basis of tolerance and mutual respect among its inhabitants.

(56.2) Ladies and gentlemen, ABEGS looks forward to greater cooperation with your esteemed Organization, and works with all possible energy and sincere efforts together with the ministries of education in the Member States to develop education in its various forms. It is achieving particularly good progress in the field of literacy in its various concepts and aspects, including cultural, scientific and civilizational literacy. We are devoting ever greater attention to the role of women and focus thereon in our societies, thus arming ourselves with all the accelerating technology that is available, and remaining open to advanced modern international expertise. The reality of education in the ABEGS countries is a qualitative leap aimed at the individual as both an objective and a purpose. Our countries are accelerating their course towards construction and development. The fields of education are witnessing exceptional development in the numbers of schools and educational establishments and the numbers of pupils and teachers. These countries have exerted determined and continued efforts for education by means of development plans executed and accompanied by careful monitoring and assessment. Those plans have led to great success in the shape of large numbers of graduates from the ABEGS Member States, who have gone on to take jobs in various fields of work and shouldered their responsibilities in the course of construction, modernization and development. Those following this educational renaissance achieved by the ABEGS Member States in the field of education over a short space of time consider it to be an admirable quantum leap. In conclusion, I salute you and wish your General Conference every success in achieving its objectives. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

57. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And I would like to give the floor now to the President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee Mr Bernard Loing. The floor is yours.

58.1 **M. Loing** (Président du Comité de liaison ONG-UNESCO) :

Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, au cours de la séance qui vient de s'achever, la Commission PRX a adopté sans débat les nouvelles directives précédemment examinées par le Comité sur les ONG du Conseil exécutif à sa séance du 23 septembre. En ma qualité de Président de la Conférence internationale des ONG, j'avais, au cours de cette séance, émis de fortes réserves concernant ces nouvelles directives et, surtout, le manque de concertation qui avait précédé. Je continue de regretter la hâte qui a présidé à leur adoption et je ne peux que m'élever contre le fait qu'elles nous soient ainsi imposées. Nous avons pris acte de cette décision et la communauté des ONG en tirera toutes les conséquences.

58.2 Je tiens à rappeler que nos critiques ne portaient en aucune manière sur le principe d'une évolution des directives, ni sur leur nécessaire adaptation au monde d'aujourd'hui. Au contraire, nous accueillons favorablement cette évolution. Le débat qui n'a pas eu lieu aurait dû nous permettre d'exprimer notre attachement à la diversité qui préside à l'action de l'UNESCO, notamment au moyen de la représentation régionale. Mais cette représentation régionale, telle que prévue dans les nouvelles directives, ne va pas de soi. Elle doit être organisée avec un Comité de liaison qui serait composé pour moitié d'ONG ayant leur siège dans les diverses régions du monde. Il y a un véritable travail d'adaptation à faire et il faut trouver de nouveaux moyens, notamment des moyens financiers pour réunir les membres et mener les actions requises. En effet, le budget très limité – je rappelle qu'il s'agit de 10 000 euros par an reçus de l'UNESCO en complément des contributions volontaires versées par certaines ONG – ne permet pas de couvrir tous nos besoins. Il

faut également trouver de nouveaux moyens techniques et technologies pour la communication, entre autres, ainsi que de nouvelles procédures de contact et de nouveaux mécanismes de travail. Il ne s'agit donc pas seulement d'une adaptation de surface ou de circonstance, et c'est là aussi la raison pour laquelle nous regrettons qu'une réflexion en profondeur sur la coopération entre les ONG et l'UNESCO n'ait pas pu être menée. Nous avons pourtant entamé cette réflexion. Puisqu'une régionalisation renforcée est nécessaire, on pourrait par exemple envisager un transfert au niveau de chacune des régions du travail actuellement accompli par le Comité de liaison à Paris, avec des comités de liaison régionaux. Beaucoup d'idées sont à creuser et il me semble qu'il n'appartient pas seulement aux ONG de s'en saisir, mais qu'elles concernent aussi les représentants des États membres qui ont adopté ces nouvelles directives, notamment le Comité sur les ONG du Conseil exécutif.

58.3 Au point où nous en sommes, il nous appartient de nous tourner vers ceux qui nous ont élus pour envisager les suites à donner à l'adoption de ces directives. Pour nous, les ONG, l'attachement à un partenariat fort avec l'UNESCO est indispensable et indiscutable, et en leur nom à toutes, je souhaite qu'il s'exerce dans le respect mutuel et dans la plus parfaite des réciprocités. Je vous remercie.

59. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen we have one request from the floor to the right to reply, so I give the floor to the Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan for two minutes. Ambassador, the floor is yours.

60. **Mme Huseynova (Azerbaïdjan) :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Notre maison, l'UNESCO, créée pour élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes, œuvre inlassablement pour promouvoir, sous l'impulsion de notre respectée Directrice générale, un nouvel humanisme, une culture de la paix et un dialogue interculturel, auxquels mon pays, comme vous le savez, s'efforce d'apporter sa modeste contribution. Et il est d'autant regrettable d'entendre dans l'enceinte de cette vénérable maison les propos d'un Ministre des affaires étrangères empreints de haine. Il est regrettable d'entendre un chef d'État parler, ailleurs, de l'incompatibilité ethnique de deux peuples voisins, rejetant la responsabilité de la tragédie qui se poursuit dans le Sud-Caucase sur le pays victime. Mais les faits sont là, incontestables. Depuis plus de 20 ans, à la suite de l'agression militaire de l'Arménie, un cinquième du territoire de l'Azerbaïdjan est occupée, des dizaines de milliers de personnes sont tuées ou blessées, un million de personnes sont déplacées et réfugiées, et les ressources naturelles des régions occupées sont pillées à un rythme effréné. Le territoire occupé, échappant à tout contrôle national ou international, est devenu une zone de non-droit, une plaque tournante du trafic de drogue et d'organes humains. Et le plus consternant, des sites historiques et culturels sont détruits, pour effacer toute trace de la présence millénaire des Azerbaïdjanais, tant dans les territoires occupés en Azerbaïdjan qu'en Arménie elle-même. Mais nous sommes optimistes. Je suis convaincue que bientôt le jour viendra où le vent de printemps chassera les démons du passé et où les peuples voisins retrouveront la joie de vivre ensemble, et c'est avec plaisir que nous organiserons ici, à l'UNESCO, avec mon collègue arménien, une grande fête de la paix et de l'amitié.

61. **The President:**

I thank you for your intervention. And now ladies and gentlemen we have exhausted the list of speakers at least for this morning. It was again a very inspiring morning with interesting statements and new knowledge for everybody, and I think we honoured each other and listened to each other.

#### **First report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee**

#### **Premier rapport du Président du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs**

#### **Primer informe del Presidente del Comité de Verificación de Poderes**

#### **Первый доклад Председателя Комитета по проверке полномочий**

#### **التقرير الأول لرئيس لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد**

#### **全权证书委员会主席的第一次报告**

62. **The President:**

So now I would like to hear the reports from the Credentials Committee and from the Administrative Commission. I would like to give the floor first to His Excellency Ambassador Uffe Andreassen who will present the first report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. Ambassador, the floor is yours.

63.1 **M. Andreasen (Danemark) (Président du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, depuis la lecture du premier rapport du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs en séance plénière, le 25 octobre 2011, le Comité a reçu les pouvoirs en bonne et due forme des délégations des États membres dont les noms s'affichent à l'écran.

63.2 Le Comité a également reçu les pouvoirs provisoires des délégations des pays dont les noms s'affichent à l'écran. Le Comité a également reçu les pouvoirs en bonne et due forme des délégations des pays dont la liste s'affiche à l'écran, et qui avaient auparavant présenté des pouvoirs provisoires. Des pouvoirs en bonne et due forme ont été présentés par les délégations des nouveaux Membres associés, dont les noms s'affichent à l'écran. Le Comité a également reçu des pouvoirs provisoires de la délégation d'observateurs dont le nom s'affiche à l'écran. Conformément à l'autorisation qui m'a été donnée par le Comité de vérification des pouvoirs, je propose que la Conférence générale accepte ces pouvoirs. Les délégations d'États membres dont la liste s'affiche à l'écran n'ont pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. Les délégations de Membres associés dont la liste s'affiche à l'écran n'ont pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. La délégation d'observateurs dont le nom s'affiche à l'écran n'a pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. Je vous remercie.



64. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Are there any comments on this report? I see none. So may I consider that the General Conference takes note of the first report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee? I see no objections. *It is so decided.*

**Report of the Administrative Commission on item 1.3 “Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution”**

**Rapport de la Commission administrative sur le point 1.3 « Rapport du Directeur général sur les communications reçues des États membres invoquant les dispositions de l'article IV.C, paragraphe 8 (c), de l'Acte constitutif »**

**Informe de la Comisión Administrativa sobre el punto 1.3 “Informe de la Directora General sobre las comunicaciones recibidas de los Estados Miembros en las que se invoca lo dispuesto en el apartado c) del párrafo 8 del Artículo IV.C de la Constitución”**

**Доклад Комиссии по административным вопросам по пункту 1.3 «Доклад Генерального директора о сообщениях, полученных от государств-членов в связи с положениями пункта 8 (с) статьи IV.C Устава»**

تقرير اللجنة الإدارية بشأن البند ٣، ١: "تقرير المدير العام عن الرسائل الواردة من الدول الأعضاء والتي تستند فيها إلى أحكام الفقرة ٨ (ج)

من المادة الرابعة (جيم) من الميثاق التأسيسي"

**行政委员会关于项目 1.3 的报告：“总干事关于会员国援引《组织法》第 IV.C 条第 8(c) 款的来函的报告”**

65. **The President:**

We now turn to the examination of the report of the Administrative Commission on item 1.3 “Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8 (c), of the Constitution”. Madam Chairperson of the Administrative Committee, you have the floor.

66.1 **Ms Cummins** (Barbados) (Chairperson of the ADM Commission – Finance and administration):

*Merci bien, Madame.* Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me to submit to you the report of the work of the Administrative Commission on item 1.3 “Report of the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8 (C), of the Constitution” (Documents 36 C/12 and Add.). In accordance with Article 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the Administrative Commission examined, from the beginning of its work, communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C paragraph 8 (c) of the Constitution. In this context, I should like to remind you that the deadline for submission of these communications was 28 October at 10 a.m. All Member States that had submitted their communications by this date were permitted to continue to vote until such time that the General Conference, in the plenary meeting, decided otherwise, on the basis of the report of the Administrative Commission. The Commission had set up a working group in charge of the preparation of a detailed, case by case study as well as the submission of recommendations. This Group, chaired by Lebanon, was composed of Chad, Chile and the Republic of Korea. The Group met three times on 26, 27 and 28 October 2011.

66.2. Madam President, at the beginning of its work, on 26 October 2011 at 2 p.m., the working group noted that 12 Member States were at risk of losing their voting rights; these were Antigua and Barbuda, Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Vanuatu. Of these 12 Member States, only four had presented, within the specified time limit, their communications requesting authorization to vote, in conformity with Article IV, paragraph 8 (c) of the Constitution. These were: Central African Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia and Sudan. Madam President, the Administrative Commission after an in-depth study of each case gave a favourable consideration to the requests of Kyrgyzstan and Somalia and recommended that they retain the right to vote, while Sudan and Vanuatu paid the required minimum contribution to preserve their voting rights. On the other hand, Madam President, the Administrative Commission was not in a position to recommend that the Central African Republic be permitted to retain the right to vote. Indeed, the Commission considered that the communication submitted by this Member State was not in accordance with the provisions of Article 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, and 30 C/Resolution 82. Consequently, the Central African Republic is not recommended to take part in the voting process of the 36th session of the General Conference. Madam President, in my capacity as Chairperson of the ADM Commission I would like to suggest that the following resolution which should show now on your screen, concerning this agenda item be adopted in the plenary meeting without debate. I shall read out the draft resolution.

66.3 The General Conference, *Having considered* the communications received from Central African Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia and Sudan invoking the terms of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution in order to obtain permission to take part in the voting at its 36th session; *Recalling* the constitutional obligation of Member States to pay their contributions fully and on time; *Taking into account* the history of payment of contributions in preceding years and previous requests for voting rights in the case of each of these Member States, as well as the measures proposed by them to eliminate their arrears; *Noting* that Sudan and Vanuatu had subsequent to their requests paid the amounts required for voting rights in conformity with Article IV.C, paragraph 8(b), of the Constitution; *Considers* that the failure of Kyrgyzstan and Somalia to pay contributions for an amount exceeding the total due for the current year and the immediately preceding calendar year and/or instalments on payment plans is due to conditions beyond their control and decides that these Member States may take part in the voting at the 36th session of the General Conference; *Further considers* that the failure of Central African Republic to pay contributions for an amount exceeding the total due for the current year and the immediately preceding calendar year and/or instalments on payment plans does not comply with the

conditions laid down in Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of this General Conference and consequently this Member State may not take part in the voting at the 36th session of the General Conference; *Invites* the Director-General to report to the 190th and 192nd sessions of the Executive Board as well as to the 37th session of the General Conference on the actual position concerning all payment plans agreed upon between UNESCO and Member States in arrears with their contributions. Thank you for your attention Madam President.

69. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam. Dear colleagues, may I consider that the General Conference approves by consensus the recommendations made by the Administrative Commission? I see no objection. *It is so **decided***. Thank you very much. Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference to make a statement. The floor is yours.

70. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, following the report by the Chairperson of the Administrative Commission on the communications received from Member States invoking provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c) of the Constitution, that the General Conference has just received, I shall now read the list of the eight Member States that according to the Constitutional provisions will not have the right to vote at this 36th session of the General Conference: Antigua and Barbuda, Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Marshall Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, São Tome and Príncipe, Sierra Leone. In addition, Dominica does not have the right to vote at present; awaiting presentation of valid credentials. Thank you Madam.

71. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now we have finished our work for the morning and I am looking forward to welcoming you again at 3 o'clock.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 13 h 15*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15*  
*Заседание закрывается в 13.15*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٥, ١ بعد الظهر*  
*会议于 13 时 15 分结束*

# Tenth plenary meeting

Saturday 29 October 2011 at 3.15 p.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

later: **Ms Kamath** (Australia)

later: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Dixième séance plénière

Samedi 29 octobre 2011 à 15 h 15

Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

puis : **Mme Kamath** (Australie)

puis : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Décima sesión plenaria

Sábado 29 de octubre de 2011 a las 15.15

Presidente: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

después: **Sra. Kamath** (Australia)

después: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Десятое пленарное заседание

суббота 29 октября 2011 г. в 15.15

Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

затем: г-жа **Камас** (Австралия)

затем: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة العاشرة

السبت ٢٩ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣,١٥ بعد الظهر

الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

ثم: السيدة **كاماث** (أستراليا)

ثم: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第十次全体会议

2011年10月29日星期六15时15分

主席： **Bogyay女士** (匈牙利)

随后： **Kamath女士** (澳大利亚)

随后： **Bogyay女士** (匈牙利)

**General policy debate** (*continued*)  
**Débat de politique générale** (*suite*)  
**Debate de política general** (*continuación*)  
**Обсуждение вопросов общей политики** (*продолжение*)  
مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)  
总政策辩论 (续)

1. **The President:**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, we would like to start our afternoon session. I therefore declare the tenth plenary meeting of the General Conference open. We will be continuing our work with the national statements. The previous speakers have been absolutely outstanding in their respect of the time limits. In order to make this Saturday afternoon as efficient as possible, we will need to continue this good practice. May I remind you that Member States and Associate States have six minutes to deliver their speeches, while observer organizations have three minutes. I thank you in advance for your cooperation. Now I have the honour of giving the floor to our first speaker this afternoon, the Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Malawi, His Excellency, Mr George Chaponda. The floor is yours, sir.

2.1 **Mr Chaponda** (Malawi):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished delegates. Madam President, allow me to add my delegation's sincere congratulations on your accession to the presidency of the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. I am confident we will benefit greatly from your wisdom and experience. I bring fraternal greetings from my President, Professor Bingu wa Mutharika, who, due to prior commitments was unable to attend the Leaders' Forum. I wish to congratulate the Director-General for introducing this important innovation to the organization of the General Conference.

2.2 My delegation strongly supports the Director-General's efforts at re-engineering the Organization. UNESCO is as relevant today as it was when it was founded some 65 years ago. It is only through advancements in education, the sciences, culture and communication that we can build lasting peace. To me, this means that UNESCO should be ready to play its rightful role as the leader in its fields of competence, given the importance of United Nations reform for enhancing programmatic effectiveness at the country level. In this regard, I am glad to note that in the draft 36 C/5 document, the Director-General has ensured that the international community's broad goals and concrete objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), underpin all UNESCO's strategies and activities. At the same time, my delegation strongly supports the cross-cutting priorities of "Africa" and "gender". We therefore applaud the Director-General's intention to strengthen UNESCO's presence in Africa with multisectoral and subregional offices. Having recently launched our second Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, which is based on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Malawi looks forward to fuller collaboration with UNESCO.

2.3 Malawi has made a strong commitment to accelerating progress towards achieving education for all. This is reflected for example in the greatest budget allocation going to the education sector, the building of boarding facilities for girls, the reviewing of our technical and vocational education policy and curriculum, and the inclusion of education for sustainable development concepts into the secondary school curriculum. In this regard, my delegation wishes to register its support for the priority areas set out in the education programme. In particular, we look forward to continuing support in reforming our technical and vocational education system through the Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR) project, and in developing planning and managerial capacity through online and residential training courses organized by the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP).

2.4 My country has recently hosted the very successful, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) summit, whose theme: "Strengthening Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development", resonates very well with UNESCO's sectoral priorities in science. As the current chair of COMESA, Malawi promises to champion collaboration between COMESA and UNESCO so that the former gains from the knowledge base generated by UNESCO. Furthermore, at a time when the world is experiencing unprecedented natural disasters due to climate change and acute challenges in the provision of clean energy, the priorities set out in the science programme ensure that UNESCO plays its rightful role as a think tank in our efforts to make our world a safe place for future generations.

2.5 My delegation therefore considers the priorities outlined in the social and human sciences programme to be extremely pragmatic. We support UNESCO's intention to utilize science, technology and innovation for social development. In this regard, my delegation hopes that through the envisaged subregional offices, southern Africa will once again benefit more from the services of the Social and Human Sciences Sector.

2.6 Cultural heritage is the bedrock upon which our civilizations are built. My delegation believes that our generation is the honorary custodian of our cultural heritage for future generations. In that noble role, we need to protect, promote and conserve that which has been entrusted to us. We therefore wish to register Malawi's gratitude to those Member States that are financially supporting UNESCO to strengthen the implementation of the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Malawi believes that this support will also go a long way in the promotion of international understanding and intercultural dialogue.

2.7 Building knowledge societies is the driving force for the cultivation of peace and sustainable development. My delegation believes that UNESCO should be the vanguard of fostering communication and information capacities for

universal access to knowledge to bridge the information divide. This would promote the cross-fertilization of ideas and prevent any re-inventing of the wheel. It would be unfair not to comment on the Participation Programme, which is the concrete tool which assures UNESCO's visibility in Member States. My delegation would like to commend the Director-General for her assurance that this programme will continue to be adequately resourced.

2.8 Finally, I also wish to acknowledge the work that National Commissions are doing to ensure UNESCO's visibility in Member States. In order that they may continue this good work, I suggest that they should not be left behind in the reform processes currently underway. Madam President, Madam Director-General, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much for your attention.

### 3. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Basic and Secondary Education and Literacy of the Central African Republic, Her Excellency, Ms Gisele Annie Nam, the floor is yours.

#### 4.1 **Mme Nam (République centrafricaine) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, chefs de délégation, honorables délégués et observateurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est pour moi un réel plaisir et un grand honneur de vous présenter, Madame la Présidente, au nom du Gouvernement de la République centrafricaine et de la délégation que je conduis, mes compliments pour la confiance que les représentants des États membres ici présents vous ont accordée en vous portant à la présidence des travaux de cette 36<sup>e</sup> session. Qu'il me soit permis d'adresser à la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mme Irina Bokova, au nom du Président de la République centrafricaine et du Gouvernement, le témoignage de notre gratitude et de notre reconnaissance pour l'attention particulière que l'Organisation accorde à mon pays par des actions multiformes afin de consolider la paix après deux décennies tumultueuses et sombres de son histoire, que chaque Centrafricain veut désormais oublier.

4.2 Aujourd'hui, le renforcement du rôle de l'UNESCO dans un monde en pleine transformation nous semble une tâche d'une extrême importance, une tâche indispensable et urgente, absolument irremplaçable, compte tenu des fonctions intellectuelles et éthiques que l'Organisation remplit au service d'un but fondamental : la construction de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes.

4.3 Madame la Présidente, honorables délégués, nous percevons avec plus d'acuité l'actualité de notre Acte constitutif, qui assigne à l'UNESCO la mission de « contribuer au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité en resserrant, par l'éducation, la science et la culture, la collaboration entre nations [...] ». C'est forts de cette solidarité intellectuelle que nous devons bâtir notre monde et préserver les générations futures du fléau de la guerre ; car, en ce début de XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle, on assiste à une recrudescence des conflits entre les nations, à des combats au sein des nations, à des violences contre l'être humain et sa dignité, à des conflits entre les cultures, entre les générations, à des injustices et des phénomènes d'exclusion intolérables. Nous le constatons, l'Afrique est malheureusement, aujourd'hui, le théâtre de ces multiples défis. C'est pourquoi mon pays continue de déployer des efforts pour faire des territoires du Nord, du Nord-Ouest et du Nord-Est de la République centrafricaine – qui connaissent encore une vague d'insécurité résultant des actions hostiles de bandes armées non conventionnelles qui terrorisent et violentent la population civile, occasionnant des mouvements de réfugiés et de personnes déplacées – un havre de paix. Face à cette situation et malgré les récents efforts du Gouvernement de mon pays à travers la démobilisation et la réinsertion des ex-combattants, la paix sociale est encore fragilisée par les exactions et les attaques répétées orchestrées par les rebelles de l'Armée de résistance du Seigneur (LRA) de Joseph Kony dans la sous-région. Aussi, afin de consolider ses acquis démocratiques, mon pays sollicite-t-il l'appui de la communauté internationale pour éradiquer définitivement cette culture de violence qu'il essaie de combattre avec ses moyens limités.

4.4 Madame la Présidente, l'UNESCO et ses États membres doivent assumer la lourde responsabilité morale et éthique de transmettre aux générations futures une planète en paix avec son passé, son présent et son avenir. Les bases d'un tel objectif doivent être jetées dès l'école. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement centrafricain souhaite vivement que l'UNESCO continue de soutenir sa Stratégie nationale du secteur de l'éducation (2008-2020). Pour permettre à la majorité de la population d'acquérir la qualité de citoyen responsable, éclairé, capable de travailler dans le but d'améliorer ses conditions de vie, le Gouvernement a doté le pays d'un plan national d'alphabétisation. Les projets nationaux relatifs à l'amélioration et à la restructuration de notre système éducatif prennent également en compte l'enseignement technique et l'enseignement supérieur, ainsi que la recherche. Dans cette optique, le Gouvernement encourage la promotion de l'enseignement technique et professionnel en développant les partenariats entre les milieux professionnels et les centres de formation, avec la création d'un Ministère de l'enseignement technique. Par ailleurs, des efforts particuliers seront déployés dans les domaines scientifiques et technologiques, notamment les sciences de la nature, en vue de mettre en valeur les immenses ressources naturelles du territoire grâce à une exploitation rationnelle de ces ressources aux fins d'un développement durable du pays. Dans le domaine de la communication, le Gouvernement a mis un accent particulier sur la promotion de la presse tant publique que privée et apprécie à sa juste valeur l'appui multiforme de l'UNESCO en la matière.

4.5 Madame la Présidente, honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je ne saurais clore mon propos sans réaffirmer, au nom du Gouvernement de mon pays, l'attachement de la République centrafricaine aux idéaux de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre très aimable attention.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, *merci beaucoup Madame le Ministre*. And now I would like to ask the Minister of Education and Vocational Training of United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Mr Shukuru Kawambwa to come to the floor. The floor is yours, sir.

6.1 **Mr Kawambwa** (United Republic of Tanzania):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to congratulate you Madam on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference. I commend the outgoing President of the 35th session of the General Conference for his exemplary leadership. My government welcomes the inspiring address by the Director-General and commends her excellent leadership.

6.2 This General Conference is taking place at a time when the world is witnessing major social upheavals and transformations. The unprecedented global financial and economic crises and the prevailing global inequalities in wealth distribution continue to have the greatest impact on developing countries and on their ability to participate and benefit fully from UNESCO programmes. UNESCO should continue to raise awareness among governments and the international community to explore the social sector and invest more in education. It is through education and knowledge that we can overcome ignorance, eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development. I would like to thank the Director-General for the efforts she is making in this area and assure her of my government's full support.

6.3 My government is grateful to the Director-General for presenting a much more focused draft programme and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, which takes into account the financial difficulties facing many Member States. We welcome the enhancement of programme activities in Part II of the budget. However, for future budgets, my government wishes to see a much more innovative approach that will further enhance resource allocation to benefit programme activities. We support the proposed budget ceiling of \$653 million and we wish to see programme implementation with measurable outcomes and impact.

6.4 Madam President, education must be addressed in a holistic manner. Concerted efforts should be made to attain education for all (EFA) goals, in particular the quality of education, without which education is meaningless, education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally-agreed development goals. We welcome the proposed programme for the next biennium, particularly UNESCO's actions in capacity building for teachers in sub-Saharan Africa, in HIV/AIDS and education, in literacy for empowerment, in promoting Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education and in education for sustainable development, in response to the Plan of Action of the Second Decade for Education in Africa, and to the African Union's (AU) "Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action."

6.5 My government supports UNESCO's major international science programmes, the international engineering programme, renewable energy, earth science education for Africa, and science, technology and innovation (STI). In this regard, I would like to thank the Director-General for the support we have received from UNESCO in undertaking the STI systems review in Tanzania. My government also supports UNESCO's actions, in particular in climate change mitigation and adaptation, the ethics of science and technology, the African youth strategy, fostering youth-led social innovation, the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme and the centre for women, gender and peace-building in the Great Lakes region. We further support the importance of culture as a lever for economic and social development and as a pillar for environmental sustainability, the African Liberation Heritage programme, education for a culture of peace, and the various UNESCO conventions in the field of culture, tangible and intangible. My government wishes to see a balance between natural heritage conservation and sustainable development in helping to combat poverty and other socio-economic development challenges. The United Republic of Tanzania is about to ratify the 2003 and 2005 cultural conventions following the completion of the necessary procedures.

6.6 My government is concerned by the digital divide and the ever-widening information gap. In this regard, the government is currently working to extend the broadband network to all segments of society. Much needs to be done in areas in which UNESCO can play a role, particularly in capacity building, and in the promotion of universal access to information and knowledge. My government commends the Director-General for her commitment to the two UNESCO global priorities, Priority Africa and gender equality, and other priority areas including small island developing States (SIDS).

6.7 Madam President, my government welcomes the various reforms of UNESCO that require the restructuring of the Secretariat and the field offices. With respect to the reform of the field network in Africa, we invite the Director-General to pay particular attention to a balanced and even distribution of field offices. These should be manned by competent and experienced senior staff with extensive knowledge of the regions and their specificities. The Director-General should further foster close cooperation with National Commissions by taking advantage of locally available entities and resources and should ensure a streamlined reporting line between field offices and Headquarters. Tanzania is a United Nations "Delivering as One" country with a good track record. We wish to see the UNESCO office in Dar-es-Salaam strengthened in order to build on the already laid foundations of United Nations reform. Madam President, I thank you very much for listening.

7. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I am giving the floor to the Minister of Secondary Education of Chad, His Excellency Mr Oumar Ben Moussa.

### 8.1 **M. Moussa** (Tchad) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames, Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, honorables invités, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un réel plaisir et un honneur de prendre la parole devant cette auguste Assemblée à l'occasion de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Je voudrais, avant tout propos, féliciter Mme Katalin Bogayay pour sa brillante élection comme Présidente de cette session. J'adresse les mêmes félicitations à la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, ainsi qu'à la Présidente du Conseil exécutif et au Secrétariat de la Conférence, pour la qualité du travail consacré à la préparation de la présente session. Je voudrais m'adresser plus particulièrement à la Directrice générale pour lui rendre un hommage mérité et la féliciter pour l'efficacité et le courage dont elle fait preuve à la tête de l'UNESCO depuis son élection. Je saisis cette occasion pour l'encourager dans cette voie, tant les défis sont encore nombreux, notamment en termes d'éradication de l'analphabétisme, de bonne gouvernance, de promotion de la femme et de l'éducation des filles, d'adaptation aux changements climatiques.

8.2 Dans mon pays, le Tchad, les changements climatiques sont vécus comme une véritable catastrophe, avec l'avancée du désert et l'assèchement du lac Tchad, dont la superficie ne représente plus aujourd'hui que 2 500 km<sup>2</sup>, alors qu'elle était de 25 000 km<sup>2</sup> dans les années 1960. C'est pourquoi le Président de la République, S. E. M. Idriss Déby Itno, a profité de toutes les tribunes internationales pour lancer un appel solennel à tous les partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux de l'Afrique afin que des actions audacieuses et déterminantes soient engagées dès maintenant en vue de sauver le lac Tchad mais aussi et surtout de sauver les 30 millions de personnes concernées par cet écosystème, en vue de maintenir la sécurité et la paix dans la région.

8.3 Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, honorables invités, la paix règne désormais sur l'ensemble du territoire tchadien, depuis la signature de l'accord politique du 13 août 2007 avec l'opposition démocratique et, surtout, depuis la réconciliation avec la République sœur du Soudan, intervenue en 2010. Cette paix retrouvée a permis de réaliser des progrès significatifs dans le développement du pays, notamment dans les domaines des infrastructures scolaires, routières et sanitaires. Quant au processus démocratique, il avance inexorablement avec l'organisation, en 2011, d'élections présidentielle et législatives libres et transparentes. Le Président de la République, S. E. M. Idriss Déby Itno, a placé son nouveau mandat sous le signe de la renaissance du Tchad. Les trois premières années du quinquennat seront consacrées au monde rural, avec la modernisation de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, considérés comme richesses pérennes du Tchad. Au cours de ce mandat, les jeunes et les femmes verront leur situation s'améliorer grâce à la mise en place d'un fonds de 44 milliards de francs CFA en leur faveur.

8.4 S'agissant de l'éducation, beaucoup reste à faire malgré une nette amélioration des infrastructures et du taux de scolarisation. En effet, le Tchad est toujours confronté à un manque d'enseignants qualifiés. Cette situation est d'autant plus préoccupante qu'au niveau primaire plus de 60 % des enseignants sont des maîtres communautaires sans formation pédagogique. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement a créé, en 2009, 14 nouvelles écoles normales d'instituteurs, pour couvrir ainsi les 22 régions du Tchad, ce qui permettra, nous l'espérons, avec l'appui de nos partenaires, d'améliorer la qualité de l'éducation, dont le rendement interne et externe est encore faible. De même, il compte introduire les technologies de l'information et de la communication dans les programmes d'enseignement et de formation, en vue de réduire le grand retard accusé par notre pays dans ce domaine à l'heure du « tout numérique ». Tout en réitérant, au nom du Gouvernement, nos remerciements à l'UNESCO et à tous les partenaires techniques et financiers qui accompagnent notre pays dans la mise en œuvre des programmes de développement, je voudrais renouveler notre souhait de voir l'UNESCO et nos autres partenaires renforcer leurs interventions au Tchad pour l'aider, notamment, à atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Je pense par exemple au Programme de renforcement des capacités en faveur de l'EPT (CapEPT), à l'Initiative de l'UNESCO pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne (TTISSA), au programme d'inscription des sites naturels et mixtes des lacs d'Ounianga, du parc national de Zakouma et de la région d'Archei avec ses peintures et gravures rupestres. Pour sa part, mon pays est déterminé à soutenir notre Organisation afin qu'elle continue d'assumer, avec l'efficacité qui lui est reconnue, ses responsabilités pour le bien de toute l'humanité. Pour finir, permettez-moi d'associer ma voix à celle de mes collègues pour dire combien le Tchad apprécie et soutient la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013 et le Programme et budget pour 2012-2013, qui continuent d'accorder une place de choix à l'Afrique et à la femme. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

### 9. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency for your statement. I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Mali, Her Excellency Ms Siby Ginette Bellegarde, the floor is yours.

### 10.1 **Mme Bellegarde** (Mali) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames, Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi d'adresser mes félicitations à la Présidente de la Conférence générale pour le choix porté sur sa personne pour conduire les travaux de cette 36<sup>e</sup> session. Je voudrais également saluer le travail remarquable effectué par la Présidente du Conseil exécutif depuis la fin de la 35<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Le Mali apprécie les efforts que Madame la Directrice générale a déployés en direction du continent africain dès le début de son mandat, ainsi que son engagement aux côtés des pays africains pour relever les grands défis auxquels ils sont confrontés dans les domaines de compétence de l'Organisation.

10.2 Madame la Présidente, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, dans le domaine de l'éducation, le Mali se félicite que la réalisation de l'Éducation pour tous figure toujours parmi les priorités de l'UNESCO. Il salue la volonté affirmée de renforcer l'impact de l'UNESCO en 2012-2013 et exprime son adhésion au Programme de renforcement des capacités

en faveur de l'EPT (CapEPT). Au Mali, des réformes récentes ont procédé à un redimensionnement de certaines structures éducatives en vue d'un recentrage des activités sur des objectifs éducatifs spécifiques. La scolarisation des filles et l'alphabétisation des femmes, qui ont toujours constitué, pour le Mali, une priorité, continueront de bénéficier d'une attention toute particulière. Vous me permettez de souligner, à cet égard, que nous avons été honorés par le choix porté sur la personne de notre Premier Ministre, Mme Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé, comme membre du Panel de haut niveau sur l'éducation des filles et des femmes pour l'autonomisation. Nous avons perçu ce choix comme un encouragement de notre politique de scolarisation des filles et nous nous engageons à l'intensifier. En ce qui concerne l'enseignement supérieur, le Mali se réjouit de constater que le prochain programme de l'UNESCO aidera les pays à améliorer l'accès et la qualité de l'enseignement supérieur, en veillant à ce qu'il favorise le développement et l'égalité des sexes. Notre souhait est que l'UNESCO accompagne la dynamique des réformes en cours dans mon pays, notamment en facilitant l'accès des étudiants à une documentation de qualité à travers l'opérationnalisation de la Bibliothèque universitaire centrale.

10.3 Madame la Présidente, s'agissant du programme relatif aux sciences exactes et naturelles, le Mali apprécie les actions envisagées par l'UNESCO en matière de politique scientifique, technologique et de gestion de l'innovation. Conformément à ses objectifs de gestion durable et de préservation de l'eau douce, des ressources terrestres et de la biodiversité, le Mali, qui vient d'accueillir une rencontre internationale sur le Bassin du Niger, adhère à l'idée des réseaux de connaissances africains sur les ressources en eau et des réseaux de renforcement des capacités en matière de génie fluvial.

10.4 Concernant les sciences humaines et sociales, le Mali suggère que, parallèlement au Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO, dont il salue le succès de la dernière édition, il soit créé un forum des ministres de la jeunesse pour une meilleure prise en charge par les pouvoirs publics des préoccupations de la jeunesse. Par ailleurs, mon pays soutient l'initiative du Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines d'organiser une conférence mondiale sur le rôle des sciences humaines au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle.

10.5 Dans le domaine de la culture, le Mali a noté avec satisfaction que, dans une large mesure, ses préoccupations ont été prises en compte. Cependant, la faible référence à la question des langues et du multilinguisme a retenu notre attention. À cet égard, avec le Bénin et d'autres États membres, mon pays a soumis à la Conférence générale un projet de résolution concernant la création d'un sommet mondial sur le multilinguisme, afin de placer cette question au sommet des priorités mondiales et garantir ainsi la réalisation des OMD.

10.6 Concernant le programme relatif à l'information et à la communication, le Mali constate avec satisfaction qu'il est conçu pour tirer parti des effets positifs de la communication et de l'information au service du renforcement de la démocratie, du développement et du dialogue, tout en accordant une attention particulière à la liberté d'expression et à la liberté d'information. Le Mali recommande, à cet égard, la prise en charge, dans le cadre du Programme « Priorité Afrique », des projets d'associations d'archivistes et bibliothécaires pour une large coopération internationale et sous-régionale, tout en mettant l'accent sur la création de bibliothèques numériques interactives.

10.7 Permettez-moi, pour conclure, de réitérer l'adhésion du Mali aux nobles idéaux de paix de l'UNESCO et de réaffirmer sa conviction que le dialogue, la résolution pacifique des conflits et le développement constituent pour les pays africains les meilleurs choix à faire face aux défis auxquels ils sont confrontés. Je vous remercie.

11. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* And now I would like to ask the Minister of National Heritage of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr Jagath Balasuriya to come to the floor. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

12.1 **Mr Balasuriya (Sri Lanka):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO's noble mandate to build peace in the minds of men and women is universally accepted and we greatly appreciate the many efforts being made by the Organization to forge international intellectual moral solidarity through its various programmes in education, sciences, culture and communication, as enshrined in its Constitution. UNESCO will need to feel 65 years young if it is to have the energy and dynamism to face the huge and complex challenges besetting the world today.

12.2 Today, we face many challenges: poverty, terrorism, climate change and the associated environmental issues and food security figure prominently in the global agenda. Sri Lanka cannot remain immune to any of these global problems. Despite having suffered a massive natural disaster in the form of the 2004 tsunami, and while trying to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the stipulated time-frame, Sri Lanka was still able to successfully achieve middle-income status, demonstrating the country's immense perseverance.

12.3 Sri Lanka, having eliminated ruthless terrorism after three decades, is the only country in the world to have successfully defeated terrorism in recent years. Today, Sri Lankans of all ethnicities living in all parts of the country are free from fear. Sri Lanka has stepped into a new era as a confident nation with a robust economy. I am proud to state that GDP growth is consistent, standing at 8% and the country has been upgraded to 52nd place by the World Economic Forum in its Global Competitiveness Report for 2011-2012. Sri Lanka is now well on its way to forging national unity, having resettled a vast majority of internally displaced persons and rehabilitated all former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) combatants, most of whom have been reintegrated into society.

12.4 In accordance with our policy of quality education for all, Sri Lanka is initiating programmes to enhance the national free education system, in order to shape a generation which will transform Sri Lanka into a knowledge hub within Asia. To this end, we have integrated information and communication technology (ICT) education into the school curriculum. The launch of national action plans on education for peace and sustainable development, which is also a



UNESCO global flagship programme, is in keeping with the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

12.5 The UNESCO Executive Board has taken the bold step of proposing that the General Conference admit Palestine into the fold of UNESCO, to enable its long suffering population, who are presently in a stateless situation, to gain support to address their basic needs in education, scientific advancement, cultural preservation and to improve their communication with the rest of the world. Sri Lanka believes that the people of Palestine should be given a just and lasting solution to their longstanding demand which, in turn, could influence the rest of the world. As such, it is the whole world that stands to benefit. We strongly support Palestine's UNESCO membership. Are we therefore going to stand in their way and also in the way of fostering global peace by saying no to such an initiative? This is the question we all have to answer today. Let us be true to ourselves and to society to which we owe a great deal, so that our children and future generations may live in a better world.

12.6 Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, Sri Lanka believes that in a globalized world the international community has an important role to play in the global challenges facing the world. Programmes must be revitalized to meet the demands of today's realities. The strategic direction of this Organization, therefore, should lead the way in reducing the divide between the developed and the developing worlds. At the core of UNESCO and of its programmes lies the seed that cultivates a complete human being. Hence, this August assembly should make a conscious decision to take the previously untravelled road. I wish every success to the work of the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. Thank you.

13. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. And now I give the floor to the Minister of Education of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, His Excellency, Mr Roberto Aguilar.

14.1 **Sr. Aguilar** (Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia):

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Directora del Sector de Ciencias Sociales, representante de la Directora General, representantes y delegados, distinguidas y distinguidos asistentes: al mismo tiempo que expresar un cordial saludo del pueblo y Gobierno del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, soy portador de un saludo respetuoso del Presidente Evo Morales y de las 38 expresiones culturales y lingüísticas, pueblos, naciones y comunidades coexistentes en nuestro territorio.

14.2 Bolivia es orgullosamente diversa y en ello reside su inmensa riqueza como nación, aunque al mismo tiempo esa pluralidad constituye un inmenso desafío en la construcción del nuevo Estado plurinacional comunitario y en la construcción de las nuevas políticas públicas que deben responder a dos vertientes: una que respete a plenitud lo diverso y la otra que nos aleje de las condiciones de pobreza extrema que los modelos neoliberales precedentes han agudizado en las últimas décadas. Respetar lo diverso implica necesariamente descolonizar el Estado y las relaciones sociales preexistentes, para que nunca más retornen la discriminación, la exclusión, el racismo, y la jerarquización social e institucional, que fueron las formas más dramáticas que impuso la dominación de un Estado extranjero sobre nuestros pueblos originarios y que se proyectó en el tiempo después de la propia independencia como resabio de las formas coloniales, prohibiendo a los indígenas acceder a la educación, destruyendo importantes expresiones culturales o buscando homogeneizar las comunidades a través del monolingüismo. La segunda vertiente está ligada a la necesidad de luchar contra la extrema pobreza y construir la nueva sociedad del vivir bien. El vivir bien implica necesariamente un proceso colectivo, comunitario, solidario, fraterno. Como expresa el Presidente Evo Morales, no se puede vivir bien, si el otro, si el hermano, vive mal.

14.3 El Gobierno de Bolivia ha impulsado una política social que pone la educación junto a la cultura como primera responsabilidad del Estado, expresada en la declaratoria de país libre de analfabetismo, esfuerzo solidario alcanzado con la ayuda de Cuba y Venezuela, lo que ha permitido consolidar el derecho a la educación para todas y todos sin restricción de edad, región, expresión cultural, lengua o condición social. Junto a ello se ha impulsado como eje articulador del nuevo sistema educativo plurinacional, la intraculturalidad, es decir, el respeto a la lengua materna y los saberes y conocimientos de los pueblos como base de su educación. En este sentido se ha creado el Instituto Plurinacional de Lenguas y Culturas, para que desde la propia construcción y organización indígena originaria se asuma la responsabilidad de normalizar y desarrollar el componente lingüístico y curricular. Ello se complementa con las estrategias educativas para consolidar un modelo socio-comunitario productivo que convertirá la educación tradicional en la nueva educación democrática, ética, patriótica, científica y liberadora, con programas priorizados en equidad e igualdad de oportunidades, en pueblos y naciones indígenas, en fronteras y en regiones de extrema pobreza, grupos vulnerables y en riesgo social, así como en el de las personas con capacidades diferentes. Todos ellos son los espacios de acción.

14.4 Señoras y señores: nos encontramos en este espacio internacional para compartir con todos ustedes tres aspectos importantes. Primero, los logros en el ámbito de la educación del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia. Segundo, reconocer el apoyo que la UNESCO ha brindado a Bolivia y cuyos resultados han beneficiado a miles de niñas y niños, adolescentes, jóvenes, adultos y adultos mayores. Y tercero, poner a disposición de todos ustedes la experiencia que Bolivia ha obtenido en la educación intracultural, intercultural y el plurilingüismo, fundamentalmente relacionadas con los pueblos y naciones indígenas. Es nuestro aporte para que, así como nos hemos beneficiado con experiencias de otros Estados hermanos, también puedan beneficiarse otros pueblos y naciones en bien de la humanidad, de la paz mundial y para que desaparezcan las desigualdades, la inequidad y la injusticia social. Muchas gracias.

(14.1) **M. Aguilar** (État plurinational de Bolivie) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Sous-Directrice générale pour les sciences sociales et humaines et représentante de la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants et délégués, honorables

participants, tout en vous adressant un salut cordial au nom du peuple et du Gouvernement de l'État plurinational de Bolivie, permettez-moi de vous transmettre les respectueuses salutations du Président Evo Morales, ainsi que des 38 identités culturelles et linguistiques, peuples, nations et communautés qui coexistent sur notre territoire.

(14.2) La Bolivie est fière de sa diversité, qui fait sa grande richesse en tant que nation, même si cette pluralité constitue aussi un immense défi pour la construction du nouvel État plurinational communautaire, ainsi que pour l'élaboration des nouvelles politiques publiques qui doivent prendre en compte deux aspects : le plein respect de la diversité, et l'élimination des conditions de pauvreté extrême que les modèles néolibéraux précédents ont exacerbées au cours des dernières décennies. Le respect de la diversité suppose nécessairement de décoloniser l'État et les relations sociales qui prévalaient jusqu'alors, afin de ne jamais voir revenir la discrimination, l'exclusion, le racisme et la hiérarchisation des relations sociales et institutionnelles, qui ont été les conséquences les plus dramatiques de la domination d'un État étranger sur nos populations autochtones et qui se sont perpétuées même après l'indépendance, tel un vestige des régimes coloniaux, empêchant les autochtones d'accéder à l'éducation, détruisant d'importantes expressions culturelles ou cherchant à homogénéiser les communautés par le biais du monolinguisme. Le deuxième aspect a trait à la nécessité de lutter contre l'extrême pauvreté et d'instaurer une nouvelle société du « bien vivre ». Ce concept implique nécessairement un processus collectif, communautaire, solidaire et fraternel. Comme l'a déclaré le Président Evo Morales : « on ne peut vivre bien si l'autre – si le frère – vit mal ».

(14.3) Le Gouvernement bolivien a mis en place une politique sociale faisant de l'éducation la première responsabilité de l'État, aux côtés de la culture, comme en témoigne le fait que le pays ait été déclaré exempt d'analphabétisme. Cet effort solidaire, qui a été possible avec le soutien de Cuba et de la République bolivarienne du Venezuela, a permis de consolider le droit à l'éducation pour tous et toutes, quels que soient l'âge, la région, l'identité culturelle, la langue ou la condition sociale. En parallèle, l'interculturalité, c'est-à-dire le respect de la langue maternelle, des savoirs et des connaissances des peuples comme fondement de l'éducation, est devenue l'axe central du nouveau système éducatif plurinational. C'est dans cette optique qu'a été créé l'Institut plurinational des langues et cultures, afin que la structure et l'organisation autochtone assume elle-même la responsabilité de normaliser et de développer la composante linguistique et curriculaire. À cela s'ajoutent des stratégies éducatives destinées à consolider un modèle sociocommunautaire productif qui permettra de transformer l'éducation traditionnelle en une nouvelle éducation démocratique, éthique, patriotique, scientifique et libératrice, avec des programmes donnant la priorité à l'équité et à l'égalité des chances, aux populations et aux nations autochtones, aux zones et aux régions les plus pauvres, aux groupes vulnérables exposés à des risques sociaux, ainsi qu'aux personnes en situation de handicap. Tous ces domaines constituent notre champ d'action.

(14.4) Mesdames et Messieurs, nous sommes ici au sein de cette instance internationale afin de partager avec vous trois points importants : tout d'abord, les réalisations de l'État plurinational de Bolivie dans le domaine de l'éducation ; deuxièmement, la reconnaissance du soutien que l'UNESCO a apporté au pays, et dont les résultats ont bénéficié à des milliers d'enfants, d'adolescents, de jeunes, d'adultes et de personnes âgées ; et troisièmement, le partage avec vous tous de l'expérience acquise par la Bolivie dans les domaines de l'éducation intraculturelle et interculturelle et du multilinguisme, qui sont fondamentalement liés aux populations et aux nations autochtones. De la même manière que nous avons bénéficié des expériences de nos États frères, d'autres peuples et nations pourront en tirer parti, pour le bien de l'humanité et la paix mondiale, afin de mettre un terme aux inégalités et à l'injustice sociale. Je vous remercie.

15. **The President:**

*Muchas gracias.* And now I give the Minister of Education of Maldives the floor, Her Excellency Ms Sifa Mohammed. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

16.1 **Ms Mohammed (Maldives):**

*Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm* (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate) Madam President of the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, honourable ministers, ladies and gentlemen, *as-salāmu 'alaikum* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). It is my pleasure and privilege to join others in warmly congratulating you, Madam President, on your election to this very important post. I wish you every success in your new role. May I also take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her unrelenting efforts to reform UNESCO to serve the noble causes of peace and shared prosperity.

16.2 Madam President, the United Nations Millennium Declaration set 2015 as the target date to achieve eight important goals. I am proud to announce that Maldives has already achieved five out of eight MDGs, way ahead of the 2015 deadline, making it South Asia's only "MDG+" country. Challenges remain, such as the goals on gender and the environment. While gender parity has been achieved in education and the proportion of women in paying jobs is increasing, men still dominate at the decision-making levels in our country. Meeting the environmental goals is especially critical to the country, considering the heavy reliance of the Maldivian economy on its environmental resources. Therefore, much work is being done towards achieving environmental sustainability although the country remains geographically vulnerable to climate change and to environmental concerns. Despite the limitations, Maldives is set to go carbon neutral by 2020, becoming the first country in the world to do so.

16.3 Madam President, protecting and safeguarding our natural heritage, especially the underwater heritage, is a government priority. I commend UNESCO for having included in the Organization's priorities the focus on scientific issues with a global impact such as the health of the oceans and climate change. I would especially like to mention that the Maldives' Baa Atoll has, for the first time, been placed on the world biosphere reserve list. And now we are working towards placing one of our heritage sites, the Friday Mosque, on the World Heritage List.

16.4 Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, education contributes to the economic stability of a nation by increasing the knowledge and skills of the people, ultimately leading to increases in income. In addition to economic stability, education promotes civil and international peace as well as cultural tolerance and understanding. It has multiple effects, empowering people to bring about informed and necessary changes in their lives. Thus, not only does education benefit the person learning, but also the community in which they live. I am encouraged by the significant

improvement in education standards and the narrowing of the disparity gap in achievement levels across the atolls in the Maldives.

16.5 In light of the recent social and political changes in the country, we have undertaken the process of reforming our school curriculum to place greater emphasis on socio-economically relevant themes and issues, life skills, and the development of values and information technology skills. The reformed curriculum upholds human rights, democracy and justice. However, much remains to be done to deliver holistic, quality education. There is no doubt that quality education can only be delivered by quality teachers. Therefore, the training of quality teachers is a priority area for the government. However, teacher education in the Maldives has not been able to keep up with the rapid expansion of the education sector. To compensate for the lack of trained teachers, local teachers with little more than a lower or higher secondary-level qualification are employed in Maldivian schools. The lack of sufficient trained local teachers has also necessitated the employment of a large number of expatriate teachers, especially at the secondary and higher secondary levels.

16.6 At the inaugural session of this conference, Madam Director-General stated that "half of the world's population is under the age of 25". In Maldives it is no different; our population is relatively young. Many young Maldivians require the knowledge and skills that are necessary to be employable today. Hence, the government of Maldives has started an ambitious skills development programme to provide vocational training to many young Maldivian workers. I understand that UNESCO also gives high priority to youth development and to the participation of youth in national development. This will be crucial for a small island nation like ours.

16.7 Madam President, this is the first time Maldives has taken part in the UNESCO General Conference since 2008, when many of us rejoiced as the country held its first fully democratic presidential election. In the same way that a democratic South Africa sent a signal to the world that Africa was changing, the democratic movement of the Maldives has sent a signal that the Muslim world too can change. Despite the difficulties faced in the full transition to a democratic system, the Maldives must send a message to the world. Nonetheless, much remains to be done in the consolidation of our infant democracy, including the strengthening of the judiciary and the full implementation of the legal system.

16.8 Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, before concluding I would like to draw this body's attention to the plight of the people of Palestine in establishing formal recognition of their right to Statehood. I would like to reiterate the Maldivian Government's firm position of solidarity with Palestine. To this effect, the Maldives strongly supports Palestine's application to join UNESCO and the United Nations as a whole. We believe that the time for Palestine to attain full membership to all international organizations is long overdue. Let me conclude by reaffirming the Maldives's commitment to the great ideals that UNESCO stands for; and to creating a better world. Thank you for your attention.

#### 17. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Guinea, His Excellency, Mr Morike Damaro Kamara.

#### 18.1 **M. Kamara (Guinée) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, en prenant part aux travaux de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, la République de Guinée, par ma voix, voudrait tout d'abord transmettre aux éminents représentants des pays membres de l'UNESCO le salut fraternel et amical du peuple de Guinée, du Gouvernement guinéen et de son Président, M. Alpha Condé. Notre message est aussi un message de paix, de concorde et de gratitude à l'endroit de l'UNESCO, qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour accompagner notre pays depuis son adhésion à son Acte constitutif. Qu'il me soit ensuite permis, au nom de la délégation guinéenne et en mon nom personnel, de féliciter tout particulièrement Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale pour sa brillante et méritoire élection à la présidence de cette 36<sup>e</sup> session. Je suis persuadé que ses immenses qualités professionnelles et sa riche expérience lui permettront de conduire avec efficacité les travaux de la présente session. C'est aussi l'occasion de remercier et féliciter vivement, Madame, votre prédécesseur, qui a su, avec lucidité et clairvoyance, diriger la 35<sup>e</sup> session, dont les résolutions et recommandations pertinentes ont permis d'imprimer un saut qualitatif à notre Organisation et d'affiner son impact dans la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire, dont l'Éducation pour tous. Je voudrais également saluer la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, femme de culture et d'expérience dotée des qualités nécessaires pour diriger avec clairvoyance cette instance. Qu'il me soit enfin permis de profiter de cet instant solennel pour adresser mes vives félicitations à Mme Irina Bokova, première femme Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, qui, grâce à ses compétences professionnelles et à sa riche expérience, dirige notre Organisation avec succès. Madame la Présidente, mon pays, qui a commencé cette année à jouir de la démocratie après plusieurs décennies de tâtonnements et de convulsions, est en train de mettre progressivement en place les bases d'une démocratie véritable et d'un retour à l'ordre constitutionnel, gages de son développement. À cet égard, les plans d'action pour les années à venir dans le domaine de l'éducation intègrent largement la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

18.2 Madame la Présidente, la multiplicité et la complexité des défis auxquels sont confrontés les pays les moins avancés dans le contexte d'un monde globalisé invitent certes à mobiliser des ressources financières mais aussi et surtout à réformer structures et méthodes afin de mieux cerner les problèmes et les réalités à la base. Nous nous félicitons des performances remarquables obtenues par certains programmes en cours d'exécution, au nombre desquels il convient de citer l'Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne (TTISSA), qui concourt au renforcement des capacités et à la qualification des enseignants. Nous souhaitons une plus grande implication de l'Organisation dans les stratégies en matière d'enseignement technique, de formation professionnelle et de promotion de l'égalité des sexes, ainsi qu'une réadaptation des objectifs des grands programmes I et II aux réalités des pays pauvres, surtout quand on sait que la formation professionnelle constitue un moyen de lutte contre la pauvreté et le chômage.

Pour accompagner les initiatives à cet égard, la République de Guinée a d'ores et déjà mis en place, à l'instar d'autres États membres, une série de structures, notamment le Comité national de bioéthique, le Comité national du Programme hydrologique international et le Comité national du Programme Mémoire du monde. En définitive, c'est autour des défis liés à la persistance de l'analphabétisme, à la pandémie du SIDA, à la préservation de l'environnement, à la stabilité sociopolitique et à la nécessaire vulgarisation de la science et de la technique qu'il faudra davantage articuler les programmes afin de rendre notre Organisation encore plus efficace et dynamique pour atteindre les objectifs de la seconde moitié de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable. Pour y parvenir, il est souhaitable de procéder à une impérieuse répartition des ressources disponibles et de recentrer les programmes de l'UNESCO autour des défis auxquels nos États sont confrontés en termes d'Éducation pour tous, de valorisation des ressources humaines, de protection de l'environnement, pour ne citer que ces thématiques.

18.3 En approuvant dans son ensemble le Projet de programme et de budget pour le biennium à venir, mon pays estime que le 36 C/5 devrait s'adapter aux défis auxquels l'Afrique fait face en prenant en compte les activités de renforcement des capacités du secteur privé, des ONG et de la société civile actives dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO. Il convient aussi de souligner que c'est à travers un savant dosage entre l'éducation, la science et la culture que l'Afrique pourra se doter des ressources humaines nécessaires pour accélérer son développement économique. C'est pourquoi l'apport de l'UNESCO est particulièrement important pour créer des centres d'excellence au sein du système éducatif, afin de faire face à l'épineuse problématique de la fuite des cerveaux. Pour terminer, je souhaite plein succès aux travaux de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Je vous remercie.

19. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* And now ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Solomon Islands, His Excellency Mr Dick Ha'amori. The floor is yours.

20.1 **Mr Ha'amori (Solomon Islands):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, it is a great honour for me to speak today on behalf of my people of the Solomon Islands. UNESCO's broad mandate is of crucial importance to my country and to the whole of the Pacific region. Never before has education been so important to us especially when the world population is increasing exponentially, bringing about new, ominous challenges. Expert knowledge in all areas of science is needed to help us not only to pursue our development, but also to survive already existing threats such as climate change. Our cultures, our environment and our 87 languages are our social wealth, but we need to work hard to preserve them. Furthermore it is through modern communication and free media that our remotest islands are able to participate in the new global debates.

20.2 Madam President, my country was honoured by Ms Bokova's visit to the Solomon Islands early on in her mandate and we are pleased to note that small island developing states are close to her heart. We can only urge UNESCO to increase its programmes and presence in the Pacific region. Allow me now to briefly outline some of our most urgent needs.

20.3 While we have made significant progress in basic education, our education system now needs to be strengthened not only in early childhood education, but particularly in our focus areas of school-to-work transition, technical, vocational and educational training and higher education, particularly in teacher training and the sciences. In today's world, it is no longer enough "to teach a man to fish", as the saying goes, but our children must know how to monitor the oceans that provide our sustenance, how to preserve nature, how to build and navigate ships, and how to better negotiate the complex markets of the global economy. In order to achieve these goals, the Solomon Islands Government has decided to create a national state university. Madam President, we seek not only UNESCO's expert advice in this matter, but also believe cooperation with UNESCO's Member States will help us in this huge effort.

20.4 In the area of science, we must improve the level of teaching of the subject in our schools. We therefore hope to work with UNESCO and other partners to prepare schools and teachers for the new and intimidating challenges now confronting the Solomon Islands and other SIDS. Climate change is a life-threatening reality which is now forcing us, reluctantly, to take mitigation measures. Adaptation to climate change has become a daily concern. The issues are complex but with UNESCO's support through education and the pure sciences, the complexities can be broken down into small steps to be taken one day at a time. Climate change is an issue that needs all UNESCO sectors to work together. We need to educate our children to understand the changes happening in their daily environment. We need to increase our efforts in adult literacy because only educated persons can be convinced to give up their homes and livelihoods to move to safer ground, a measure that will be soon be necessary for thousands of people on our islands and in neighbouring small-island countries.

20.5 Madam President, next year, in 2012, the Solomon Islands will be the proud host of the Pacific Arts Festival. This event takes place every four years and next year will attract about 3,000 participants from 22 countries and territories from every corner of the Pacific. We hope to have UNESCO's support in many ways to celebrate the diversity and richness of our cultures, our Pacific identities of which we are so proud. I hope to welcome many of you as participants at this extraordinary event.

20.6 The geographic remoteness of our islands requires modern communication and information technologies in order to enable citizens to participate in the local, national and global community. Challenging as it may be, we hope to use ICT to increase and upgrade the quantity and quality of our education services, and to better train our human resources to meet our needs. Any assistance from UNESCO and its partners in this regard will be welcomed. In the area of communication, my government continues to stress the importance of the freedom of expression. For example, only last week we proudly hosted a regional workshop on press freedom and the responsibilities of journalists. This was done in partnership with UNESCO, of course, and the international federation of journalists.

20.7 In conclusion, Madam President, indeed UNESCO is a very important educational and scientific development partner to my country and other small island developing states. It is therefore in our interest that UNESCO's fundamental mandate be upheld at all times and not compromised by non-UNESCO mandate intrusions. For other interests, I am convinced that there are certainly the relevant forums and occasions. Thank you very much for your attention.

21. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. I would like to ask the Minister of Education for Liberia, His Excellency, Mr Othello Gongar to come to the floor.

22.1 **Mr Gongar (Liberia):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we bring you greetings from Ms Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, the Government and the people of the Republic of Liberia, and on their behalf congratulate the President and the corps of officers elected to guide the deliberations of the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

22.2 Madam President, Liberia, a country emerging from a period of civil conflict and a founding member of this august body, reaffirms her continuing commitment to engage in constructive dialogue to improve the lives of her citizens and the people of the world at large. The Government of Liberia is aware that war begins in the minds of men and women. That is why our focus is on developing an education system that addresses the needs of Liberian children. Liberian children coming out of a period of civil conflict need their government to reorganize and strengthen the national curriculum, emphasizing the sciences, Liberia's history, language and culture and to improve teaching methods. They need a reassertion of the government's commitment to shaping tomorrow's workforce out of today's students. Out of the chaos of 15 years of warfare has come an education system that promotes free and compulsory basic education, that guarantees quality secondary and tertiary education, and that ensures the participatory development of the sector.

22.3 As is often said, chaos offers opportunities for change. That is why the President of Liberia organised an education conference to review the education sector. Out of that conference came an education reform act that uses decentralization to structure the delivery of education. The new act identifies decentralization as the organizational and administrative structure for the delivery of education throughout the country. The act also aims to galvanize teacher-training programmes, implementing free access to teacher education at all of the country's private and public teacher education institutions. We have developed alternative learning programmes for the over-aged children who were denied an education as a result of the civil war and are now returning to school. We have established open teacher-training institutes in the country.

22.4 In spite of these achievements, the Government of Liberia is neither complacent nor satisfied. The Government realizes that the engine that will drive economic and social recovery is powered by the education sector. That is why the development of the post-basic education, skills development and girls' education are among the major priorities of the Government of Liberia. It is our belief that in the coming years, UNESCO and other bilateral and multilateral donors will understand and continue to support the desire of the Ministry of Education to take the lead in the development and design of an education system that benefits Liberian children. Madam Director-General, Madam President of the General Conference, we have passed a freedom of information act. We are now introducing culture into our curriculum. We are teaching the Liberian languages in our school system. We ask, therefore, that in this period of reconstruction, in our attempt to make up for the years destroyed by the civil war, UNESCO will grant us full support in the Organization's areas of competence. Thank you.

23. **The President:**

Thank you so much for your intervention, Your Excellency. I would now like to ask the Vice-Minister of Education, Education Planning and Culture of Paraguay, Her Excellency, Ms Diana Carolina Serafini, to come to the floor.

24.1 **Sra. Serafini (Paraguay):**

Señora Presidenta de la 36ª Conferencia General, autoridades de la Mesa, señoras y señores: los países de América Latina compartimos en los últimos años procesos de avance que ponen en el centro la justicia social, la construcción de ciudadanía, la interculturalidad, la celebración de la diversidad como edificación de sociedades realmente democráticas, que al tiempo de reafirmar sus identidades se abren a la región y al mundo para crecer y desarrollarse.

24.2 El Paraguay inició hace tres años un proceso de construcción y afirmación de políticas públicas que pone a los derechos humanos en su centro y que potencia la dimensión social de dichas políticas. En ese contexto, el país ha concentrado sus esfuerzos en la escuela pública que se construye como un espacio comunitario de aprendizaje subjetivo y colectivo, donde se forma como persona al ser humano y se forma también como ciudadano o ciudadana. Una prioridad ha sido la resignificación de la educación media, para dar respuestas pertinentes a tantos adolescentes y jóvenes que están fuera del sistema educativo o, que si están dentro, no encuentran opciones acordes a sus expectativas. La propuesta elaborada atiende al alumnado en su necesidad actual hoy, y contribuye a la construcción de su proyecto de vida. Entiende que lo que algunos sectores califican como "jóvenes violentos o violencia escolar juvenil" es un reflejo de la violencia estructural de la sociedad y un resultado de las respuestas que los adultos y adultas no hemos sido capaces de dar a las generaciones que nos suceden. Actualmente se están diseñando el currículo y los planteamientos metodológicos de este nivel, articulando la participación protagónica con la preparación para el mundo del trabajo y la continuidad de su trayectoria formativa. El desafío es concretar este proceso en la realidad del aula.

24.3 Por otra parte, uno de los 11 programas emblemáticos del Gobierno nacional, "Paraguay Lee y Escribe", busca saldar la deuda histórica con las personas iletradas. El programa trabaja en la alfabetización de personas jóvenes y

adultas, con énfasis en las mujeres y en las poblaciones indígenas en sus lenguas originarias. Trabaja en la postalfabetización y en la calidad de la alfabetización inicial, es decir, el reforzamiento de las capacidades de lectoescritura en la educación escolar básica para no seguir alimentando el analfabetismo funcional. Otro componente es el de investigación, el cual a través del Programa de Evaluación y Seguimiento de la Alfabetización (LAMP) de la UNESCO mide los niveles de alfabetismo de la población. Con ayuda de la UNESCO estamos en la etapa final de este estudio que nos permitirá ajustar la política pública a las necesidades reales.

24.4 La Campaña de Apoyo a la Gestión Pedagógica de Docentes en Servicio, la educación indígena, la política de incorporación de tecnologías de la información y la comunicación a la educación teniendo como centro no solo a los alumnos y alumnas sino también a los docentes, el proceso de consolidación de la gratuidad de la educación, con la Ley de gratuidad de la educación inicial y media aprobada en 2010, la merienda y el almuerzo escolar, la universalización de la canasta básica de útiles escolares para todos los alumnos y alumnas, desde la educación inicial hasta la educación de personas jóvenes y adultas, contribuyen a garantizar la educación como derecho fundamental, como bien público, a lo largo de toda la vida.

24.5 Sin embargo, la calidad de la educación sigue siendo un desafío. También lo es la igualdad de género en la educación, dado que los grupos más conservadores de la sociedad intentan trabar el cumplimiento del rol del Estado y su obligación normativa de brindar educación integral de la sexualidad, uno de los caminos para luchar contra la discriminación de las mujeres, y hasta cuestionan la concepción de género como construcción cultural.

24.6 En el ámbito cultural, la Secretaría Nacional de Cultura constituye un nuevo actor político-institucional que ha conseguido la triplicación de su presupuesto en cinco años y ha alcanzado logros relevantes, como la recuperación del centro histórico de la nación, la recuperación y modernización de los museos nacionales, la instauración de mecanismos de participación para el ejercicio de los derechos culturales, el impulso al programa de cautela y promoción del patrimonio cultural material e inmaterial a través del inventario del patrimonio nacional y el inicio de un programa específico en torno al patrimonio inmaterial. La UNESCO ha desempeñado un papel clave para varios de estos logros con asistencia técnica, intercambio de experiencias y acceso a oportunidades de cooperación. De esta manera estamos pasando, como nos desafiara la sexta CONFINTEA, de la retórica a la acción, respondiendo a los nuevos escenarios locales que, así como los nuevos escenarios mundiales, nos compelen a construir juntos nuevas respuestas que se comprometan con la centralidad del ser humano y con el buen vivir.

24.7 Así como nuestros países, la UNESCO necesita actuar articulando lo emergente, lo impostergable y lo prospectivo. Lo emergente constituido por los mandatos sociales de aquellos colectivos que no tuvieron la oportunidad de exigir sus derechos; lo impostergable como la obligación de saldar las deudas históricas con la educación, la ciencia y la cultura a fin de no seguir reproduciendo las inequidades sociales ni sosteniendo estructuras excluyentes. Y lo prospectivo como aquellas trayectorias que podemos construir en escenarios más pluralistas y participativos, como conquistas liberadoras que en las aulas y en las comunidades van entretejiendo, entre sueños y esperanzas, el devenir de una patria nueva y de un nuevo mundo. Les saludo en guaraní, que junto al castellano es idioma oficial de mi país: *aguyjevete peême che rendu haguére*. Les agradezco por haberme escuchado.

(24.1) **Mme Serafini** (Paraguay) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Bureau, Mesdames et Messieurs, tous les pays d'Amérique latine ont connu ces dernières années des processus de développement accordant la priorité à la justice sociale, à la construction de la citoyenneté, à l'interculturalité et à la célébration de la diversité comme moyens d'édifier des sociétés véritablement démocratiques qui, tout en réaffirmant leurs identités, s'ouvrent à la région et au monde pour croître et se développer.

(24.2) Il y a trois ans, le Paraguay a lancé un processus d'élaboration et de promotion de politiques publiques axées sur les droits de l'homme et la dimension sociale. Dans ce contexte, le pays concentre ses efforts sur l'école publique, conçue comme un espace communautaire d'apprentissage subjectif et collectif, au sein duquel l'être humain se construit en tant qu'individu et citoyen. La redéfinition de l'enseignement secondaire a été l'une des priorités, afin d'offrir des réponses pertinentes aux nombreux adolescents et jeunes qui se trouvent en dehors du système éducatif ou qui, s'ils sont scolarisés, ne rencontrent pas d'opportunités conformes à leurs attentes. La proposition mise au point répond aux besoins actuels de l'élève et participe à la construction de son projet de vie. Il faut comprendre que ce que certains qualifient de « jeunes violents » ou de « violence scolaire » reflète la violence structurelle de la société et l'incapacité des adultes à apporter des réponses aux générations suivantes. Le programme et les approches méthodologiques du secondaire, qui sont en cours d'élaboration, associent la participation active des élèves à la préparation au monde du travail et à la continuité du parcours de formation. Le défi consiste à concrétiser ce processus dans la réalité des salles de classe.

(24.3) Par ailleurs, l'un des 11 programmes emblématiques du Gouvernement national, « Le Paraguay lit et écrit », vise à régler la dette historique envers les personnes analphabètes. Le programme est axé sur l'alphabétisation des jeunes et des adultes, et met l'accent sur les femmes et les populations autochtones dans leur langue maternelle. Il porte également sur la post-alphabétisation et la qualité de l'alphabétisation initiale, c'est-à-dire le renforcement des capacités en lecture et en écriture dans l'éducation scolaire de base, afin que l'analphabétisme fonctionnel cesse d'être entretenu. Un autre aspect est celui de la recherche qui, par le biais du Programme d'évaluation et de suivi de l'alphabétisation (LAMP) de l'UNESCO, mesure les niveaux d'alphabétisme de la population. Avec l'aide de l'UNESCO, nous sommes parvenus à la phase finale de cette étude qui nous permettra d'ajuster la politique publique en fonction des besoins réels.

(24.4) La Campagne de soutien à la gestion pédagogique des enseignants en exercice, l'éducation autochtone, la politique d'intégration des technologies de l'information et de la communication dans l'éducation, axée non seulement sur les élèves mais aussi sur les enseignants, le processus de consolidation de la gratuité de l'éducation, avec la loi sur la gratuité de l'enseignement primaire et secondaire approuvée en 2010, les services de cantine scolaire, la généralisation du panier de fournitures scolaires de base pour tous les élèves, du primaire jusqu'à la formation des jeunes et des adultes, sont autant d'éléments qui contribuent à faire de l'éducation un droit fondamental et un bien public, tout au long de la vie.

(24.5) La qualité de l'éducation reste toutefois un défi. L'égalité des genres dans l'éducation en est un également, étant donné que les groupes de la société les plus conservateurs tentent d'empêcher l'État de s'acquitter de son rôle et de son obligation normative s'agissant d'assurer une éducation sexuelle complète, qui constitue l'un des moyens de lutter contre la discrimination à l'égard des femmes, et remettent même en question la notion de genre comme construction culturelle.

(24.6) Dans le domaine de la culture, le Secrétariat national de la culture est un nouvel acteur politico-institutionnel qui a réussi à tripler son budget en l'espace de cinq ans, avec des réalisations pertinentes, comme la restauration du centre historique de la nation, la restauration et la modernisation des musées nationaux, la mise en place de mécanismes participatifs pour l'exercice des droits culturels, le développement du programme de préservation et de promotion du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel à travers l'inventaire du patrimoine national, et le lancement d'un programme spécialement consacré au patrimoine immatériel. L'UNESCO a joué un rôle clé dans plusieurs de ces réalisations, notamment par son soutien technique, le partage d'expériences et l'accès aux possibilités de coopération. De cette manière, nous passons des paroles aux actes, comme nous y invitait la sixième CONFINTEA, face aux nouveaux scénarios locaux qui, tout comme les nouveaux scénarios mondiaux, nous obligent à trouver ensemble de nouvelles réponses axées sur l'être humain et sur le « bien vivre ».

(24.7) Tout comme nos pays, l'UNESCO doit articuler son action autour de trois éléments : l'émergent, l'impératif et le prospectif. L'émergent a trait aux exigences sociales des groupes qui n'ont jusqu'à présent pas eu l'occasion de faire valoir leurs droits. L'impératif, c'est l'obligation de régler les dettes historiques envers l'éducation, la science et la culture afin de cesser de reproduire les inégalités sociales et d'entretenir les structures qui créent de l'exclusion. Enfin, le prospectif, ce sont ces parcours que nous pouvons tracer tels des scénarios toujours plus nombreux et participatifs, ces conquêtes libératrices qui vont tisser, au sein des salles de classe et des communautés, entre rêves et espoirs, l'avenir d'une nouvelle patrie et d'un monde nouveau. Permettez-moi de vous saluer en guarani, qui est avec l'espagnol la langue officielle de mon pays : *agujjevete peême che rendu haguére*. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Sierra Leone, His Excellency, Mr Minkailu Bah.

26.1 **Mr Bah (Sierra Leone):**

Madam President of the General Conference, your Excellencies, Heads of State of UNESCO Member States, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, let me start my presentation by congratulating the President on her election to preside over this 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference, and to also congratulate Ms Irina Bokova on her election to the high office of Director-General of UNESCO and to wish her a successful tenure of office.

26.2 Madam President, I have the honour and pleasure of conveying to you warm congratulations from the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Sierra Leone is very proud of its UNESCO membership because of the noble ideals of the Organization. Since its accession to UNESCO membership nearly five decades ago, Sierra Leone has benefited and continues to benefit immensely from direct technical and institutional support from the Organization, especially in the education sector. As you all know, my country went through a brutal, 10-year civil war, witnessing massive atrocities, human suffering and the extensive destruction of public institutional infrastructure. Almost a decade after the end of the war in 2002, the country has been grappling with the challenges of post-conflict reconstruction and development. Thankfully, as a nation, we have benefitted from the goodwill, commitment and support of the international community in our desire to rebuild the county from the ashes of war.

26.3 Madam President, in terms of social and economic development, Sierra Leone is in an extremely unenviable position. Demand, and consequently enrolment, at all levels of education has increased a great deal in the last six to seven years. The increase has been particularly large at grades 1 to 9, the basic education level. Between 2004 and 2010 overall enrolment at the basic education level rose from less than 1 million to almost 1.5 million. The enrolment of boys increased by 42% while that of girls increased by 58%. Over the same period of time, the gender parity index (GPI) value based on gross enrolment rates (GER) for grades 1 to 6 rose from 0.90 to 0.94, while for the GPI for grades 7 to 9 rose from 0.66 to 0.80. Our success in significantly increasing access and enrolment and reducing gender disparity has brought in its wake a number of challenges. Classroom and school construction was not able to keep up with the rising numbers of enrolments, and large classes as well as double-shift schooling are now the norm in cities and large towns. The training of teachers was also unable to keep up, and untrained teachers, and teachers teaching at levels higher than that for which they were trained are now present at every level of schooling.

26.4 The present-day and most daunting challenge is to provide access to quality education and skills training for the children who were denied formal education during the war. This calls for improved access to standardized, demand-driven technical and vocational educational training (TVET) skills. At this point, I wish to remind Madam Director-General specifically that the Government of Sierra Leone has made a humble request through the UNESCO regional office in Accra, Ghana, for the services of an international expert in curriculum development for the TVET project currently being implemented by my ministry with funding from the Islamic Development Bank. I am kindly appealing that this request be urgently considered to ensure speedy implementation of the TVET project, the completion of which we consider to be critical to the development of the TVET sub-sector in Sierra Leone. The United Nations and its agencies, especially UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have been at the forefront of supporting our post-conflict development efforts – particularly in the education sector. Progress made in a nation's development cannot be accurately assessed without referring directly to that nation's education profile. Education is the key to development – it is the hub around which all other things revolve.

26.5 Madam President, UNESCO has helped and continues to demonstrate commitment to assisting Sierra Leone in the development of education. A national policy on teacher training and development and a TVET policy has been formulated by the government with technical support from UNESCO. Work is also under way in collaboration with

UNESCO to implement institutional reform for teacher training and development and to provide facilities for non-formal adult education in our communities nationwide. Let me hasten to inform this gathering that UNESCO's intervention in Sierra Leone has not been limited to the education sector alone. Very recently, in the first year of the biennium, a proposal was submitted to UNESCO for the provision of a technical expert to work with local staff to prepare a comprehensive project document for the restoration of Bunce Island as a UNESCO historical site. Bunce Island, Members should know, was a slave port from where captured slaves were transported to the Americas and to other countries. I am also happy to mention that UNESCO is in the process of setting up a media resource centre for all media practitioners in Sierra Leone.

26.6 Madam President, let me inform members of this august gathering that during the 35th session of the General Conference, I was honoured to have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between UNESCO and the Government of Sierra Leone. The full implementation of this MoU is yet to be achieved. I would therefore like to use this podium to appeal to the Director-General and her Executive Board to ensure the full implementation of the intent of that MoU.

26.7 Madam President, Sierra Leone as a developing nation is anxious to bring rapid, sustainable and inclusive development to its people. In conclusion therefore, I am appealing to all our partners, particularly international development and financial institutions, to support the development aspirations of Sierra Leone to bring about the positive changes and human development enshrined in my government's agenda for change and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). I thank you for your attention and may God bless us all.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to the Secretary from the Ministry of Education of Nepal, His Excellency, Mr Shankar Prasad Pandey.

28.1 **Mr Pandey (Nepal):**

Madam President of the 36th session of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, honourable ministers, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour and privilege for me to attend this General Conference as the representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. I bring to this august gathering best wishes from the Himalayan country of Nepal and from her 26 million people for its wholehearted success. At the outset, let me extend our warm congratulations to you, Madam Chair, for your unanimous election to the chair. We have no doubt that with your rich diplomatic experience and ability, you will accomplish your responsibility with fairness and dignity. My delegation extends to you our fullest cooperation. Let me also thank with great appreciation, His Excellency, Ambassador Davidson Hepburn, President of the 35th session of the General Conference, who accomplished his duties in an exemplary manner. I also take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and thanks to Ms Irina Bokova, the Director-General, for her visionary thoughts, firm leadership and unflinching hard work to accelerate UNESCO's visibility in Member States. We recall your visit to our country with fond memories, and we greatly value your kind support and cooperation in our endeavours to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the education for all (EFA) goals. My delegation welcomes the admission of Curaçao and Sint Maarten as new associate members to our Organization. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to Madam Chair of the Executive Board for her hard work and dedicated services. My delegation commends the Secretariat for making excellent arrangements for the General Conference. We also recognize the encouraging contributions made by UNESCO's regional bureaus, cluster offices and country offices, whose tireless efforts have no doubt increased the visibility of UNESCO in our respective countries.

28.2 Distinguished delegates, our past efforts with cooperation from UNESCO have resulted in significant achievements in the fields of education, science, culture, communication, human development and social science. In Nepal, we have succeeded in enrolling 94.5% of school-age children in school. Similarly, the literacy rate has also increased significantly. Nepal acknowledges that education plays a pivotal role in the process of poverty alleviation and in national development. We have therefore been trying to associate it with income generation by creating more employment opportunities.

28.3 We greatly appreciate the efforts and campaigns launched by UNESCO in education for sustainable development. Nepal fully recognizes that if we re-orient our education to education for sustainable development, the next generation will be better prepared to take proactive action to reduce the adverse effects of climate change, and to address many similar challenges that we are also facing today.

28.4 Culture is our most prominent asset, as well as a symbol of national identity. However, much of this natural and cultural heritage is in danger of disappearing due to rapid changes in the social and natural environments. We have yet to answer a vital question: how to safeguard and promote our valuable tangible and intangible heritage? It is therefore extremely important for my delegation that our deliberations identify solutions based on practical policies and programmes to address our common problems and challenges. In this regard, I would like to extend sincere thanks to UNESCO, to the Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) and to the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) for their invaluable contributions in building capacity for our personnel through appropriate training to safeguard the cultural heritage in Asia and the Pacific region. Nepal will continue in its efforts to safeguard our UNESCO world heritage sites, and we need continuing support and cooperation in this regard.

28.5 Distinguished delegates, the initiatives taken by UNESCO through various conventions to safeguard and promote people's rights to information are encouraging. However, UNESCO must increase its efforts to build capacity for media organizations and media personnel, especially in countries in phases of conflict, post-conflict and transition. It is proven that community and FM radio stations are the most effective means to ensure ordinary people have access to



information. I am happy to note that Madam Director-General, in her report, has aptly acknowledged Nepal's efforts in this regard. It would therefore be pertinent for UNESCO to encourage Member States to establish and mobilize FM radio stations as much possible. Since the restoration of multi-party democracy in the country, Nepal has made encouraging achievements in the communication and information sector, especially in electronic and print media. In this regard, the initiatives taken by UNESCO for ICT education and ICT in education are extremely beneficial to countries like ours.

28.6 Madam Chair, a brief survey of world development indicates that domestic and international conflicts form an integral part of human civilization. I feel proud to inform you that in November 2006, Nepal successfully managed to bring a decade-long armed domestic conflict to a complete halt thanks to the wisdom and hard work of our leaders. It has paved the way for the establishment of the peaceful environment that now reigns in the country. Nepal is in the process of writing an inclusive constitution to institutionalize peace and accelerate the process of socioeconomic development and transformation. At this critical juncture, Nepal naturally expects further support and cooperation from other countries and international agencies such as UNESCO.

28.7 Madam Chair, my delegation notes with great sadness that our world has been facing diverse challenges from climate change, global warming, flooding, endemic poverty, unemployment, violation of human rights to terrorism which are threatening the sustainability of achievements made by humanity thus far. Nepal is becoming a victim of global warming, climate change and natural disasters. As the least developed countries (LDCs), including Nepal, are not the countries with the greatest responsibility for this situation, my delegation looks forward to UNESCO taking further action to expedite and strengthen its advocacy to developed Member States to widen collaboration and actions in this regard. UNESCO should further strengthen its internal and external communication channels to disseminate best practices and bring the issues to the forefront. The Organization should lobby for the introduction of a "polluters pay" policy and the adoption of environmentally-friendly approaches to development.

28.8 Madam Chair, UNESCO's country development programme could be a very effective means of ensuring synergies between UNESCO's programme and Member States' national programmes at the field level. Nepal, in view of our experience of the effectiveness of collaborative efforts between National Commissions and field offices, urges UNESCO to strengthen such processes to make these roles more effective. Finally, I hope LDCs like Nepal will benefit from continuing meaningful support from UNESCO in the Organization's specific areas of competence. Thank you for your kind attention.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to ask the Permanent Secretary of the Saint Lucia Ministry of Education and Culture, Her Excellency, Ms Rufina Frederick to come to the floor.

30.1 **Ms Frederick (Saint Lucia):**

Madam President of the 36th session of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen, permit me to offer my sincere congratulations to you on behalf of the Minister of Education and Culture, Honourable Arsene James, and the Government of Saint Lucia, upon your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference. We wish you every success during this important period for UNESCO.

30.2 It would be remiss of me not to thank Dr Davidson Hepburn, President of the 35th session of the General Conference, for his astute stewardship during his tenure. Dr Hepburn, in spite of your acclamation that you "did it your way", St Lucia's evaluation places on record that "you faced it all and you stood tall" as the first President from the Caribbean. On this note Madam President, I wish to alert you that through these hallowed walls, there is contemplation, reflection, introspection and assessment of the future of the "C" in GRULAC. We warmly welcome our neighbours Sint Maarten and Curaçao to the family of UNESCO.

30.3 Madam President, Saint Lucia remains steadfast and reaffirms its commitment to UNESCO's values. In these unprecedented times, the Organization requires robust leadership, focused action and continuous monitoring and evaluation. In this regard, we congratulate the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her accomplishments and tough positions on sensitive issues during the past two years. We fully support the results of the independent external evaluation and are looking forward to their full implementation. The endorsement by the Director-General of the reform is commendable, with the pilot stage already initiated. We welcome the proposal to extend the Programme and Budget from two to four years and the Medium-Term Strategy from four to eight years. UNESCO's mandate, by its very nature, dictates that change is necessary for improved coordination, coherence, and synchronization, as well as opportunities to reduce duplication. We wish also to commend the Director-General for her support for small island developing States.

30.4 Madam President, climate change and global warming, ecological crises, natural and man-made disasters, and environmental degradation are ravaging humanity. The Organization's contributions in those fields of competence, in particular disaster management, oceanography, early warning systems for tsunamis, reduction of marine hazards, and protection of our coastal zones and applied research, are critical. We strongly believe that UNESCO's priority is education, while we also recognize the importance of culture for development by promoting the role of culture across the agenda, including in economic development, in social and digital inclusion and in lifelong learning. This should be achieved by deliberately embedding culture in all programmes: through digitization, documentation and preservation of our heritage, by fully supporting the already-established conventions that are the best instruments to achieve the objectives of Member States and through the promotion of cultural industries for social inclusion and the reduction of poverty. As regards gender parity, particular emphasis will continue to be placed on the learning needs of women and girls, but in the Caribbean region we require special assistance with the under-participation and under-performance of young men and boys in our education system.

30.5 Madam President, in this world where the only thing that is certain is change, education for all remains one of the most effective, reliable and engaging tools through which sustainable development, peace and cultural diversity can be achieved. The international community has committed to achieving education for all (EFA) by the year 2015. While Saint Lucia has achieved 100% universal access in both primary and secondary education, and prides itself on its education system having produced two Nobel Laureates, Sir Arthur Lewis in economics and the Honourable Derek Walcott in literature, significant concerns remain. For example, the financial and economic crisis and natural disasters have slowed our progress. Last year, for instance, was a very challenging year indeed for the education sector in Saint Lucia. The schools in the eastern part of the country were recovering from the devastating effects of major flooding when, less than three weeks later, disaster struck again. The island's infrastructure – roads, electricity, communication and water – was ravaged by Hurricane Tomas in October 2010. There were several fatalities. No school was spared. The resources of the Ministry of Education were stretched to their limits. We express our gratitude to the international community, and in particular to UNESCO, for their financial support for the education sector.

30.6 Other concerns include the quality of education, limited access to early childhood education and the limited opportunities available in higher education, as well as the lack of employability skills for our youth and the scarcity of technological innovation in our education system. We are concerned because the tides that influenced our education system have changed and the education and social landscape is very different. The demands of the labour market are increasing with the advancement of new technologies. Moreover, weakening traditional family ties and the community-based social support systems are putting our youth at risk. UNESCO's assistance is required to develop policies and programmes to address prevailing youth problems and issues such as substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and values education.

30.7 Madam President, in our country education is recognized as a basic human right, a foundation for achieving the wider social, cultural and economic goals for our small country and is an investment in human resource development. In this regard, peace, sustainable development, the promotion of science and culture, and the prosperity of our people can only flourish on the free, confident and meaningful input of every citizen. Thank you Madam President.

*Ms Kamath (Australia) takes the Chair*

**31. The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Altangerel Shukher, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Ambassador, you have the floor, thank you.

**32.1 Г-н Шукер (Монголия):**

Уважаемая госпожа председатель Генеральной конференции, уважаемая госпожа председатель Исполнительного совета, уважаемая госпожа Генеральный директор, дамы и господа. Госпожа председатель, позвольте, прежде всего, искренне поздравить вас с избранием на должность председателя 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции и выразить полную готовность Монголии к сотрудничеству с вами. Правительство Монголии также приветствует 194-го члена ЮНЕСКО – Южный Судан. По приглашению г-жи Генерального директора, правительство Монголии организовало 25 октября в этом зале выступление ансамбля наших национальных инструментов, и я хочу от всей души поблагодарить всех, кто принял наше приглашение и смог почувствовать дух монгольского культурного наследия.

32.2 Правительство Монголии выражает удовлетворение итогами первого официального визита Генерального директора ЮНЕСКО г-жи Ирины Боковой в нашу страну. Этот визит совпал с важными для нас годовщинами: 100-летием национальной независимости, 90-летием народной революции, 50-летием вступления Монголии в ООН. Этот официальный визит сыграл важную роль в углублении отношений Монголии и ЮНЕСКО. В ходе визита был подписан Меморандум о сотрудничестве, условия которого наше правительство намерено успешно реализовать с ЮНЕСКО. В качестве председателя Сообщества демократий Монголия намерена организовать в следующем году международный семинар по образованию и демократии, и я убежден, что ЮНЕСКО активно поддержит эту нашу инициативу. Накануне 50-летия вступления Монголии в ЮНЕСКО наше правительство планирует организовать ряд важных мероприятий, которые позволят продемонстрировать плодотворность работы Монголии в ЮНЕСКО.

32.3 Госпожа Председатель, Монголия наряду с другими странами-членами считает, что инвестиции в образовательной сфере не должны быть сокращены из-за экономических трудностей, поскольку речь идет о нашем будущем и об устойчивом развитии. У нас осталось менее четырех лет для достижения шести утвержденных международным сообществом целей в сфере образования. Мы полностью поддерживаем деятельность ЮНЕСКО, направленную на продвижение образования для всех в интересах достижения целей Дакарского форума. Монголия придает важное значение доступности качественного образования, распространению грамотности, а также продвижению непрерывного и профессионального образования. Монгольское правительство приняло и реализует мастер-план по развитию образования на 2006-2015 гг. Этот план подразумевает как общее представление стратегических целей в области образования, так и средства по их достижению, в том числе ведомственные механизмы и средства для реализации реформы в этой сфере.

32.4 По инициативе Монголии Генеральная Ассамблея ООН провозгласила период 2003-2012 гг. Десятилетием грамотности. До конца объявленного десятилетия остался всего один год. И я хотел бы выразить нашу искреннюю благодарность всем государствам-членам, которые активно поддержали эту нашу инициативу. Значительное улучшение произошло в сфере распространения грамотности. Тем не менее неграмотность по-прежнему остается наиболее тревожащей нас проблемой среди девочек-подростков и женщин, которые составляют 2/3 из сотен миллионов неграмотных людей. В этой связи моя делегация приветствует инициативу ЮНЕСКО по гло-

бальному партнерству в целях образования девочек и женщин, принятую в мае этого года. Так как конец Десятилетия грамотности ООН уже близок, моя делегация подчеркивает важность организации отдельного международного форума для рассмотрения итогов Десятилетия и разработки плана на последующий десятилетний период. В связи с этим, мое правительство выражает особую благодарность за любезное приглашение, сделанное правительством Таиланда, организовать такую конференцию в 2013 г.

32.5 Госпожа Председатель, сфера культуры является областью, где сотрудничество между Монголией и ЮНЕСКО набирает темпы. На следующей неделе исполняется 10 лет со дня принятия Всеобщей декларации ЮНЕСКО о культурном разнообразии. По этому случаю, я рад сообщить, что правительство Монголии завершило перевод на монгольский язык резюме Всемирного доклада ЮНЕСКО «Вклад в культурное разнообразие и международный диалог», и в начале этой недели представило выполненную работу г-же Генеральному директору. Правительство Монголии и впредь намерено прилагать усилия, направленные на защиту и распространение форм культурного самовыражения, а также материального и нематериального культурного наследия.

32.6 Госпожа Председатель, моя делегация поддерживает предложенную Генеральным директором цель повышения роли и участия ЮНЕСКО в области науки и превращения ЮНЕСКО в ведущую международную научную организацию, и считает эту цель своевременной и адекватной. Климатические изменения, засухи, деградация почвы, опустынивание, нехватка запасов воды стали наиболее серьезными проблемами, с которыми столкнулось человечество.

32.7 Моя делегация высоко ценит приверженность Генерального директора реформам и поддерживает ее усилия по реформированию Организации в ее основных стратегических направлениях, что призвано повысить эффективность и действенность работы ЮНЕСКО. Спасибо за внимание.

(32.1) **M. Shukher** (Mongolie) (*traduit du russe*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs. Madame la Présidente, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous exprimer mes sincères félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale et de vous informer que la Mongolie se tient prête à vous apporter sa coopération. Le Gouvernement mongol salue également le 194<sup>e</sup> membre de l'UNESCO – le Soudan du Sud. À l'invitation de Mme la Directrice générale, le Gouvernement mongol a organisé le 25 octobre, dans cette même salle, un concert de nos instruments nationaux et je voudrais remercier de tout cœur tous ceux qui ont répondu à notre invitation et ont pu à cette occasion s'imprégner de l'esprit du patrimoine culturel mongol.

(32.2) Le Gouvernement mongol se félicite des résultats de la première visite de la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mme Irina Bokova, dans notre pays. Cette visite a coïncidé avec trois dates très importantes pour la Mongolie : le 100<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de son indépendance, le 90<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la révolution populaire et le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de son adhésion à l'ONU. Cette visite officielle a beaucoup contribué à renforcer les liens entre la Mongolie et l'UNESCO. Elle a été l'occasion de signer un mémorandum de coopération que notre Gouvernement entend mettre en œuvre avec l'aide de l'UNESCO. En sa qualité de Présidente de la Communauté des démocraties, la Mongolie a l'intention d'organiser l'année prochaine un séminaire international sur l'éducation et la démocratie, et je suis convaincu que l'UNESCO soutiendra activement cette initiative. À la veille du 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'adhésion de la Mongolie à l'UNESCO, notre Gouvernement prévoit de mettre en œuvre une série de mesures importantes qui permettront de démontrer l'utilité de l'action de la Mongolie au sein de l'UNESCO.

(32.3) Madame la Présidente, la Mongolie estime, avec d'autres pays membres, que les investissements dans le secteur de l'éducation ne doivent pas être réduits à cause des difficultés économiques, parce qu'il en va de notre avenir et de celui du développement durable. Il nous reste moins de quatre ans pour atteindre les six objectifs de l'éducation approuvés par la communauté internationale. Nous soutenons pleinement l'action de l'UNESCO visant à faire avancer l'éducation pour tous en vue d'atteindre les objectifs du Cadre d'action de Dakar. La Mongolie accorde une grande importance à l'accès à une éducation de qualité, l'alphabétisation, ainsi qu'au développement de l'enseignement professionnel et de la formation continue. Le Gouvernement mongol a adopté et mis en place pour la période 2006-2015 un plan directeur de développement de l'éducation, qui dresse une vue d'ensemble des objectifs stratégiques dans le domaine de l'éducation, ainsi que des moyens de les atteindre, notamment les mécanismes et les instruments de mise en œuvre de réformes dans le secteur.

(32.4) À l'initiative de la Mongolie, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a proclamé la période 2003-2012 « Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation ». Il ne reste qu'un an avant le terme de cette décennie et je voudrais exprimer notre sincère reconnaissance à tous les États membres qui ont activement soutenu notre initiative. Le développement de l'alphabétisation a enregistré de réels progrès. Néanmoins, l'illettrisme demeure un problème extrêmement alarmant chez les jeunes filles et les femmes, qui représentent les deux tiers des centaines de millions d'analphabètes. À cet égard, ma délégation salue l'initiative de l'UNESCO d'un partenariat mondial pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes adoptée en mai de cette année. Alors que la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation touche à sa fin, ma délégation souligne l'importance d'organiser un forum international en vue d'en examiner les résultats et d'élaborer un plan pour les dix prochaines années. À ce sujet, mon Gouvernement souhaite remercier particulièrement le Gouvernement thaïlandais pour son offre généreuse d'organiser une telle conférence en 2013.

(32.5) Madame la Présidente, la culture est un domaine où la coopération entre la Mongolie et l'UNESCO s'est intensifiée. La semaine prochaine marquera les dix ans de l'adoption de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle. À ce sujet, j'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que notre Gouvernement a fait traduire en mongol le résumé du Rapport mondial de l'UNESCO « Investir dans la diversité culturelle et le dialogue interculturel », et qu'au début de cette semaine il a présenté le résultat de ce travail à la Directrice générale. Le Gouvernement mongol entend agir à l'avenir pour la défense et la diffusion des expressions culturelles, ainsi que pour la protection du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel.

(32.6) Madame la Présidente, ma délégation soutient la proposition de la Directrice générale visant à renforcer le rôle et la participation de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de la science et à faire de l'UNESCO une organisation scientifique internationale de premier plan, objectif qu'elle juge opportun et adapté. Le changement climatique, les sécheresses, la dégradation des sols, la désertification et l'insuffisance des réserves en eau sont les problèmes les plus graves auxquels le monde doit aujourd'hui faire face.

(32.7) Ma délégation apprécie grandement l'attachement de la Directrice générale aux réformes et soutient ses efforts pour réformer l'Organisation dans ses orientations stratégiques fondamentales, afin d'améliorer l'efficacité et l'impact de son action. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

**33. The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Lorena Sol de Pool, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of El Salvador to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**34.1 Sra. Sol de Pool (El Salvador):**

Daré lectura al discurso del Excmo. Sr. Vicepresidente de la República y Ministro de Educación *ad honórem* Profesor Salvador Sánchez Cerén. Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, excelencias: reciban un saludo desde El Salvador y los mejores deseos para el desarrollo de esta Conferencia General.

34.2 Desde el 2009 hemos iniciado una política educativa de transformación plasmada en el Plan Social Educativo "Vamos a la escuela" 2009-2014 donde, entre otros, impulsamos la innovación, la ciencia y la tecnología, los programas de educación inicial, escuela inclusiva de tiempo pleno y alfabetización, con lo que hemos sentado las bases de una nueva escuela que responda a las necesidades relegadas tradicionalmente. La nueva escuela es parte del quehacer de la comunidad, impulsa a la participación activa de todos los sectores y actores locales nacionales y no se centra solo en la actividad educativa. En ella, la comunidad encuentra los ejes del plan social educativo: arte y cultura, recreación y deporte, e innovación, ciencia y tecnología. Así, la comunidad retoma su rol activo en la formación con calidad y calidez de sus hijos e hijas. El nuevo enfoque enfatiza una educación de calidad tomando en cuenta sus necesidades, igualdad de género, discapacidad, situación económica y etnia, priorizando aquellos sectores históricamente excluidos como la primera infancia y la adolescencia. La nueva escuela está fundamentada en la no discriminación, la igualdad, la equidad y la universalidad, derechos humanos que garantizan la igualdad de oportunidades y la plena participación social de los estudiantes.

34.3 La educación es un derecho humano establecido en nuestra Constitución. El Salvador reitera la importancia de que la UNESCO retome su liderazgo en la Educación para Todos y que se incrementen los recursos en el área educativa. Nuestro Gobierno tiene como reto histórico y como deuda con la sociedad salvadoreña el acceso a una educación de calidad y amplia cobertura. Solo educada la juventud puede alejarse de la violencia y convertirse en agentes de cambio positivo, para la formación de una nueva sociedad. Como Gobierno, hemos decidido reducir el analfabetismo del 17,9% al 5% en este periodo. Para lograrlo, el Programa Nacional de Alfabetización está atendiendo anualmente a más de 65.000 personas que no saben leer ni escribir. A través de 13.000 voluntarios alfabetizadores el programa ha llevado letras y conocimientos, abriendo oportunidades, a más de 100.000 adultos en una verdadera obra de amor y solidaridad.

34.4 Queremos expresar nuestros sinceros agradecimientos a la UNESCO, a través de su Directora General doña Irina Bokova, y a sus equipos de trabajo por todo su esfuerzo y apoyo que permitió al Consejo del Programa MAB declarar y certificar la reserva de biosfera transfronteriza Trifinio Fraternalidad como parte de la Red Mundial de Reservas de Biosfera. En la región Trifinio se unen las fronteras y las voluntades de tres países hermanos, El Salvador, Guatemala y Honduras, que trabajan por fortalecer la integración centroamericana, la hermandad y el desarrollo humano en armonía con la naturaleza. En la región estamos desarrollando el Programa de Alfabetización con 200 facilitadores y círculos de estudio y 608 asociados. Contamos con una *curricula* suplementaria de educación ambiental elaborada en el primer congreso trinacional de docentes y directores de casas de la cultura del área protegida nacional Montecristo.

34.5 Deseo comunicarles que recientemente El Salvador sufrió los efectos de la depresión tropical Doce-E. Sus impactos han sido más severos que el huracán Mitch de 1998 y mayores que los fenómenos de los últimos cinco años. Se ha roto el récord histórico. El cambio climático no es una amenaza, es una realidad. En diez días cayó en el país el 83% del promedio de precipitación anual. El 10% del territorio quedó inundado, 34 personas muertas, nueve de ellas estudiantes, y más de 50.000 evacuados, más de 500 albergues, entre los cuales se encuentran 300 escuelas habilitadas para miles de familias que abandonaron sus viviendas. El 80% de la infraestructura pública está dañada, calles, puentes, escuelas y clínicas de salud. Los suelos están sobresaturados, nuevas cárcavas y grietas amenazan la estabilidad de los suelos donde habitan importante cantidad de comunidades. Datos preliminares dados por el Señor Presidente Mauricio Funes muestran una pérdida en daños directos e indirectos que pueden alcanzar alrededor de 4 o 5 puntos del PIB, la rehabilitación y reconstrucción del país será casi tres veces mayor al costo del daño directo provocado por esta depresión tropical.

34.6 El apoyo solidario de ustedes es necesario, pero también es urgente que cada país asuma compromisos serios y responsables para reparar los daños causados a la naturaleza, tanto del reciente desastre, como la prevención de los futuros impactos. Debemos equilibrar el desarrollo garantizando el goce al sagrado derecho a una vida digna que tienen los seres humanos, repensar el desarrollo social económico y ambiental, retomando el enfoque planteado por el Programa MAB de la UNESCO. Por ello pedimos a la UNESCO no reducir el presupuesto asignado al Programa MAB en el 36 C/5, ya que este programa es concreto, exitoso y esencial para conservar los recursos naturales del planeta, que está en supremo peligro.

34.7 La esperanza del cambio en El Salvador crece cada día. El tiempo nos ha demostrado que un pueblo educado vence sus adversidades con menor dificultad. Nuestro Gobierno le apuesta decisivamente a la educación de su gente. Las nuevas generaciones tendrán una verdadera oportunidad de superación, inclusión y desarrollo si logramos nuestras metas por el nuevo El Salvador. Muchas gracias.

(34.1) **Mme Sol de Pool** (El Salvador) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Je vais donner lecture du discours de S. E. M. Salvador Sánchez Cerén, Vice-Président de la République et Ministre de l'éducation. Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de vous adresser les salutations d'El Salvador, ainsi que nos meilleurs vœux pour le déroulement de la présente session de la Conférence générale.

(34.2) Depuis 2009, nous mettons en œuvre une politique éducative transformatrice fondée sur le Plan social pour l'éducation intitulé « *Vamos a la escuela* » (2009-2014), grâce auquel nous encourageons, entre autres, l'innovation, la science et la technologie, ainsi que les programmes d'éducation de base et d'alphabétisation, pour une éducation inclusive à temps plein, afin d'asseoir les bases d'une nouvelle école qui réponde aux besoins habituellement relégués. Cette nouvelle école fait partie des tâches qui reviennent à la communauté. Elle favorise la participation active de l'ensemble des secteurs et acteurs locaux et nationaux, sans être exclusivement axée sur l'activité éducative. La communauté retrouve en elle les grands axes du Plan social pour l'éducation : art et culture ; sports et loisirs ; innovation, science et technologie. Elle reprend ainsi son rôle actif consistant à former ses enfants, avec qualité et chaleur. Cette nouvelle approche met l'accent sur une éducation de qualité qui prend en compte les besoins des enfants, l'égalité des genres, le handicap, la situation économique et l'origine ethnique, en accordant la priorité aux secteurs traditionnellement délaissés, tels que la petite enfance et l'adolescence. La nouvelle école que nous voulons instaurer repose sur la non-discrimination, l'égalité, l'équité et l'universalité, autant de droits fondamentaux qui garantissent l'égalité des chances et la pleine participation des élèves et des étudiants à la société.

(34.3) L'éducation est un droit fondamental inscrit dans notre Constitution. El Salvador réaffirme qu'il est important de faire en sorte que l'UNESCO retrouve son rôle de chef de file de l'Éducation pour tous, ainsi que d'accroître les ressources consacrées à l'éducation. Notre Gouvernement considère comme un défi permanent, et un devoir envers la société salvadorienne, l'objectif d'assurer le plus large accès à une éducation de qualité. Ce n'est que par l'éducation que les jeunes peuvent s'écarter de la violence et devenir les acteurs d'un changement positif en vue de l'édification d'une société nouvelle. Nous avons donc décidé de ramener le taux d'analphabétisme de 17,9 % à 5 % pendant notre mandature. Pour y parvenir, le Programme national d'alphabétisation aide chaque année plus de 65 000 personnes qui ne savent ni lire ni écrire. Avec le concours de 13 000 bénévoles, le programme a permis d'alphabétiser et d'instruire plus de 100 000 adultes, leur offrant ainsi de nouvelles possibilités, dans un véritable élan d'amour et de solidarité.

(34.4) Nous tenons à exprimer notre sincère gratitude à l'UNESCO, à travers sa Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, et ses équipes de travail, pour tous les efforts déployés et le soutien apporté afin que le Conseil international de coordination du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB) puisse déclarer officiellement que la réserve de biosphère transfrontière de Trifinio-Fraternidad fait partie du Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère. C'est dans cette région de Trifinio que se rejoignent les frontières et les volontés de trois pays frères – El Salvador, le Guatemala et le Honduras – qui œuvrent au renforcement de l'intégration de l'Amérique centrale, de la fraternité et d'un développement humain en harmonie avec la nature. Dans cette région, nous mettons en œuvre le Programme d'alphabétisation avec 200 facilitateurs et cercles d'étude, et 608 associés. Nous disposons également d'un nouveau cursus d'éducation à l'environnement mis au point lors du premier congrès des enseignants et directeurs de centres culturels de l'aire protégée tri-nationale de Montecristo.

(34.5) Je voudrais également vous faire savoir qu'El Salvador a récemment subi les effets de la dépression tropicale Doce-E, dont les dégâts ont été bien plus graves que ceux de l'ouragan Mitch en 1998 et plus importants que ceux de tous les phénomènes de ces cinq dernières années. Un record historique a été battu. Le changement climatique n'est pas une menace, c'est une réalité. En dix jours, il est tombé dans le pays 83 % de la moyenne des précipitations annuelles. 10 % du territoire s'est trouvé inondé, 34 personnes sont mortes, dont 9 étudiants, et plus de 50 000 ont dû être évacuées ; plus de 500 zones de refuge ont été mises en place, au sein desquelles 300 écoles sont opérationnelles, pour accueillir les milliers de familles contraintes d'abandonner leur domicile. 80 % des infrastructures publiques sont endommagées, notamment des rues, des ponts, des écoles et des cliniques. Les sols sont sursaturés en eau et de nouvelles ravines et crevasses menacent la stabilité des terrains sur lesquels vivent de nombreuses communautés. Les premiers chiffres communiqués par le Président Mauricio Funes font état de pertes, en termes de dégâts directs et indirects, pouvant représenter jusqu'à 4 à 5 points de PIB. La réhabilitation et la reconstruction du pays coûteront quasiment trois fois plus cher que les dommages directs occasionnés par la dépression tropicale.

(34.6) Votre soutien solidaire est nécessaire et il est tout aussi urgent que chaque pays prenne des engagements sérieux et responsables pour réparer les dégâts infligés à la nature par la récente catastrophe, mais également pour prévenir les futurs sinistres. Nous devons assurer un développement équilibré en garantissant aux êtres humains le droit sacré à une vie décente, en repensant le développement social, économique et environnemental, ainsi qu'en remettant l'accent sur les objectifs du Programme MAB. C'est pourquoi nous demandons à l'UNESCO de ne pas réduire le budget alloué au Programme MAB dans le 36 C/5, car il s'agit d'un programme concret, qui a du succès, et essentiel à la préservation des ressources naturelles de la planète, mais qui se trouve en grand danger.

(34.7) À El Salvador, l'espoir d'un changement grandit chaque jour. L'histoire nous a montré qu'un peuple éduqué parvient à vaincre ses adversaires sans grande difficulté. Notre gouvernement mise résolument sur l'éducation de ses citoyens. Les futures générations n'auront véritablement la possibilité de surmonter les obstacles et d'assurer un développement inclusif que si nous parvenons à atteindre notre objectif d'un nouvel El Salvador. Je vous remercie.

35. **The President:**

*Gracias.* Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr André Bachand, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

36.1 **M. Bachand** (Canada) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, il y a deux ans, l'UNESCO vivait une transition majeure avec l'arrivée d'une nouvelle Directrice générale. Nous avons alors conscience que la Directrice générale devrait faire preuve de détermination pour faire de l'UNESCO une organisation encore plus ciblée, efficace et performante. Depuis, Mme Bokova a augmenté le nombre de femmes au sein d'une équipe de direction qu'elle a aussi dynamisée. Elle a restructuré l'ensemble des secteurs de programme autour d'un nombre réduit de priorités et l'UNESCO, aujourd'hui, est mieux insérée dans le système des Nations Unies. Au cours du biennium qui vient de s'achever, l'UNESCO a été appelée à soutenir les pays frappés par des catastrophes. Le Canada est particulièrement heureux d'avoir pu participer au projet de l'UNESCO en faveur de l'amélioration de la

qualité de l'enseignement en Haïti par une contribution de 5 millions de dollars. J'en profite pour souligner que tous nos encouragements vont à la très honorable Michaëlle Jean, ancienne Gouverneure générale du Canada, qui, à titre d'Envoyée spéciale de l'UNESCO pour Haïti, se dévoue pour que ce pays ne soit pas oublié. Le Canada se réjouit de participer à la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. La délégation canadienne se compose de notre dynamique Commission nationale et du Conseil des ministres de l'éducation, représenté par le Ministère de l'éducation de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. Elle inclut également des représentants du Gouvernement du Québec. Depuis maintenant cinq ans, ce dernier contribue activement aux travaux de l'UNESCO en vertu de la volonté du Gouvernement du Canada de pratiquer un fédéralisme d'ouverture. Le Québec participe désormais aux activités de l'UNESCO avec et via la délégation permanente du Canada. En 2011, le Gouvernement du Québec a d'ailleurs versé une contribution de 100 000 dollars au Fonds international pour la diversité culturelle. Je profite de l'occasion offerte par ce débat pour signaler que le Canada créera un Bureau de la liberté de religion au sein du Gouvernement. Ce bureau fera la promotion de ce droit fondamental en tant qu'objectif clé de la politique étrangère, conformément aux valeurs canadiennes de pluralisme et de tolérance. J'en profite aussi pour mentionner la proclamation d'une Journée internationale de la fille proposée par le Canada à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, qui permettrait de promouvoir les droits des filles et de mieux sensibiliser l'opinion publique aux nombreux obstacles qui continuent de freiner leur développement et leur émancipation.

36.2 Madame la Présidente, dans un autre ordre d'idées, le Canada accueillerait avec satisfaction la création d'un État palestinien à la suite de négociations entre les Palestiniens et Israël. Nous n'appuyons pas les efforts palestiniens unilatéraux actuels visant à obtenir le statut de membre ou d'observateur à titre d'État dans des organismes des Nations Unies et d'autres organes internationaux avant qu'un accord négocié ne soit conclu avec Israël. Il ne s'agit pas uniquement d'une question relative au statut de membre des Nations Unies : il s'agit plutôt de parvenir à un accord négocié entre les parties sur les questions relatives au statut permanent, comme les frontières, la sécurité, les réfugiés et, bien sûr, Jérusalem. Faute d'accord réglant ces questions, ni la paix véritable ni un État palestinien viable et souverain ne seront possibles. La communauté internationale devrait encourager les deux parties à retourner à des pourparlers de paix directs reposant sur la Déclaration du Quatuor (Quartette) sans délai et sans conditions préalables.

36.3 Madame la Présidente, sur un tout autre sujet à présent, permettez-moi d'évoquer l'Évaluation externe indépendante, qui a confirmé, sans surprise, que le mandat de l'UNESCO était trop permissif. Le fait que la Directrice générale et les États membres ont pris très au sérieux les recommandations de l'Évaluation et que, déjà, des mesures sont prises pour réformer l'Organisation est très encourageant. Le Canada salue le budget de croissance nominale zéro présenté par la Directrice générale et le resserrement des activités autour d'un nombre plus limité de priorités. Dans le contexte actuel de discipline budgétaire accrue dans plusieurs États membres, l'adoption hier de cette proposition de budget est la bienvenue.

*(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)*

36.4 Madam Chair, in the education sector, UNESCO must continue to encourage education at all levels, focusing both on the quality of education from early childhood onwards, and on education opportunities for young dropouts. Greater consideration must be given to skills development, including technical and vocational training, as well as to secondary school education and other forms of post-primary education, particularly for young women. In our opinion, another priority must be the implementation of existing standard-setting instruments. It is now time to demonstrate in concrete terms, when implementing these conventions, that culture contributes to development. For example, the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions needs to be given the resources to demonstrate its added value.

36.5 Finally, Canada shares UNESCO's focus on the ethics of science and technology, and particularly of bioethics. Canada is actively engaged in domestic and international initiatives to ensure the ethical development and application of biomedical advances. This is why we are standing for election on the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee. Thank you so much.

37. **The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Alejandro Palma, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Honduras to UNESCO. Thank you.

38.1 **Sr. Palma (Honduras):**

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Directora, señores delegados, amigos embajadores: la región centroamericana, al igual que otras regiones del mundo, se ha visto embestida en las últimas semanas por intensas lluvias que han provocado inundaciones, deslizamientos, derrumbes y desbordamiento de ríos, lo que ha dejado como secuela considerables pérdidas de vidas humanas y daños materiales. Esto es también responsabilidad nuestra. Debemos reconocer que no hemos sido cuidadosos en nuestra relación con el planeta.

38.2 Honduras reconoce el Programa sobre el Hombre y la Biosfera (MAB) como un programa cada vez más pertinente y necesario, sobre todo en estos momentos en que el mundo enfrenta los efectos del cambio climático. Estos desafíos exigen un mayor fortalecimiento del MAB y mejores acuerdos para comprometer a países y regiones en la búsqueda de soluciones para convivir en respeto y en armonía con la naturaleza. Con mucho orgullo ponemos como muestra de ello la reserva trinacional Trifinio Fraternidad, que compartimos El Salvador, Guatemala y Honduras y que es la primera reserva transfronteriza de Latinoamérica. Trifinio Fraternidad no solamente simboliza la unidad de nuestros pueblos, sino que también representa el orgullo de compartir una naturaleza generosa y exuberante y a la que hay que proteger y defender, agradeciendo que nos acoja y nos permita vivir en ella y de ella.

38.3 En su cometido de cultivar la paz en la mente de los seres humanos y en la búsqueda de la armonía con la naturaleza, la UNESCO ha impulsado programas de gran valor y trascendencia para el presente y el futuro de la humanidad. Y es así que de la armonía con la naturaleza debemos buscar también la armonía entre los pueblos y en nuestras sociedades, comprender la evolución y las transformaciones de nuestras colectividades y anticiparnos a responder a sus prontas demandas.

38.4 Honduras ha podido observar con mucho interés el Programa MOST y tenemos la convicción que el mismo fortalece y profundiza el lado humano de la UNESCO: las ciencias sociales y humanas centradas en el desarrollo social con equidad, el interés por la juventud y en la lucha contra la pobreza. Con mucha alegría y orgullo podemos decir que la región latinoamericana y del Caribe ha conocido en estos últimos años un crecimiento económico fuerte, pero lastimosamente sigue siendo la región con mayor desigualdad social en el mundo. Muy a pesar de los éxitos económicos de algunos países de nuestra región, sigue existiendo una profunda inequidad en el acceso a la educación, a la formación y a la cultura. Esta es una realidad humana e insoslayable. Desastres naturales, problemas climáticos, migraciones, crimen organizado y mil problemas más se traducen en desesperanza, fragmentación social, desensibilización, deserción escolar, pérdida de solidaridad, todos estos son problemas humanos.

38.5 Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, amigos delegados: la UNESCO es, como ya lo he mencionado antes, la casa del humanismo, de un nuevo humanismo, como nos recuerda con frecuencia nuestra Directora General. Y bajo ese principio fundamental no podemos seguir clasificando a los Estados en su relación con la Organización basados en criterios meramente macroeconómicos, si recordamos que nuestros problemas son principalmente humanos. Hoy más que nunca Centroamérica necesita más UNESCO y, como varios lo hemos repetido en diversas ocasiones, una mejor UNESCO. Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, amigos delegados: este es un momento clave para nuestra Organización. Se definen estrategias y planes de acción para los próximos años, pero también se profundiza el proceso de reforma y actualización de la UNESCO. Honduras reitera su apoyo y compromiso con el proceso de reforma que impulsa nuestra Directora General, Irina Bokova, a quien felicitamos por este esfuerzo. Este proceso de reforma nos está conduciendo a una reactualización de la UNESCO, con nuevos mecanismos de decisión y de implementación de los programas y la adecuación de estos a un mundo en constante y veloz cambio. Vemos con particular expectativa los cambios que conducen a una mejor presencia de la Organización en el terreno, ya que consideramos que la forma más efectiva de dar visibilidad y relevancia a la Organización es asegurando su presencia y cercanía con los pueblos. El valioso esfuerzo que la Directora General ha hecho por dar mayor visibilidad a la Organización debe verse respaldado por el nuevo programa que aprobaremos durante esta Conferencia General y las acciones que de él se deriven.

38.6 Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, amigos y amigas delegados: Honduras le ha apostado fuertemente a la juventud y creemos firmemente que es en la juventud que debemos invertir nuestros esfuerzos. Apoyemos su entusiasmo y la frescura de sus ideales por un mundo mejor. Quisiéramos ver a los jóvenes más integrados en la UNESCO y a la UNESCO más interesada en la juventud. Hay dos eventos recientes en nuestra Organización que nos entusiasman mucho. El primero es el nombramiento de Forest Whitaker como Embajador de Buena Voluntad de la UNESCO. Hemos encontrado en él a un aliado muy valioso para poder lograr una mayor visibilidad de ese sector en los programas de la UNESCO. El segundo es la realización del Foro de la Juventud la semana pasada. No solamente nos identificamos con las conclusiones del mismo y las recomendaciones que los jóvenes han formulado a esta Conferencia General, sino que también creo, estimados colegas, que tenemos mucho que aprender de esta juventud que participó en ese Foro.

38.7 Amigos y amigas delegados(as): quiero invitarles a que adoptemos con firmeza la convicción de que es la juventud la garantía de nuestra continuidad y, en consecuencia, la garantía de nuestra Organización. Esta tarde Honduras quiere proponerles que la juventud se convierta en una prioridad intersectorial de la UNESCO. Quiero proponerles que cuando definamos el próximo C/4 y la estrategia que queremos que siga la UNESCO tengamos a la juventud como nuestro horizonte. Aseguremos que los jóvenes conozcan y se apropien de los ideales que han construido esta Organización y los que nos han guiado hasta este punto, pero permitamos que sean los nuevos ideales, la visión y los anhelos frescos de la juventud los que guíen a partir de ahora nuestros pasos.

(38.1) **M. Palma** (Honduras) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants, chers amis ambassadeurs, la région de l'Amérique centrale, comme d'autres régions dans le monde, s'est trouvée confrontée ces dernières semaines à des pluies torrentielles qui ont provoqué des inondations, des glissements de terrain, des éboulements et des crues, avec pour conséquences des pertes considérables en termes de vies humaines et de dégâts matériels. Nous en portons également la responsabilité, car il nous faut reconnaître que nous n'avons pas toujours prêté suffisamment attention à notre relation avec la planète.

(38.2) Le Honduras considère le Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB) comme un programme toujours plus pertinent et nécessaire, surtout en ces temps où le monde est confronté aux effets du changement climatique. Ces défis appellent un nouveau renforcement du MAB ainsi que de meilleurs accords marquant l'engagement des différents pays et régions dans la recherche de solutions pour vivre ensemble, dans le respect de la nature et en harmonie avec elle. Nous sommes extrêmement fiers de pouvoir dire que la réserve de biosphère tri-nationale de Trifinio-Fraternidad en est la parfaite illustration. Cette réserve, que nous partageons avec El Salvador et le Guatemala, est la première réserve de biosphère transfrontière d'Amérique latine. Elle symbolise non seulement l'unité de nos peuples, mais également la fierté que nous éprouvons de partager une nature généreuse et exubérante, que nous avons le devoir de protéger et de défendre en signe de reconnaissance, car elle nous accueille et nous permet de vivre au sein d'elle, grâce à ses ressources.

(38.3) Avec sa volonté de cultiver la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et dans sa quête d'une harmonie avec la nature, l'UNESCO a lancé des programmes de grande valeur et d'extrême importance pour le présent et pour l'avenir de l'humanité. Et à travers cette harmonie avec la nature, nous devons également rechercher l'harmonie entre les peuples et au sein de nos

sociétés, comprendre l'évolution et les transformations de nos communautés, et nous préparer à répondre à leurs demandes pressantes.

(38.4) Le Honduras a observé avec grand intérêt le Programme MOST. Nous sommes convaincus que ce dernier renforce et approfondit le caractère humaniste de l'UNESCO, notamment les sciences sociales et humaines axées sur le développement social et l'équité, l'intérêt pour les jeunes et la lutte contre la pauvreté. Nous sommes très heureux et fiers de pouvoir dire que la région de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes a connu ces dernières années une forte croissance économique. Malheureusement la région reste celle où l'on observe les plus grandes inégalités. Malgré les succès économiques de certains pays, il existe encore de profondes inégalités en matière d'accès à l'éducation, à la formation et à la culture. Il s'agit d'une réalité humaine et incontournable. Les catastrophes naturelles, les dérèglements climatiques, les migrations, le crime organisé et mille autres problèmes engendrent le désespoir, la fragmentation sociale, la désensibilisation, l'abandon scolaire et le déclin de la solidarité, qui sont autant de problèmes humains.

(38.5) Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, chers amis, comme je l'ai déjà dit, l'UNESCO est la maison de l'humanisme. D'un nouvel humanisme, comme nous le rappelle fréquemment la Directrice générale. En vertu de ce principe fondamental, nous ne pouvons continuer de classer les États et leurs relations avec l'Organisation selon des critères purement macroéconomiques car, ne l'oublions pas, nos problèmes sont essentiellement humains. Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, l'Amérique centrale a besoin de l'UNESCO ; d'une UNESCO plus présente, comme nous l'avons répété à plusieurs reprises ; d'une UNESCO plus forte. Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, chers amis, c'est un moment décisif pour notre Organisation. Nous sommes en train de définir des stratégies et plans d'action pour les prochaines années, tout en approfondissant le processus de réforme et de modernisation de l'UNESCO. Le Honduras réaffirme son appui et son engagement en faveur du processus de réforme porté par notre Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, que nous tenons à féliciter pour cet effort. Ce processus de réforme nous conduit vers une modernisation de l'UNESCO, avec de nouveaux mécanismes pour la prise de décisions et l'exécution des programmes, ainsi que la mise en adéquation de ces programmes avec un monde en constante et rapide évolution. Nous accueillons avec un intérêt particulier les changements destinés à renforcer la présence de l'UNESCO sur le terrain, car nous considérons que le moyen le plus efficace d'accroître la visibilité et la pertinence de l'Organisation, c'est de garantir sa présence et sa proximité avec les populations. Le précieux effort déployé par la Directrice générale pour donner davantage de visibilité à l'Organisation doit trouver un appui dans le programme que nous nous apprêtons à approuver lors de la présente session de la Conférence générale, ainsi que dans les actions qui en découleront.

(38.6) Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, chers amis, le Honduras mise énormément sur la jeunesse et a la conviction que c'est sur elle qu'il faut concentrer nos efforts. Nous soutenons l'enthousiasme dont elle fait preuve, ainsi que la fraîcheur de ses idéaux pour un monde meilleur. Nous souhaiterions que les jeunes soient plus impliqués dans l'action de l'UNESCO et que l'UNESCO s'intéresse davantage à la jeunesse. À cet égard, il y a deux faits récents qui nous réjouissent particulièrement. Le premier, c'est la désignation de Forest Whitaker comme Ambassadeur de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO. Nous avons trouvé en lui un allié très précieux pour améliorer la visibilité de cette question dans les programmes de l'Organisation. Le deuxième, c'est la tenue du Forum des jeunes, la semaine dernière. Non seulement nous souscrivons aux conclusions de ce dernier ainsi qu'aux recommandations que les jeunes ont formulé à l'intention de la Conférence générale, mais nous croyons également, chers collègues, que nous avons beaucoup à apprendre de la jeunesse qui a pris part à ce Forum.

(38.7) Chers amis, soyons fermement convaincus que les jeunes sont l'assurance de notre continuité, et donc, de l'avenir de notre Organisation. Cet après-midi, le Honduras souhaite vous proposer que la jeunesse devienne une priorité intersectorielle de l'UNESCO. Je vous propose que lorsque nous élaborerons le prochain C/4 et la stratégie que nous voulons suivre, nous ayons la jeunesse comme horizon. Veillons à ce que les jeunes connaissent et s'approprient les idéaux sur lesquels cette Organisation a été bâtie, ceux qui nous ont guidé jusqu'ici, mais faisons en sorte que ce soient les nouveaux idéaux, la vision et les aspirations rafraîchissantes de la jeunesse qui guident désormais nos pas. Je vous remercie.

**39. The President:**

*Muchas gracias.* Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Georges Santer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Luxembourg to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**40.1 M. Santer (Luxembourg) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences et honorables délégués, la Conférence générale a opéré dès le premier jour un choix intelligent et judicieux. Car, en vous portant, Madame la Présidente, à la tête de sa 36<sup>e</sup> session, elle a opté pour l'intelligence, le dynamisme et la volonté de s'assurer d'une atmosphère de convivialité et de respect mutuel comme cadre de nos délibérations. Mes plus sincères vœux de réussite vous accompagnent dans l'accomplissement de votre mission. Comme membre de l'Union européenne, j'ai le privilège de pouvoir me consacrer à quelques réflexions qui tiennent à cœur au Luxembourg – bon nombre d'idées maîtresses en matière de vecteurs d'action et de gestion ont été exposées par le Chef de la Délégation de l'Union européenne dans sa déclaration, à laquelle je me rallie pleinement. Lors de cette première Conférence générale après son élection et au milieu de son mandat, le Luxembourg aimerait dire à la Directrice générale qu'elle le trouve à ses côtés sur « la route de la réforme visant la performance », pour reprendre une expression de Mme Bokova. La Directrice générale a osé cerner les problèmes et écueils que l'UNESCO doit surmonter en ces temps turbulents et s'est entourée d'une nouvelle équipe pour pouvoir dépasser le stade de l'évaluation et œuvrer en faveur de certaines réorientations, accompagnées de réformes dans la rigueur de la gestion. Le Luxembourg est un ardent défenseur du multilatéralisme et du concept d'Unité d'action des Nations Unies prêchant la cohérence des politiques qui renforce l'efficacité de chaque organisation du système. Cette cohérence s'impose évidemment aussi à l'intérieur d'une organisation spécialisée, où l'approche transversale et la coordination horizontale doivent primer en vue d'une cohérence sans faille. Nous reconnaissons que de grands progrès ont été accomplis. Cependant, aucun organisme, en ces temps d'énormes changements, ne saurait éluder une remise en question régulière de ses méthodes de travail et la réalisation des adaptations nécessaires, le cas échéant.

40.2 En matière de cohérence des politiques, j'ai pu récemment prendre connaissance à Luxembourg d'un intéressant programme présenté par Mme Josette Sheeran, Directrice exécutive du Programme alimentaire mondial. Ce



programme est d'ailleurs déjà mis en œuvre dans certains pays. Le Programme alimentaire achète avec ses fonds des produits agricoles aux paysans d'une collectivité et distribue ensuite des repas à l'école, d'où l'intérêt, pour les parents, d'y envoyer leurs enfants. Il assure en parallèle un suivi médical pour les enfants et leurs familles. À notre avis, il s'agit là d'une approche convaincante. Je profite de cet exemple pour manifester une fois de plus notre appui au programme d'Éducation pour tous. Nous sommes fermement déterminés à redoubler d'efforts pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire. Dans le cadre de ce programme, l'éducation des femmes reste une priorité absolue. Nous soutenons pleinement les ambitions de la Directrice générale tendant à faire de nouveau de l'UNESCO un foyer de stimulation intellectuelle mondiale. Cette volonté doit s'inscrire dans une dimension éthique qui correspond à l'Acte constitutif et aux profondes convictions qui ont particulièrement guidé les travaux des premières années d'existence de l'Organisation.

40.3 Madame la Présidente, nous partageons l'idée que la culture fait partie du développement durable. Nous soutenons aussi l'UNESCO dans son ambition d'assurer la diversité culturelle, d'appuyer les industries créatives et de favoriser la protection du patrimoine mondial. La Convention pour la protection du patrimoine mondial, dans ses diverses composantes, donne visibilité et prestige à notre enceinte. Il faudra maintenir une crédibilité irréprochable de nos décisions dans ce domaine. L'impartialité des jugements, effectués sur la seule base de critères objectifs et neutres, ainsi qu'une bonne coopération entre experts, Secrétariat et organes consultatifs, sont essentielles. Ces activités constituent un vecteur important d'identification de la société civile avec l'UNESCO. Le Luxembourg se félicite, dans ce contexte, que la procession dansante d'Echternach, avec son rayonnement dépassant largement les frontières nationales, ait été inscrite l'année dernière sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité. La dynamique de la présence de l'UNESCO au Luxembourg se décline aussi à travers le nombre fort important d'écoles associées de l'UNESCO. La création, cette année, d'une chaire UNESCO à l'Université du Luxembourg, ayant pour mandat de promouvoir les droits de l'homme, nous remplit de fierté. Finalement, répondant aux sollicitations de notre Association des bibliothécaires, archivistes et documentalistes, le Luxembourg aimerait soutenir l'adoption d'une « Déclaration universelle sur les archives ». Dans un monde où les techniques de communication, d'enregistrement, de numérisation et de conservation connaissent sans cesse des révolutions, cette question revêt une importance certaine.

40.4 Madame la Présidente, dans le concert des nations et des enceintes internationales, la voix de l'UNESCO est indispensable. Vous pouvez compter sur mon pays pour la faire entendre. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

#### 41. The President:

*Merci beaucoup Excellence.* Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Said Hagi Mohamud Farah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Somalia to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Ambassador, you have the floor.

#### ٤٢.١ السيد فارح (الصومال):

السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي الوزراء ورؤساء وأعضاء الوفود المشاركة. مرة أخرى وبغياي وزيري، أتقدم إليكم لأبلغكم تحيات شعب الصومال راجياً لمؤتمرنا كل النجاح. وأود أولاً أن أهنئ سعادة السفيرة كتالين بوغياي بانتخابها البارز بالإجماع رئيسة للدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، ونحن كلنا ثقة بأننا ستقود أعمال مؤتمرنا إلى النجاح وإلى تحقيق الهدف المنشود بفضل خبرتها وثقافتها وحكمتها المعهودة. وأود أيضاً أن أشكر سلفها سعادة السفير دافيدسون هيتون على جهوده وتفانيه من أجل المنظمة أثناء رئاسته لمؤتمرها العام. وأود فضلاً عن ذلك أن أتقدم، باسم الحكومة الانتقالية الفيدرالية، بالشكر والتقدير إلى السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرية العامة لليونسكو على عملها الدؤوب ودورها الرائد في إدارة منظمنا، كما أود أن أحيي رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي على جهودها من أجل إنجاح أعمال المجلس.

٤٢،٢ وهنا أود أن أتوقف قليلاً لكي أقدم تعازينا الحارة إلى جمهورية تركيا حكومة وشعباً في كارثة الزلزال المفجع الذي ضرب الشعب التركي الصديق. وأود أن أرحب بجمهورية جنوب السودان التي انضمت إلى منظمنا لتصبح العضو ١٩٤ راجياً لها كل التوفيق، كما أود أن أخبركم بأن جمهورية الصومال حكومة وشعباً تؤيد انضمام فلسطين إلى اليونسكو لتصبح العضو ١٩٥.

٤٢،٣ سيدتي الرئيسة، سيداتي سادتي، إن حكومة الصومال تؤمن بمبادئ اليونسكو وقيمها الأخلاقية والتربوية. ولذا نرى أنه يجب علينا، بعدما أصبح العالم الذي نعيش فيه قرية كونية واحدة، أن نتحلى بالتضامن والأخوة بين الشعوب، وبالتفاهم والتسامح بين الأديان. ويجب أن تكون ثقافة السلام هدفاً، إذ تولد الحروب في عقول البشر ولذا علينا بناء حصون السلام في عقولنا وقلوبنا. ونستطيع أن نتصبر على التحديات التي نواجهها، وهي تحديات سياسية واقتصادية واجتماعية وبيئية. ويجب أن نعمل من أجل محو الأمية ومحاربة الفقر، وضمان توفير التعليم للجميع وتحقيق جودته، وضمان الانتفاع العام بالمعلومات وتطوير مجتمعات المعرفة، وتقلص الاعتبارات الأخلاقية على الاعتبارات الأخرى في ميادين العلم والتكنولوجيا والأبحاث، وتأكيد أهمية التنوع الثقافي الذي أراه إتراً للفكر المتبادل والمتواصل بين الشعوب، والدفاع عن البيئة وحماية التراث المادي وغير المادي.

٤٢،٤ سيدتي رئيسة المؤتمر العام، سيداتي سادتي، مرة أخرى أقف أمامكم لأذكركم، وأنتم تعلمون، بالأوضاع المساوية التي يعيشها الشعب الصومالي، فالحرب ما زالت مستمرة بعد مرور أكثر من عشرين عاماً على اندلاعها، وما زالت تقتل وتدمر وتشرد. وتمر السنوات وتتواصل ويشبه بعضها بعضاً بالنسبة لهذا البلد وبالنسبة لأطفاله ونسائه وشيوخه، فهناك حرب لا نهاية لها، حرب موت ودمار وتشرد وهجرة. وإننا لنعلم جميعاً بأنه لا يمكن أن يكون هناك تعليم أو تنمية، ولا يمكن حتى العيش، بدون أمن وسلام، والسلام والاستقرار معدومان مع الأسف الشديد في الصومال. وبعد عشرين عاماً من الحرب المدمرة، تتكرر النداءات التي تطالب بإنقاذ الشعب الصومالي. ولكن ما زال المجتمع الدولي مع الأسف الشديد غير مهتم حقاً بما يحدث في الصومال. لقد طالت هذه الحرب. هل من المعقول أن تستمر حرب هكذا في هذا الزمن والعالم يرى دون تحرك طوال هذه المدة؟ وهنا أود أن أشكر دول الجوار والاتحاد الأفريقي والدول الصديقة التي تساهم بإرسال قوات لمساعدة الحكومة الانتقالية الفيدرالية للدفاع عن الشرعية وعن الشعب ضد الميليشيات المتطرفة والإرهابية التي بدأت ترعب إقليمنا برمته.

٤٢،٥ أما ظاهرة القرصنة فهي وليدة الوضع في الصومال. ونحن طبعاً ندين القرصنة كعمل إجرامي. وتحارب حكومتنا القرصنة وتطلب المساعدة لإيقافها، لكن محاربة هذه الظاهرة من قِبَل الدول الصديقة ليست بمحسنة للأساطيل في المحيط والبحر قبالة السواحل الصومالية، ولكن بمساعدة الحكومة الشرعية وإعطائها سبل السيطرة على أراضيها ومحاربتها. الحل هو المساعدة في بناء الدولة القوية في الصومال. وفي اليونسكو، تؤيد برنامج ثقافة السلام ونقترح دعم الصومال عن طريق الاستعانة به ووضع دراسة لكيفية الاستفادة من هذا البرنامج في الحالة الراهنة بالنسبة لنا. وأشكر رئيسة المؤتمر العام لمنظمنا على اهتمامها بالأوضاع في الصومال وفي أفريقيا عامة، وأرجو لها المواصلة والمثابرة والنجاح. وشكراً.

(42.1) **M. Farah (Somalie) traduit de l'arabe :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, les chefs de délégation et les membres des délégations, encore une fois, et en l'absence de mon ministre, je vous transmets les salutations du peuple de la Somalie, en souhaitant tout le succès possible à la Conférence générale. Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter S.E. l'Ambassadrice Katalin Bogayay, qui a été élue à l'unanimité Présidente de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Nous ne doutons pas que, grâce à son expérience, à sa culture et à sa sagesse, elle mènera les travaux de la Conférence générale à bonne fin et que les objectifs fixés seront atteints. Je voudrais également remercier son prédécesseur, S.E. l'Ambassadeur Davidson Hepburn, pour ses efforts et son dévouement à l'Organisation durant la période où il a lui-même présidé la Conférence Générale. Enfin, je voudrais, au nom du Gouvernement fédéral de transition, exprimer mes remerciements et ma reconnaissance à Mme Irina Bokova, la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, pour son travail assidu et son rôle de pionnière dans la gestion de l'Organisation, et je voudrais également saluer la Présidente du Conseil exécutif pour les efforts qu'elle a déployés afin d'assurer le succès des travaux du Conseil.

(42.2) Je présente les condoléances de mon pays à la République de Turquie, à son gouvernement et à son peuple, suite au terrible tremblement de terre qui a frappé le peuple turc frère. Je voudrais aussi souhaiter la bienvenue à la République du Soudan du Sud, qui a adhéré à notre Organisation et en est ainsi devenue le 194<sup>e</sup> membre. Nous lui souhaitons tout le succès possible. Je voudrais également vous informer que le Gouvernement et le peuple de la Somalie soutiennent l'adhésion de la Palestine à l'UNESCO, qui ferait de ce pays le 195<sup>e</sup> membre de l'Organisation.

(42.3) Madame la Présidente, Mesdames, Messieurs, le Gouvernement de la Somalie adhère aux principes de l'UNESCO, ainsi qu'à ses valeurs éthiques et éducatives. Nous croyons donc qu'il est de notre devoir, puisque nous vivons désormais dans un seul monde, dans un seul village mondial, de faire preuve de solidarité et de fraternité entre les peuples, et de compréhension mutuelle et de tolérance sur le plan religieux. Il faut que la culture de paix soit notre objectif ; les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit et dans le cœur des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix. Nous pouvons vaincre les défis auxquels nous faisons face, qu'ils soient politiques, économiques, sociaux ou écologiques, et il nous faut travailler pour éliminer l'analphabétisme, combattre la pauvreté, assurer l'éducation pour tous ainsi que sa qualité, garantir l'accès de tous à l'information, développer les sociétés du savoir, veiller au respect des principes de l'éthique dans les domaines de la science, de la technologie et de la recherche – en rappelant l'importance que revêt la diversité culturelle, dont je considère qu'elle enrichit les échanges entre les peuples et les axes de réflexion communs –, défendre l'environnement et protéger le patrimoine matériel et immatériel.

(42.4) Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Mesdames, Messieurs, encore une fois je me tiens devant vous pour vous rappeler les conditions tragiques dans lesquelles vit le peuple somalien. La guerre continue, depuis plus de 20 ans, à tuer, à détruire, et le nombre des sans-abris va croissant. Les années passent, se suivent et se ressemblent en ce qui concerne ce pays. Et en ce qui concerne ses enfants, ses femmes, ses anciens, c'est une guerre sans fin, une guerre dont les conséquences sont la mort, la destruction et l'augmentation du nombre des sans-abris et des personnes déplacées. Nous savons tous qu'il ne peut y avoir d'éducation, de développement ni même de vie sans la paix et la sécurité. À mon grand regret, la stabilité est absente en Somalie. Après 20 ans d'une guerre destructrice et en dépit d'appels répétés pour sauver le peuple somalien, à notre grand regret, la communauté internationale ne s'intéresse guère à ce qui se passe en Somalie. Cette guerre dure depuis longtemps. Est-il raisonnable qu'une telle guerre dure depuis tout ce temps au vu et au su de tous, sans que le monde bouge ? Je voudrais ici remercier les pays voisins, l'Union africaine et les pays amis qui ont envoyé des forces pour aider le Gouvernement fédéral de transition afin de défendre la légalité et le peuple contre les milices extrémistes terroristes qui ont commencé à terroriser notre région toute entière.

(42.5) Quant au phénomène de la piraterie, il est le fruit de la situation en Somalie. Nous condamnons la piraterie, qui est un acte criminel. Mon gouvernement la combat et demande de l'aide pour y mettre fin, mais le moyen pour les pays amis de lutter contre ce phénomène ne consiste pas à amasser des navires dans l'océan au large des côtes de la Somalie, mais plutôt à aider son gouvernement légitime en lui donnant les moyens de contrôler son territoire et ses eaux territoriales. La solution consiste à œuvrer pour l'édification d'un État fort en Somalie. À l'UNESCO, nous appuyons le programme axé sur la culture de paix, et nous proposons que la Somalie en bénéficie : il faudrait pour ce faire réaliser une étude sur les moyens à mettre en œuvre pour qu'elle tire profit de ce programme dans les circonstances actuelles. Je remercie la Directrice générale pour l'intérêt qu'elle porte à la situation de la Somalie et de l'Afrique en général, et je lui souhaite de pouvoir poursuivre et persévérer dans cette voie, jusqu'à ce que son action soit couronnée de succès. Merci.

#### 43. **The President:**

*Shukran.* Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Mauricio Lautaro Sandino Montes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Nicaragua to UNESCO. Your Excellency, thank you.

#### 44.1 **Sr. Sandino Montes (Nicaragua):**

Señora Presidenta, embajadora Katalin Bogayay, me complace felicitarla por su elección para presidir los trabajos que realizaremos durante esta 36<sup>a</sup> Conferencia General de la UNESCO. Señora Directora General Irina Bokova, distinguidas embajadoras, embajadores, delegadas y delegados, señoras y señores: la educación y la cultura son prioridades del Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional que preside mi compañero y Presidente Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra. En este sentido se promueven y se practican los principios de cultura de paz y el diálogo que está contenido en los fundamentos de nuestra Organización.

44.2 Hemos recibido con especial satisfacción la recomendación que realizara el Comité Ejecutivo de la UNESCO con relación a la admisión de Palestina como Estado Miembro, confiamos en que nuestra Conferencia General apruebe esta recomendación, que es un acto de justicia con el pueblo palestino, y saludamos especialmente el compromiso de nuestra Directora General para profundizar la cooperación con el Estado palestino en la defensa de la preservación de su cultura y su derecho a la convivencia de la paz y el desarrollo.

44.3 Señora Presidenta: como parte del nuevo modelo de educación impulsado por el Gobierno del Comandante Ortega, se han dado importantes avances en la restitución de este derecho humano y constitucional. El primer logro fue superar el analfabetismo por segunda vez, luego de graves retrocesos sufridos en los 16 años de gobiernos neoliberales. Así, el índice de analfabetismo se redujo 18,67 puntos porcentuales respecto al 22% de 2006, es decir,

tenemos en la actualidad una tasa de 3,3%, y con mucho orgullo quiero compartir con ustedes que hemos alcanzado esta meta con el apoyo solidario de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y de Cuba con su programa “Yo, sí puedo”.

44.4 La política educativa contempla dotar de todo lo necesario a las y los estudiantes para el pleno desarrollo de sus capacidades. La gratuidad en la educación es acompañada con programas alimentarios, dotación de útiles escolares y mejora en la infraestructura educativa. La matrícula en los diferentes niveles de educación (preescolar, primaria, secundaria, técnica y superior) fue de 1.744.949 niñas, niños, jóvenes y adultos. De estos, 160.000 son jóvenes y adolescentes que se matricularon en 2010 en la educación superior, de los cuales el 52% son mujeres, ampliándose así la oferta y cobertura de la formación profesional a nuestros estudiantes. El Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional tiene como meta convertir Nicaragua en una escuela para: rescatar la educación pública nicaragüense en las manos del mercado; construir un modelo de educación que se nutre de lo mejor de la tradición nicaragüense; ser el punto de encuentro e identificación de organización de la comunidad; promoción de la honestidad, participación en la gestión educativa y la libertad; enseñar a pensar y a desvelar los mecanismos de imposición ideológica en contra de las mayorías empobrecidas. Para el Presidente Ortega el tema de la educación es de vital importancia, por lo que los próximos años se intensificará la lucha por lograr un país completamente libre de analfabetismo. El Gobierno se ha propuesto que en los próximos años se atenderá a las niñas y niños de tal manera que todos puedan convertirse en técnicos y profesionales, ya que tienen el derecho de estudiar una carrera superior.

44.5 El Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional que preside el Presidente Ortega saluda y se complace por el reconocimiento de la UNESCO al nombrar como patrimonio cultural mundial de la humanidad una de las joyas arquitectónicas de nuestro país como es la catedral de León. Asimismo, apoya y reconoce la acción de la UNESCO, a través de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental, en su estrategia preventiva de los desastres naturales en toda la región centroamericana. Nuestro Gobierno reitera su interés en el Programa MAB, dentro del cual Nicaragua cuenta con tres esferas de biosfera en el ámbito de las ciencias sociales y humanas. Instamos a la UNESCO a impulsar el Programa MOST así como todas las actividades del sector. Con mucho entusiasmo hemos acogido la iniciativa para la refundación de la Organización y la instamos a continuar con celeridad y decisión para que la UNESCO continúe haciéndose visible, para que llegue directamente a nuestros pueblos apoyando los esfuerzos que nuestros Estados hacen para atender las necesidades elementales. Nicaragua patentiza una vez más su compromiso con los principios y valores de la UNESCO y confía en el liderazgo de la Directora General para el fortalecimiento y renovación de la Organización. Muchas gracias.

(44.1) **M. Sandino Montes** (Nicaragua) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente, Ambassadrice Katalin Bogay, j'ai le plaisir de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, au cours de laquelle vous dirigerez nos travaux. Madame la Directrice générale, Irina Bokova, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'éducation et la culture sont les priorités du Gouvernement de réconciliation et d'unité nationale que préside mon camarade et Président, le Commandant Daniel Ortega Saavedra. Aussi, nous encourageons et appliquons les principes d'une culture de la paix et du dialogue qui constituent les fondements de notre Organisation.

(44.2) Nous avons accueilli avec une satisfaction particulière la recommandation formulée par le Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO concernant l'admission de la Palestine en tant qu'État membre. Nous avons bon espoir que la Conférence générale approuvera cette recommandation, qui est un acte de justice envers le peuple palestinien, et nous saluons en particulier l'engagement pris par la Directrice générale d'approfondir la coopération avec l'État palestinien en faveur de la préservation de sa culture et de son droit à une coexistence pacifique et au développement.

(44.3) Madame la Présidente, dans le cadre du nouveau modèle d'éducation lancé par le Gouvernement du Commandant Ortega, des progrès importants ont été accomplis pour rétablir ce droit fondamental et constitutionnel. La première de ces réalisations a été la victoire sur l'analphabétisme, pour la deuxième fois, après de graves reculs enregistrés au cours des 16 années de gouvernements néolibéraux. Ainsi, le taux d'analphabétisme a perdu 18,67 points de pourcentage par rapport aux 22 % de 2006, soit un taux actuel de 3,3 %, et je suis très fier de vous annoncer que nous avons pu atteindre cet objectif grâce à l'appui solidaire de la République bolivarienne du Venezuela et de Cuba, à travers son programme « *Yo sí puedo* ».

(44.4) La politique éducative vise à offrir aux élèves tout ce dont ils ont besoin pour développer pleinement leurs compétences. À la gratuité de l'éducation s'ajoutent des programmes alimentaires, la distribution de fournitures scolaires et l'amélioration des infrastructures éducatives. Les différents niveaux d'enseignement (préscolaire, primaire, secondaire, technique et supérieur) rassemblent 1 744 949 enfants, jeunes et adultes. Parmi eux, 160 000 jeunes et adolescents, dont 52 % de femmes, se sont inscrits dans l'enseignement supérieur en 2010, élargissant ainsi l'offre et la couverture de la formation professionnelle proposée à nos élèves. Le Gouvernement de réconciliation et d'unité nationale entend faire de Nicaragua une école chargée d'arracher l'éducation publique aux griffes du marché, de construire un modèle éducatif qui se nourrisse du meilleur de la tradition nicaraguayenne, d'être un point de rencontre, de reconnaissance et d'organisation de la communauté, de promouvoir l'honnêteté, la participation à la gestion éducative et la liberté, ainsi que d'apprendre à penser et de démasquer les mécanismes qui imposent des idéologies allant contre l'intérêt des majorités défavorisées. Pour le Président Ortega, le thème de l'éducation revêt une importance cruciale et c'est pour cela que les prochaines années verront s'intensifier la lutte pour parvenir à faire du Nicaragua un pays libre de tout analphabétisme. Le Gouvernement souhaite donner la priorité aux enfants au cours des prochaines années de sorte qu'ils puissent devenir des techniciens et des professionnels, car ils ont le droit de suivre des études supérieures.

(44.5) Le Gouvernement de réconciliation et d'unité nationale dirigé par le Président Ortega se félicite de la reconnaissance témoignée par l'UNESCO avec l'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial de l'un des joyaux architectoniques de notre pays : la cathédrale de León. De même, il salue et appuie l'action menée par l'UNESCO, par le biais de sa Commission océanographique intergouvernementale, dans le cadre de sa stratégie de prévention des catastrophes naturelles dans toute la région de l'Amérique centrale. Notre Gouvernement réitère son intérêt pour le Programme MAB, au titre duquel le Nicaragua compte trois réserves de biosphère liées aux sciences sociales et humaines. Nous encourageons vivement l'UNESCO à promouvoir le Programme MOST, ainsi que toutes les activités du Secteur. Nous avons accueilli avec un grand enthousiasme l'initiative de refonte de l'Organisation, que nous voulons voir se poursuivre rapidement et avec détermination afin que l'UNESCO conserve sa visibilité et touche directement nos populations, soutenant ainsi les efforts déployés par nos États pour

répondre aux besoins fondamentaux. Le Nicaragua réaffirme une nouvelle fois son attachement aux principes et aux valeurs de l'UNESCO et a confiance en la Directrice générale pour assurer le renforcement et le renouveau de l'Organisation. Je vous remercie.

45. **The President:**

*Muchas gracias.* Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Henry Faarup, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Panama to France. Your Excellency.

46.1 **Sr. Faarup (Panamá):**

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, excelencias, señoras y señores: en nombre de la República de Panamá y del Gobierno del Presidente Ricardo Martinelli reciba, señora Presidenta, nuestros más cordiales saludos.

46.2 La República de Panamá se adhirió a la UNESCO el 10 de enero de 1950 y, desde esa fecha, ha trabajado con mucho esfuerzo al logro de los altos objetivos que inspiran a la Organización, especialmente en lo que se refiere a los retos ineludibles de la educación, derecho fundamental de todo ser humano. La República de Panamá, al igual que otros 20 Estados iberoamericanos, impulsa un plan educativo con proyecciones hacia la próxima década denominado "Metas Educativas 2021: la educación que queremos para la generación de los bicentenarios", que forma parte de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio de las Naciones Unidas.

46.3 Nos enorgullecemos en ser uno de los países de América Latina y el Caribe que más invierte en la educación, a la que le asignamos más del 10% del gasto público, que representa en promedio cerca del 5% del PIB a lo largo de esta década. Frente a los desafíos que la globalización plantea a una sociedad como la nuestra, no basta enfrentar el reto de la inequidad en el acceso de la oferta educativa, sino que es preciso avanzar de manera simultánea en la implementación de la calidad y la relevancia de esa oferta educativa. Aspiramos a que el objetivo de la educación tenga un efecto decisivo para la superación de las desigualdades económicas y sociales existentes. Así, la educación podrá asumir su función vital como herramienta de integración económica y social en su doble vertiente: logrando el avance hacia una adecuada integración de Panamá en el mundo, y una identificación de la sociedad panameña como tal multicultural y multiétnica, a la vez que logra una reducción sistemática de la pobreza.

46.4 En función de mejorar nuestro sistema educativo existente, el Gobierno panameño ha desarrollado cuatro líneas prioritarias. La primera, disminuir la deuda social con los jóvenes estudiantes de las escuelas públicas mediante la entrega oportuna de libros de texto, mochilas con útiles escolares y, desde 2010, la entrega de becas universales y bonos escolares; la segunda, elaborar las bases para la transformación del sistema curricular de la educación media, basado en la competencia; la tercera, realizar un diagnóstico de las necesidades de capacitación de los docentes, y la cuarta, la adopción de un programa de mantenimiento permanente de las edificaciones y aulas de clase, así como la elaboración de estudios científicos que señalen las necesidades de la oferta atendiendo la demanda educativa de cada región. En síntesis, estamos incorporando acciones, planes y programas que nos permiten alcanzar mejores niveles educativos tanto en cobertura como en calidad, ya que, además de los conocimientos universales, se han incorporado al sistema educativo nuevos conocimientos que incluyen la informática y los idiomas, con miras a alcanzar el objetivo de una educación de excelencia para todos y para la convivencia pacífica. Sin embargo, en esta labor y en un mundo cambiante, necesitamos también del apoyo de la UNESCO para fomentar la capacitación de funcionarios en la elaboración de políticas, proyectos e iniciativas de la educación, el desarrollo de la enseñanza técnica y profesional y el acercamiento de los jóvenes a la Organización a través del Plan de Escuelas Asociadas. Estos esfuerzos de nuestro país que exponemos en esta magna plenaria, nos impulsan también a expresar nuestro apoyo al Programa y Presupuesto para 2012-2013 y al proceso de reforma y evaluación que sigue impulsando la Directora General, así como una creciente colaboración de la UNESCO en sus esferas de competencia con otros organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

46.5 Panamá, señora Presidenta, también desea expresar su apoyo a las actividades propuestas en el Gran Programa de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales a través del desarrollo de capacidades y la educación para la preservación de los recursos hídricos, la protección del medio ambiente terrestre, la salud de los océanos y costas, así como una mejor utilización de los conocimientos científicos para la prevención y mitigación de los desastres naturales.

46.6 Finalmente, deseamos destacar y valorar el trabajo de la UNESCO a favor del patrimonio cultural, natural e inmaterial a través del fortalecimiento de sus convenciones, y la necesidad para que prosiga en el seno de las instancias internacionales como voz autorizada a favor de la cultura y el desarrollo sostenible, así como del necesario diálogo intercultural. Muchísimas gracias.

(46.1) **M. Faarup (Panama) (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, au nom de la République du Panama et du Gouvernement du Président Ricardo Martinelli, je vous prie d'agrèer nos salutations cordiales.

(46.2) Depuis son adhésion à l'UNESCO le 10 janvier 1950, la République du Panama s'efforce d'atteindre les nobles objectifs qui guident notre Organisation, notamment en ce qui concerne les défis incontournables de l'éducation, droit fondamental pour tout être humain. La République du Panama, tout comme une vingtaine d'autres États ibéro-américains, met en place un plan pour l'éducation qui prévoit des actions jusqu'à la prochaine décennie. Ce plan, intitulé « Objectifs éducatifs 2021 : l'éducation que nous voulons pour la génération des bicenténaires », s'inscrit dans le cadre des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement des Nations Unies.

(46.3) Nous sommes fiers de faire partie des pays d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes qui investissent le plus dans l'éducation, à laquelle nous consacrons plus de 10 % des dépenses publiques, soit en moyenne près de 5 % du PIB sur cette décennie. Face aux défis que pose la mondialisation à une société comme la nôtre, il ne suffit pas de s'attaquer au problème des inégalités d'accès à l'offre éducative ; il faut parallèlement développer la qualité et la pertinence de cette offre éducative.

Nous souhaitons vivement que nos efforts pour l'éducation aient un effet décisif pour dépasser les inégalités économiques et sociales qui existent. De cette manière, l'éducation remplirait sa fonction essentielle d'outil d'intégration économique et sociale sur deux plans : assurer la bonne intégration du Panama dans le monde et faire reconnaître la société panaméenne comme une société multiculturelle et pluriethnique, tout en réduisant la pauvreté de façon systématique.

(46.4) Afin d'améliorer le système éducatif existant, le Gouvernement panaméen développe quatre axes prioritaires. Le premier consiste à diminuer la dette sociale envers les élèves des écoles publiques en leur remettant des manuels et des fournitures scolaires et, depuis 2010, en leur accordant des bourses universelles et des bons scolaires. Le deuxième axe consiste à poser les bases d'une transformation du système d'enseignement secondaire, fondé sur la compétence. Le troisième concerne la réalisation d'un diagnostic des besoins en matière de formation des enseignants. Enfin, le quatrième axe concerne l'adoption d'un programme d'entretien permanent des établissements et des salles de classe, ainsi que la réalisation d'études scientifiques qui permettent de déterminer l'offre nécessaire pour répondre à la demande éducative dans chaque région. En résumé, nous sommes en train de mettre en place des mesures, des plans et des programmes qui permettront à notre système éducatif d'atteindre les meilleurs niveaux, tant en termes de couverture que de qualité, car outre les connaissances universelles, de nouvelles connaissances ont été intégrées, telles que l'informatique et les langues, afin d'atteindre l'objectif d'une éducation d'excellence pour tous en vue d'une coexistence pacifique. Néanmoins, face à cette tâche et dans un monde en pleine évolution, nous avons besoin de l'appui de l'UNESCO pour renforcer nos capacités en matière d'élaboration de politiques, de projets et d'initiatives dans le domaine de l'éducation, pour développer l'enseignement technique et professionnel, ainsi que pour rapprocher les jeunes de l'Organisation grâce au système des écoles associées. Ces efforts que nous venons d'exposer nous incitent également à exprimer notre soutien au Programme et budget pour 2012-2013 et au processus de réforme et d'évaluation mené par la Directrice générale, ainsi qu'à une collaboration croissante de l'UNESCO, dans ses domaines de compétence, avec d'autres organismes du système des Nations Unies.

(46.5) Madame la Présidente, le Panama souhaite aussi exprimer son appui aux activités proposées au titre du grand programme II (Sciences exactes et naturelles) concernant le renforcement des capacités et l'éducation en vue de la préservation des ressources hydriques, la protection de l'environnement, la santé des océans et des zones côtières, ainsi qu'une meilleure utilisation des connaissances scientifiques pour la prévention des catastrophes naturelles et l'atténuation de leurs effets.

(46.6) Enfin, nous souhaiterions souligner la valeur du travail accompli par l'UNESCO en faveur du patrimoine culturel, naturel et immatériel grâce au renforcement de ses conventions, ainsi que la nécessité pour l'Organisation de demeurer une voix faisant autorité, au sein des instances internationales, en faveur de la culture, du développement durable et de l'indispensable dialogue interculturel. Je vous remercie.

47. **The President:**

*Muchas gracias.* Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Abdallah Mirghane, Ambassador of Comoros to France. Thank you.

48.1 **M. Mirghane (Comores) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les présidents et secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, honorables invités, je suis très heureux de m'adresser à cette honorable Assemblée au nom de mon Gouvernement, au moment où le Président de l'Union des Comores, M. Ikililou Dhoinine, vient de prendre ses fonctions après avoir été démocratiquement élu par le peuple comorien. Je profite de cette occasion pour présenter tout d'abord, au nom de mon Gouvernement, nos sincères condoléances au peuple saoudien à la suite du décès du Prince héritier. Je voudrais également dire ici combien nous avons été affligés par les terribles catastrophes, destructions et dégâts consécutifs au tremblement de terre en Haïti et, cette semaine encore, en Turquie. Les conséquences du séisme et du tsunami du 11 mars dernier au Japon, les inondations au Pakistan, en Thaïlande et aux Caraïbes sont autant de phénomènes liés au changement climatique. Toutes ces calamités, de plus en plus intenses au fil du temps, mettent en danger le bien-être des populations ainsi frappées en les appauvrissant davantage. Je veux exprimer ici à nouveau toute notre solidarité à l'égard de tous ceux qui souffrent. Je voudrais saluer la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, pour sa détermination à faire de l'UNESCO cette belle Organisation qui porte haut les valeurs universelles de démocratie, de paix, de solidarité, de fraternité entre les hommes et les femmes des nations du monde.

48.2 Les Comores, petit État insulaire en développement, sont confrontées à de grands défis qu'il leur faut surmonter. Aucune île, aucun archipel ne peut vivre seul en ignorant les autres. C'est pourquoi nous prôtons la solidarité et le partage hors de toute vindicte ou violence. Notre pays, Madame la Présidente, cherche à vivre dans un environnement de paix, en vue de mettre en place un développement durable propice à la démocratie et à la bonne gouvernance. En nous appropriant des principes et des valeurs démocratiques, en adhérant à la Charte des Nations Unies et à la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, nous œuvrons à améliorer chaque jour la vie de nos concitoyens pour plus d'égalité, de liberté de pensée et d'entreprendre. Madame la Présidente, je tiens à vous informer que la coopération entre l'UNESCO et le Ministère de l'éducation nationale de mon pays nous a beaucoup apporté. Comme en témoignent les activités en cours, le partenariat avec l'UNESCO nous permet de développer un travail éducatif dans le cadre de la consolidation de la paix, suite à plusieurs années de conflit séparatiste.

48.3 En vue d'améliorer notre système éducatif, une commission nationale, en collaboration avec des experts internationaux, est en train d'élaborer un rapport sur l'état du système éducatif national. L'UNICEF, le PNUD et l'UNESCO, par leur accompagnement et leur appui pédagogique, nous ont aidés et continuent de nous soutenir pour répondre à cet enjeu majeur grâce à une assistance sur la qualité des programmes et des contenus et sur les bonnes pratiques, ce dont nous les remercions. Nous plaçons pour que l'UNESCO continue d'appuyer le plan en faveur d'une gouvernance politique et démocratique durable. Les bénéficiaires des programmes mis en œuvre gagneront mieux leur vie grâce aux formations, aux activités de soutien et aux activités créatrices de richesses en vue de la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Le Chef de l'État comorien a adressé une lettre de mission au Ministre de l'éducation nationale dans laquelle la culture, l'alphabétisation et l'enseignement technique et professionnel occupent

une place importante. Outre les initiatives en faveur de l'alphabétisation et de l'enseignement technique et professionnel, une nouvelle dynamique pour la démocratisation des savoirs culturels est engagée dans notre pays. Nous comptons sur l'appui de l'UNESCO pour nous permettre, d'une part, d'élaborer une politique scientifique à l'appui de la stratégie de développement et, d'autre part, de mettre en place le campus universitaire qui viendra compléter les formations ouvertes dans le cadre de l'Université des Comores, de définir une stratégie de promotion et d'exploitation des énergies renouvelables, de sauvegarder le patrimoine culturel, matériel et immatériel, et les ressources de la biodiversité. À ce sujet, les Comores soutiennent les efforts entrepris pour réactiver de manière efficiente le Fonds international pour la promotion de la culture.

48.4 Sur le plan économique, les efforts à fournir s'avèrent gigantesques, la pauvreté étant aggravée par l'explosion démographique. L'archipel des Comores compte plus de 800 000 habitants ; la jeunesse de moins de 25 ans représente 60 % de la population et est avide de savoir. Le programme d'insertion des jeunes soutenu par l'UNESCO permet aujourd'hui de donner à de nombreux jeunes des perspectives d'apprentissage et d'utiliser efficacement le potentiel de chaque garçon et de chaque fille. L'UNESCO, en soutenant les efforts des autorités comoriennes en vue de mobiliser des ressources humaines au service du développement, a gagné le cœur des Comoriens.

48.5 Avant de clore mon propos, Madame la Présidente, je tiens à exprimer le soutien des Comores à l'admission de l'État palestinien au sein de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would like to ask the Deputy General Secretary of Education International, Mr David Edwards, to come to the floor. Thank you.

50.1 **Mr Edwards** (Education International):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I bring you greetings today on behalf of the 30 million educators, from over 400 organizations in 172 countries that make up Education International. UNESCO has always been a global champion for both the right to education and the rights of educators, even in moments like those we are experiencing today when education seems to be receiving less attention and less investment globally. Together we work, as Madam Director-General said in her address to our World Congress in July this year, to make every day world teachers' day.

50.2 Education International and UNESCO, together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), work to ensure that the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations on the Status of Teaching Personnel are not merely aspirational, but actionable guidelines for maintaining and improving our profession through social dialogue. And we welcome the priority given to teachers in Major Programme I on education. We wish to share with you that we have recently adopted a comprehensive policy paper on education that is a living and consultative document which lays out our positions on many of the issues being discussed in education around the world today, and others that are sadly not.

50.3 Like UNESCO, we at Education International feel strongly that education for peace, human rights and sustainability are not an affective afterthought or apostrophe. Our members are living and teaching children, youth and adults under some of the most difficult and conflict-ridden conditions imaginable. In fact, half of all children being denied a basic education are girls living in conflict-affected countries. There is no better time for UNESCO to lead in this area, and I wish to assure you that Education International will stand with you.

50.4 Most agree that today our chances of achieving education for all by 2015 look highly unlikely. Not only because global attention is turned towards other issues, official development assistance (ODA) is diminishing in the face of the global economic crisis or because we limited the scale of our ambition solely to universal primary education. The road we were building to EFA failed to anticipate the many wrong turns, policy fads and short cuts that we would take and how difficult it would be to ensure donor countries respected their commitments when so many developing countries have respected theirs. I imagine that few anticipated how difficult it would be to establish coordination and collaboration between agencies, NGOs and donors on the ground. We as teachers know how important it is from our practice, and as teacher unions we know how important it is to be organized and work collectively.

50.5 We support the efforts of UNESCO to reinforce its leadership on education issues. We look forward to working with UNESCO to create a new architecture for EFA coordination that looks towards and beyond 2015, one that starts with the recognition that equity and quality are inextricably linked. We also know that well-prepared, highly-qualified and motivated teachers are key to be able to ignite the spark of lifelong learning and inquiry. For these reasons, Education International is committed to engaging with and through our affiliates at the grassroots level to inform planning and implementation processes with our professional knowledge and ethics. We urge UNESCO Member States to involve teacher organizations in all aspects of education and teacher policy development, implementation and evaluation. Achieving EFA will require a fundamental shift in thinking and in our actions, and we look forward to being part of that shift with you. Thank you very much.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would like to give the floor to the Executive Secretary of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences, Mr Emir Sader.

52.1 **Sr. Sader** (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales – CLACSO):

Yo les hablo en calidad de Secretario Ejecutivo de CLACSO, Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales. CLACSO es una red de pensamiento social latinoamericano que agrupa alrededor de 300 centros de ciencias sociales en más de 20 países del continente, América Latina y el Caribe, así como de centros de otros continentes que estudian América Latina.

52.2 América Latina vive un momento muy especial de su historia. Una gran mayoría de nuestros gobiernos afirman democráticamente su propio destino y buscan defender su propia identidad para que el continente pueda defenderse mejor contra los efectos perversos de una crisis generada en el centro del sistema mundial, de la cual las mismas potencias dominantes no logran salir. Aun bajo una fuerte ofensiva de conglomerados internacionales, nosotros afirmamos nuestra diversidad cultural, nuestras identidades, de forma coherente con las decisiones fundamentales que ha tomado la UNESCO en los últimos tiempos: defender la cultura como un bien común, un patrimonio de la humanidad, y no como una mercancía regida por las normas de la Organización Mundial del Comercio como algunos quisieran. Fortalecer esta decisión sigue siendo la batalla más importante en el plan cultural de nuestro tiempo, principalmente frente a las tentativas contra la mercantilización de todas las relaciones sociales, incluso de la cultura. América Latina resiste con el reforzamiento de la esfera pública y la afirmación de todos los derechos económicos, sociales, políticos y culturales de la gran mayoría. Yo quisiera apenas mencionar con un ejemplo, desde tantos programas que tiene CLACSO, una biblioteca virtual, textos integrales accesibles a todos, según la concepción de la cultura como bien común gratuito. Cualquier persona puede buscar en la biblioteca los textos que le interesan de manera libre, gratuita e integral. Cuarenta mil textos son impresos diariamente en nuestra biblioteca, 1.200.000 al mes, logrando superar los monopolios de la distribución editorial. Sin embargo, tenemos muchos más programas: grupos de investigación que buscan difundir el pensamiento social latinoamericano a escala mundial, concursos de becas, cursos virtuales, siempre privilegiando Centroamérica, Caribe, el Paraguay, Bolivia y el Ecuador. Nosotros nos sentimos parte integrante con orgullo del movimiento histórico de América Latina que busca afirmarse como continente de paz, de colaboración, de solidaridad y de justicia social. Es en esa perspectiva que intervenimos en la UNESCO y en esa perspectiva también que saludamos muy contentos el ingreso de Palestina en la UNESCO. Muchas gracias.

(52.1) **M. Sader** (Conseil latino-américain de sciences sociales – CLACSO) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Mesdames et Messieurs, je m'adresse à vous en tant que Secrétaire exécutif du Conseil latino-américain de sciences sociales (CLACSO). Il s'agit d'un réseau latino-américain de pensée sociale qui regroupe quelque 300 centres de sciences sociales de plus d'une vingtaine de pays de la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes, ainsi que des centres d'autres régions qui s'intéressent à l'Amérique latine.

(52.2) L'Amérique latine se trouve à un tournant de son histoire. Une grande majorité de nos gouvernements prennent en main leur propre destin de façon démocratique et cherchent à défendre leur identité afin que le continent puisse mieux faire face aux effets pervers d'une crise née en plein cœur du système mondial et de laquelle même les grandes puissances peinent à s'extirper. Malgré une forte offensive de la part de conglomerats internationaux, nous affirmons notre diversité culturelle et nos identités, dans le droit fil des décisions fondamentales adoptées par l'UNESCO ces derniers temps, à savoir la défense de la culture comme un bien commun, un patrimoine de l'humanité, et non comme une marchandise régie par les normes de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, comme le souhaiteraient certains. Le renforcement de cette volonté demeure la bataille la plus importante de notre époque sur le plan culturel, surtout face aux tentatives de marchandisation de toutes les relations sociales, y compris la culture. L'Amérique latine résiste en consolidant la sphère publique et en affirmant tous les droits économiques, sociaux, politiques et culturels de la grande majorité. Permettez-moi de mentionner un seul exemple parmi les nombreux programmes du CLACSO : celui d'une bibliothèque virtuelle offrant à tous l'accès à des textes intégraux, selon le principe de la culture comme bien commun gratuit. Tout un chacun peut ainsi rechercher dans cette bibliothèque les textes qui l'intéressent, de manière libre, gratuite et complète. Quarante-mille textes sont quotidiennement imprimés depuis notre bibliothèque, soit 1,2 million par mois, surpassant ainsi les monopoles de l'édition. Toutefois, nous menons beaucoup d'autres programmes, tels que des groupes de recherche visant à diffuser la pensée sociale latino-américaine à l'échelle mondiale, des concours pour l'attribution de bourses ou bien encore des cours virtuels, toujours en privilégiant l'Amérique centrale, les Caraïbes, le Paraguay, la Bolivie et l'Équateur. Nous avons le sentiment, non sans une certaine fierté, de faire partie du mouvement historique qui voit l'Amérique latine s'affirmer comme un continent de paix, de coopération, de solidarité et de justice sociale. C'est dans cette perspective que nous intervenons ici aujourd'hui et que nous saluons avec une grande satisfaction l'adhésion de la Palestine à l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would like to give the floor to the Executive Officer of the International Social Science Council, Mr Mike Murphy.

54.1 **Mr Murphy** (International Social Science Council – ISSC):

Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Olive Shisana, President of the International Social Science Council, and on behalf of our Council's many members from all corners of the world, we thank you for this opportunity to address the UNESCO General Conference. The International Social Science Council (ISSC) is the primary international civil society body representing the social, economic and behavioural sciences. Its mission is to advance their global presence, authority and capacities, bringing together and fostering knowledge exchange between social science researchers, funders and policy-makers from across the globe. From this it will be evident that the ISSC shares many common goals with UNESCO, and this common mission is of course the basis for our ongoing active collaboration.

54.2 The ISSC is involved in a broad portfolio of international scientific programmes, events, publications and partnerships. Let me very briefly sketch the ISSC's main current work foci, highlighting for you our flagship activities. Firstly, the world social science reports series, which addresses key challenges presented to the social sciences by fast-changing global realities, evaluates social science contributions and capacities to respond to them, and makes recommendations for future research practice and policy. This is ISSC's closest collaboration with UNESCO, which led to the first report in the series being published by UNESCO in June 2010. The next report will appear in 2013.

54.3 Secondly, the world social science fora, which bring together social scientists and major stakeholders from across the world to debate ideas and good practice in addressing topics of world significance, and to determine future priorities for international social science. The first forum was held in 2009, and preparations are already well advanced for the next two fora, scheduled for 2013 and 2015. Thirdly, a world social science fellows programme, which sets out to address global knowledge divides and to foster the next generation of world social science leaders who will work together to diagnose and design creative solutions for global problems.

54.4 All these alliances and activities have a clear common purpose: the ISSC works to bring the best social science to bear on the biggest challenges of our times, to energize dialogue across disciplines and scientific fields, to connect research and practice, and to facilitate a change of course towards a more sustainable human future. Thank you.

55. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor now to the representative of the World Conference of Religions for Peace, Ms Brigitte Chevalier.

56.1 **Mme Chevalier** (Conférence mondiale des religions pour la paix) :

Madame la Directrice générale, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, promouvoir le dialogue interreligieux, tel est le défi de la Conférence mondiale des religions pour la paix. Cette mission figure dans le Rapport de Madame la Directrice générale et je voudrais l'en remercier. L'histoire et, hélas, l'actualité démontrent combien la paix est difficile à établir dès que les antagonismes religieux s'exacerbent. Le XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle devrait être celui de la recherche de la cohabitation pacifique entre les religions et non celui de l'utilisation de la foi pour justifier ou provoquer des conflits. Aussi sommes-nous convaincus que le dialogue interreligieux est une action efficace pour construire une culture de la paix entre et au sein des nations. Le développement durable de l'humanité ne peut se concevoir sans la paix civile et, donc, sans réconciliation, sans reconnaissance mutuelle, sans dialogue entre les religions qui structurent les sociétés. La valeur de la coopération interreligieuse est confirmée par l'action que nous avons menée en partenariat avec le Secteur de la culture : un réseau de femmes croyantes de plusieurs pays d'Afrique de l'Est, dans la région des Grands Lacs, a été constitué en vue de réaliser des objectifs concrets adaptés aux caractéristiques locales. En évitant de se laisser entraîner dans des affrontements stériles, elles ont pu, tout en restant fidèles à leurs traditions religieuses respectives, assurer ensemble leurs responsabilités communes. Les femmes sont actives dans cette recherche de dialogue interreligieux. L'histoire nous enseigne qu'elles portent mieux que les hommes les valeurs d'humanisme et de tolérance, sans renier leur foi. C'est l'avenir et le bonheur de leurs enfants qui sont en jeu. Notre organisation est persuadée que les droits de l'homme doivent être abordés à partir de la dignité humaine enracinée dans la conception de l'absolu. Elle doit être partie intégrante du travail mené contre l'injustice et la violence.

56.2 Avant hier, jeudi 27 octobre, pour célébrer le 25<sup>e</sup> anniversaire des Rencontres d'Assise, en Italie, 300 responsables de toutes les religions se sont réunis. Plusieurs de nos coprésidents étaient présents. Ce pèlerinage pour la paix à la recherche de la vérité et de la justice montre que le dialogue interreligieux n'est pas uniquement à considérer comme un aspect du dialogue entre les cultures ; il a pleinement sa place dans l'effort permanent à mener pour faire progresser la compréhension mutuelle entre les hommes. Son rôle propre doit être reconnu. Par ailleurs, nous souhaitons informer la Conférence générale de la réflexion entreprise avec d'autres organisations et de l'élaboration d'un code pour la sauvegarde des lieux saints, dont la profanation, fréquente hélas, dans les pays où sévit la violence, suscite une animosité entre les communautés de croyants. Promouvoir le respect de ces lieux par toutes les parties en présence est, sans nul doute, favorable au retour à la paix civile. Cette mise en œuvre de la préservation d'éléments majeurs du patrimoine de l'humanité est un objectif cher à l'UNESCO qui ne peut manquer de l'intéresser. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

57. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup Madame.* May I give the floor to the Scientific Advisor of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Mr Patrick Gallaud.

58.1 **M. Gallaud** (Organisation mondiale du mouvement scout – OMMS) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, chers amis, l'Organisation mondiale du mouvement scout (OMMS), qui regroupe plus de 30 millions de jeunes, garçons et filles, dans 161 pays, souhaite aujourd'hui réaffirmer son attachement aux idéaux des Nations Unies et plus particulièrement de l'UNESCO. Dans la politique suivie et les actions conduites, le scoutisme et l'UNESCO empruntent les mêmes chemins. Scoutisme rime en effet avec droits des enfants et des jeunes, gouvernance responsable, lutte contre le racisme, éducation non formelle, parité homme-femme, promotion des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, développement durable, etc. Loin des capitales, dans les villages les plus reculés, des jeunes s'engagent, sans distinction d'origine, de croyance ou de condition sociale, dans des actions aussi diverses que l'Éducation pour tous, l'aide d'urgence, la lutte contre le travail des enfants, la prévention du VIH/SIDA et la lutte contre ce fléau, ou la promotion des droits humains. Au moment où la Conférence générale examine le Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013, l'OMMS souhaite poursuivre son partenariat avec l'UNESCO, en particulier dans le cadre de plusieurs programmes du 36 C/5 – à titre d'exemple, l'Éducation en vue du développement durable, en particulier l'éducation au changement climatique, l'éducation aux valeurs, aux droits de l'homme, à la tolérance, au service de la réconciliation et de la paix. Dans tous ces domaines, l'OMMS a déjà fait ses preuves et a montré sa volonté de coopération avec le système des Nations Unies. En août 2011, plus de 40 000 jeunes issus des cinq continents se sont réunis à Rinkaby, en Suède, pendant plus de 15 jours et, au cœur de ce jamboree, véritable rencontre interculturelle, se trouvait le Village mondial du développement. Grâce à la coopération de la quasi-totalité des agences des Nations Unies, ce village a permis aux jeunes de mieux appréhender les réalités internationales à travers une multitude d'ateliers. D'ores et déjà, l'OMMS s'investit pleinement dans deux commissions programmatiques mixtes ONG-UNESCO concernant, d'une part, la jeunesse et, d'autre part, les droits de l'homme. Grâce à cet engagement, l'OMMS a joué un rôle moteur dans le Forum des jeunes qui s'est réuni ici même la semaine dernière, ainsi que dans des manifestations de sensibilisation d'enfants et de jeunes aux droits humains au cours du biennium qui s'achève.



58.2 Madame la Directrice générale, l'OMMS, à travers son réseau mondial, à travers ses six bureaux régionaux de Nairobi, du Caire, de Manilles, de Bruxelles, de Kiev et de Panama, n'a d'autre souhait que de parcourir un bout de chemin avec l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

59. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* Now I would like to give the floor to the representative of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Ms Martina Lévy.

60.1 **Mme Lévy** (Association mondiale des guides et des éclaireuses – AMGE) :

Madame la Présidente de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, chers amis des organisations non gouvernementales, parmi les très nombreuses grandes préoccupations de l'UNESCO, nous trouvons l'Afrique, les femmes, l'éducation, l'égalité des genres. L'Association mondiale des guides et des éclaireuses, le scoutisme féminin mondial, ce sont 10 millions de filles et de jeunes femmes dans 145 pays du monde et, parmi elles, ce sont 500 000 guides et éclaireuses dans 31 pays africains. Les responsables de ces 31 organisations membres suivent les directives de leur comité mondial en travaillant sur tous les Objectifs du Millénaire des Nations Unies pour le développement. En particulier, grâce à l'éducation non formelle, elles forment leurs éléments à lutter pour réduire l'extrême pauvreté et la faim, promouvoir l'égalité et l'autonomisation des femmes, réduire la mortalité infantile, améliorer la santé maternelle, à combattre le VIH/SIDA et le paludisme, à lutter pour un environnement durable. Le respect de la nature et de l'environnement est à la base de la formation dans les scoutismes masculin et féminin depuis 1907 et 1910, à leur création. Il est fascinant de voir ces guides et éclaireuses d'Afrique répondre, éventuellement sans le savoir, à la Priorité Afrique telle que définie par l'UNESCO, de voir leur engagement lorsqu'elles forment les jeunes filles.

60.2 Dans le domaine de l'égalité des genres, l'Association mondiale des guides et des éclaireuses a lancé, lors de sa dernière Conférence mondiale, en juillet 2011, une grande campagne qui vise à mettre fin aux violences à l'encontre des jeunes filles et des jeunes femmes partout où elle est représentée. Ensemble, elles disent « stop à la violence, prenons la parole pour défendre les droits des filles ». Avant de terminer, je voudrais rappeler qu'en 2000, l'Association mondiale des guides et des éclaireuses avait recueilli de très nombreuses signatures pour soutenir le Manifeste 2000 Pour une culture de la paix et de la non-violence. Oui, toutes les activités proposées par l'Association mondiale des guides et des éclaireuses sont dictées par cette idée de culture de la paix pour les enfants du monde. Je vous remercie.

61. **The President:**

Thank you so much Madam. The Chargé d'affaires of Mauritius to UNESCO was out of the room so I would like to give Mr Roy Bissoondoyal the floor now.

62.1 **Mr Bissoondoyal** (Mauritius):

Madam President, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, distinguished guests, it is indeed my honour and privilege to address this assembly. Ms Katalin Bogay, please allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference. We are confident that under your able leadership, this session will be very successful.

62.2 I will first address investment in education: the winds of change that are blowing across the continent, the conflicts in some parts of the world and the recent global economic downturn present us all, governments and international bodies alike, with acute challenges. In the face of such turmoil, education is pivotal to strengthen social cohesion and reinforce economic advancement. Mauritius considers investment in education as investment in sustainable national development and a legacy for future generations. Mauritius has increased budgets for the education and training sectors. Education is now the second largest recipient of our national budget.

62.3 Nobody can deny that globalization and rapid technological changes have made knowledge a critical determinant of competitiveness in the world economy. The impact on education is clear and this has led UNESCO to give a high priority to the use of ICT in education. While the Internet presents several challenges, it also offers tremendous opportunities for achieving the education for all goals in terms of improving access to and quality of education. With this in mind, Mauritius has initiated several new projects with a view to bringing technology into the education system. One such project is the Sankoré project which aims to bring down digital barriers and transform the teaching and learning environment into an interactive one, right from the early years of primary education. This initiative will enable Mauritius to develop an important bilingual e-learning platform for both the African continent and the Indian Ocean region. We hope this will pave the way for the sharing of digital learning materials with both French-speaking and English-speaking countries.

62.4 We are aware that from the very outset, UNESCO's activities in the basic sciences have remained steadfast. Great emphasis has been placed on the promotion of a science culture as a precursor to a knowledge-based society worldwide. In Mauritius, we have started as early as the pre-primary level to kindle the imagination of the very young with science for fun. In order to broaden student's outlooks and to build up scientific literacy across the whole of society, students not taking for any pure science subjects will be given the opportunity to study a new subject called "science for all".

62.5 The mosaic of languages is indeed one of our richest treasures in Mauritius. The government has successfully completed all the groundwork for the introduction of two heritage languages, namely, Mauritian Creole and Bhojपुरi, as optional subjects in schools as early as January 2012. Small island States are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Mauritius has, since 2008, witnessed a rise in sea level and we are currently facing the worst drought in our history, leaving many sectors water-stressed. The vision of our Prime Minister to transform Mauritius into a sustainable island, "Maurice Ile Durable", aims to make Mauritius a model of sustainable development, particularly in the context of

small island developing States (SIDS). We are now adopting a new approach to infrastructure development through the construction of “green” schools with a view to promoting sustainable development. Likewise, the installation of photovoltaic cells in primary and secondary schools has also started and given an added dimension to our strategy to develop a sustainable environment. Mauritius strongly believes that the most valuable heritage that we must preserve for future generations is planet Earth itself. Mauritius fully supports the UNESCO Global Action on Climate Change programme that aims to cope with this global issue.

62.6 Early childhood development is the key driver to learner achievement, as it lays the very foundation for all future learning. Mauritius is thus committed to the provision of pre-school education for all children. We have spared no efforts to reach the small numbers of out-of-school children who clearly come from the extremely vulnerable segments of the population. This is an experience that Mauritius wishes to share throughout the region with the “Mauritius-Africa Initiative”. Under this initiative, the capacities of sub-Saharan African countries in young child integrated programming will be reinforced by creating a regional platform for capacity-building programmes and exchanging best practices. The vision of the Mauritius-Africa Initiative is to contribute to the achievement of the education for all (EFA) goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as well as strengthening the Convention on the Rights of the Child in sub-Saharan Africa. This initiative is also in line with UNESCO’s Priority Africa agenda.

62.7 This year, UNESCO is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Ten years is an important milestone. It was during the 31st session of the General Conference that the Declaration was unanimously adopted. Indeed, cultural diversity is a strength and we are blessed in Mauritius to have a rainbow nation, and intercultural dialogue remains an everyday fact of life. Mauritius has inscribed two cultural properties on the World Heritage List – namely the Aapravasi Ghat in July 2006 and the Le Morne Cultural Landscape in July 2008. Mauritius is working on the preparation of its third nomination, the Black River Gorges National Park, which is a natural site.

62.8 Since the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) was created, a boost has been given to the promotion, preservation and conservation of world heritage in Africa. Indeed, the technical and financial assistance provided to the States Parties has allowed the removal of sites from the List of World Heritage in Danger at the last meeting of the World Heritage Committee in June 2011. Furthermore, a greater number of properties were inscribed on the World Heritage List at the same session. Mauritius was among the first African States to have made a financial contribution to the AWHF and we wish to invite Member States to contribute to the AWHF to maintain its sustainability. Thank you for your kind attention.

63. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this was our last speaker for the day. Thank you very much for your words and for your attendance. We have had a very productive first week of meetings and as tomorrow is Sunday, we can all sleep a little later in the morning. On Monday however, we will have a full morning and I wish to begin punctually. So ladies and gentlemen, we will start at exactly 10 a.m. on Monday morning. Have a very nice Sunday.

*The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 18 h 25*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25*  
*Заседание закрывается в 18.25*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦,٢٥ مساءً*  
*会议于 18 时 25 分结束*

# Eleventh plenary meeting

Monday 31 October 2011 at 10.10 a.m.  
President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)  
later: **Ms Lacoëuilhe** (Saint Lucia)  
later: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Onzième séance plénière

Lundi 31 octobre 2011 à 10 h 10  
Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)  
puis : **Mme Lacoëuilhe** (Sainte-Lucie)  
puis : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Undécima sesión plenaria

Lunes 31 de octubre de 2011 a las 10.10  
Presidente: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)  
después: **Sra. Lacoëuilhe** (Santa Lucía)  
después: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Одиннадцатое пленарное заседание

понедельник 31 октября 2011 г. в 10.10  
Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)  
затем: г-жа **Лакёй** (Сент-Люсия)  
затем: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الحادية عشرة

الاثنين ٣١ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، من الساعة ١٠،١٠ صباحاً  
الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)  
ثم: السيدة **لاكويه** (سانت لوسيا)  
ثم: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第十一次全体会议

2011年10月31日星期一 10时10分  
主席： **Bogyay** 女士（匈牙利）  
随后： **Lacoëuilhe** 女士（圣卢西亚）  
随后： **Bogyay** 女士（匈牙利）

**General policy debate** (*continued*)  
**Débat de politique générale** (*suite*)  
**Debate de política general** (*continuación*)  
**Обсуждение вопросов общей политики** (*продолжение*)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)

总政策辩论 (续)

**1. The President:**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the eleventh plenary meeting of the General Conference. This is the last meeting dedicated to national statements this year, and after we hear the 24 speakers listed for this morning, the General Conference will examine item 9.1, "Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO". Since we have a full schedule this morning, I propose we start immediately with our first speaker. As usual, Member States will have six minutes to deliver their speeches while observers will have three minutes. Ladies and gentlemen, I now have the honour to call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, His Excellency Mr Vuk Jeremić, who will be our first speaker this morning. The floor is yours, Sir. Good morning.

**2.1 Mr Jeremić (Serbia):**

Good morning, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. It is an honour to address the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference and I congratulate Ambassador Katalin Bogyay of Hungary on being elected as President.

2.2 The Republic of Serbia is the largest successor to Yugoslavia – a co-founder of UNESCO and of the Non-Aligned Movement. In the twenty-first century, my country remains fully committed to an agenda of solidarity, cooperation and mutual assistance with the developing world, especially in the field of education. To that end, we are expanding our "World in Serbia" Scholarship Fund, ensuring that thousands of young people from close to 100 nations will be able to study at the University of Belgrade in the following years. Serbia is also offering the expertise of its specialists in order to help enhance food production and increase crop yields around the world – priority areas for both UNESCO and the African Union. Lastly, we engage with developing countries on minimizing the impact on climate change through UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), and have proposed to establish a category 2 centre for water, sustainable development and adaptation to climate change. This would enable our engineers and scientists to contribute tangibly to bettering water conditions in our own region, but also throughout the developing world. In addition to actively supporting UNESCO's two priorities, namely Global Priority Africa and Global Priority Gender Equality, Serbia will increase its efforts to safeguard at-risk heritage across the planet. We are strongly committed to raising global awareness about this issue. It affects us most directly in our southern province of Kosovo which has been under United Nations administration since June 1999. The territory is home to four sites on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger, and Serbia is the State Party responsible for their protection. In post-conflict environments, honouring everyone's identity is a prerequisite for reconciliation, just as excluding or negating it makes it impossible for it to succeed. Unfortunately, some mistakenly believe such an approach will help confirm their political choices. But the only result has been to make Serbia the target of a systemic identity theft. This travesty must not be allowed to stand. Everyone knows that Serbs and Albanians disagree about Kosovo's final status. But I want to be very clear: UNESCO is not the forum for airing political disagreements, directly or through proxies. In this Organization, we are supposed to protect and nurture cultural identities, not be complicit in politicized attempts to craft new ones. The holy sites of the Serbian Orthodox Church cannot belong to the so-called 'Republic of Kosovo'. Our bond with those sacred places is unquestionable and unbreakable. As an indivisible whole, they form the very essence of our identity, and represent the heart and soul of our nation and our faith. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of Serbia, Boris Tadić, recently hosted the 9th UNESCO Summit of the Heads of State of South-East Europe. It took place at the Roman archaeological site of Viminacium, known as the Pompeii of the Balkans. The large-scale rediscovery of Viminacium at the dawn of the twenty-first century stands as a powerful symbol of what the Balkans represent - a place where bridges across cultures are built and cherished.

2.3 It is with this in mind that the Republic of Serbia, a multicultural and multiconfessional democracy, has presented its candidacy for a seat on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Our election would enhance our ability to help developing countries modernize their protection policies, through expert training programmes in fields such as conservation and restoration. Serbia would forcefully advocate for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List, thus further strengthening the integrity of this Organization. This would also facilitate our efforts to share best practices and experiences on the issue of reconciliation, to the benefit of a number of post-conflict areas around the globe. On behalf of the Republic of Serbia, allow me to respectfully ask the Member States to support our candidacy for a seat on the World Heritage Committee. In conclusion, I would like to underline that we remain steadfastly committed to responsible global citizenship, and that we shall continue to work as hard as we can to promote the noble aims and programmes of this Organization. Serbia will keep acting in accordance with the vision encapsulated so well in the preamble of the UNESCO Constitution and its solemn affirmation "that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man, and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern". Thank you for your attention.

**3. The President:**

Thank you very much Excellency, for your speech. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Greece, His Excellency Mr Pavlos Geroulanos. The floor is yours, Sir.

#### 4.1 **Mr Geroulanos (Greece):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, in a world of finite resources we have been creating activities and habits of unlimited requirements. We are producing deficits in a world that should have enough for all of us. And we are endangering the very resources that have traditionally shaped our lives. Historically, we have referred to nature and culture for answers but now we are consuming them with dizzying speed. This global crisis we are facing – we are all facing – makes us review our stand against our needs and our wants. It is forcing us to review our way of life. And as such, this crisis we are facing is not simply economic; it is a crisis of values. Today we are called upon to review the values we share in building the future of our world. Among others, our world today is in need of harmony and measure – two of the defining values of humanism, and two values my country has offered to the world. The civilization that placed humans at the centre of its thought chose harmony and measure as foundations for its intellectual as well as its material development. Balance was a necessary prerequisite for all forms of progress and balance is what is desperately needed today. These were not values for the fainthearted. Harmony, in the Greek tradition, was the daughter of the God of War and the Goddess of Beauty. The power and appeal of Harmony defined the way my ancestors looked at their world and the way they built it. These are the kinds of powerful values that will shape our future if we are to have one.

4.2 Although ironic, it is not extraordinary that my country is in the eye of the storm that is facing Europe and the world as a whole. The very nation that gave birth to the values that can help define our way out of the global situation we are in is the very nation that suffered most from their disownment. Western-style consumerism did not sit well with us; probably because we did not allow the time to introduce new habits to our traditional way of life. So today we are going through a painful process of thinking through what it is we value; what we will keep from our recent past and what we will leave behind. As Greeks, we are called upon to redefine the values that will shape our future, the values upon which we will rebuild a dynamic and productive society. The importance and nature of our development, of our educational system, of work as well as leisure, will have to be reconstructed using deeply Greek values in order to make them our own and in order to make them sustainable. And that is why culture will play a defining role in the decisions we make about our future. Culture will not only define the path to our future but also our way of life once we get there. This is a quest of immense value to us but also to the world as a whole. The path we choose out of the situation will contribute to the global dialogue around how the world will get out of its own. The way we review and utilize concepts like freedom and democracy, the way we reconstruct our institutions and social structures, the way we share pain and redistribute wealth, the way we reintroduce values into our collective way of life will be defining to us and valuable to everybody else. This is why our contribution within global structures such as UNESCO is of value at this time. As the caretaker of world civilization, UNESCO can preserve and transfer knowledge and experience, help create a new collective and inspire global values. We share in the Director-General's view that this great Organization's contribution to the dialogue of civilizations is of vital importance if we are to share in each other's resources and resourcefulness. As a nation, a culture and a civilization, Greece can contribute one source of solutions, unique, but not solitary. And UNESCO is the conductor of all those who have the will and the power to contribute. We want to share in this effort. As a nation and as a civilization, we have always respected those who surround us and we constantly adopt in our tradition the best that the world has to offer. The real power of who we are has historically sprung from the esteem with which we treat others.

4.3 As we look into the future it is becoming more apparent that we are tied together as one. And as this becomes a new reality, global problems will inspire global solutions. Solutions that will utilize the best this world has to offer. This is an organization that can help and we want to actively contribute to it. Thank you.

#### 5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Excellency, for your statement. And now I give the floor to the Minister of Training and Skills of Ireland. Your Excellency Mr Ciarán Cannon, the floor is yours.

#### 6.1 **Mr Cannon (Ireland):**

Madam President, Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to you all. The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in his address to last year's State of the Planet Conference, noted that, and I quote, "Of all the things I have seen, two are crystal clear: we live in a rapidly changing world ... and we live in an ever more interconnected world". The problems we face in this interconnected and fast-changing world – from the economic crisis to climate change – demand global responses. The guiding principle of UNESCO has always been that peace, prosperity and progress must rely on our "intellectual and moral solidarity" and on the "wide diffusion of culture and the education of humanity for justice, liberty and peace". This mandate – by its nature, global in orientation – remains as valid now as it was over 60 years ago when the Organization was founded. As a minister for education, I most closely associate with UNESCO's work in the area of education. Without a doubt, we live in an age of austerity, when we must make every single cent of our taxpayers' money go as far as possible. But there can be no denial of the value of continued investment in education. To quote Benjamin Franklin: "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest". UNESCO, through the education for all (EFA) framework, plays a crucial role in keeping this issue at the top of the global agenda. The challenges are immense. Tens of millions of children around the world have no access to basic primary education, and there is serious concern about deterioration in the quality of education being provided at all levels. We must all play our part. Ireland will continue to focus on education in its development programmes, supporting our partner countries to meet the challenge of providing quality education for many of the millions of children who are still out of school.

6.2 Ireland also remains committed to UNESCO's other areas of work. We wish to add our strong support to the Global Geoparks Network. This is an excellent initiative which celebrates our Earth heritage but does so in an innovative way that promotes sustainable economic development among the communities that live in these very, very special places. Ireland is very grateful for the support UNESCO has given Geoparks over the last eleven years, especially to our three members of the Global Geoparks Network. We will be happy to continue our strong links with the Division of

Ecological and Earth Sciences in order to help explore possibilities for the future strengthening of the relationship between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network.

6.3 We continue to value the significant role played by the World Heritage Convention in identifying and safeguarding both natural and cultural heritage on a global scale for present and future generations to enjoy. We are committed to implementing the objectives of the Convention and the continued protection and preservation of our inscribed properties and properties on our Tentative List. We acknowledge the forum the Convention provides to support the sharing of expert knowledge and networking opportunities to enhance cooperation among nations in the common goal of heritage protection and conservation. In addition to the three properties on the island of Ireland, our Tentative List of potential nominees to the World Heritage List was submitted to the World Heritage Committee in 2010. This new list displays a diverse and interesting array of Irish culture and Irish heritage. We will use this list as the framework for progressing potential nominations from Ireland to the World Heritage List. We have also commenced work on a new World Heritage Site Management Plan for the Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne involving national and local stakeholders.

6.4 Ireland continues to support efforts to promote the ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions internationally and will work with our European Union colleagues and the European Commission to advance its implementation.

6.5 I started my contribution with the words of the United Nations Secretary-General. I want to conclude by reflecting on his comments to a gathering of young people in New York earlier this year when he said that, and I quote, "sustainable development for all is the defining issue of our time". This Organization plays a crucial role in addressing these issues. With that in mind, Ireland is pleased to support the work of ECO-UNESCO, which allows young people to learn about their environment, monitor air and water pollution, engage in habitat conservation, learn teamwork and leadership skills, and study the ecology of their local communities. It is also why I am pleased that young people in Ireland were able to participate in the seventh UNESCO Youth Forum, the theme of which was the "How Youth Drive Change". Ireland commends UNESCO for its work and looks forward to future cooperation on areas of great importance.

#### 7. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Science and Innovation of Spain, Her Excellency Ms Cristina Garmendia Mendizábal. The floor is yours.

#### 8.1 **Sra. Garmendia Mendizábal (España):**

Estimada Presidenta de la Conferencia General, Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, estimada Directora General, autoridades, señoras y señores: es para mí un honor participar en nombre de España en esta Conferencia General y quisiera que mis primeras palabras fueran para dar la bienvenida a este foro a Sudán del Sur, Curaçao y Sint Maarten. Me gustaría también transmitirles que España ha intentado coordinarse con el conjunto de la Unión Europea en relación con la solicitud de ingreso de Palestina en la UNESCO como Estado Miembro. El deseo español ha sido que la votación se produjera después de que se hubiera podido dilucidar la iniciativa palestina ante las Naciones Unidas.

8.2 Señoras y señores: el mundo está viviendo tiempos de cambio y de incertidumbre, tiempos en los que la situación económica amenaza el bienestar presente y futuro de la ciudadanía. En este contexto de recursos escasos hemos de elaborar nuestros planes y presupuestos siguiendo el principio de que no siempre es posible gastar más, pero siempre es posible gastar mejor. Y ante la necesidad de priorizar y enfocar nuestras actividades, España ha tomado la determinación de apostar por la ciencia y la tecnología, excluyendo las políticas de investigación y desarrollo (I+D) del exigente ajuste presupuestario que hemos asumido como país para alcanzar nuestros objetivos de déficit. Así, esperamos consolidar nuestra posición entre las potencias científicas del mundo –la novena según los *ranking* internacionales– que nos ha costado décadas lograr. Invertimos en ciencia para el progreso de nuestra economía y nuestra cultura, pero también para reforzar nuestro compromiso con el desarrollo humano más allá de nuestras fronteras. Un compromiso recogido en la nueva Ley de la Ciencia, la Tecnología y la Innovación, que incorpora la cooperación científica al desarrollo como un mérito en el *curriculum* de los investigadores y que garantiza la coherencia entre nuestros planes nacionales de investigación y desarrollo (I+D) y las directrices de cooperación española. Lo hacemos por principios, pero también porque sabemos que contaremos con aliados internacionales en este enfoque y, singularmente, con la UNESCO.

8.3 Permítanme que me refiera ahora a la educación, otra de nuestras prioridades en estos tiempos de crisis y un objetivo fundamental en la tarea de la UNESCO. Sin una educación de calidad en sus cuatro dimensiones –saber aprender, saber hacer, saber ser y saber vivir en sociedad– el desarrollo humano es, sencillamente, imposible. Queremos felicitar a la UNESCO por los esfuerzos que está llevando a cabo para incrementar su eficacia en la promoción de la educación y, particularmente, para mejorar la coordinación del Programa sobre Educación para Todos. Felicitamos también a la Directora General por la extensión de dicho Programa más allá de 2015. Nos satisface especialmente el creciente impacto que tiene el trabajo de la UNESCO en la promoción de la alfabetización, la formación profesional, la capacitación de docentes y la mejora de las políticas públicas. Por último, apoyamos las dos prioridades globales fijadas por la UNESCO: las políticas educativas en materia de género y el incremento de sus esfuerzos en el continente africano.

8.4 Me referiré ahora a nuestro compromiso con la UNESCO en materia de cultura. España cuenta con 43 lugares inscritos en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial y se ha consolidado como un referente en materia de gestión del patrimonio. Este éxito no hubiera sido posible sin la implicación de las administraciones públicas pero es, sobre todo, un logro colectivo de la sociedad española, que protege y defiende orgulosamente este acervo cultural. Para reforzar este sentimiento, España va a celebrar cada 16 de noviembre el Día Internacional del Patrimonio Mundial, apoyándonos en la próxima celebración del 40º aniversario de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial. Además, se está culminando el

proceso para contar en España con un centro de categoría 2 auspiciado por la UNESCO, iniciativa que busca reforzar la aplicación de la Convención a la gestión del patrimonio y establecer en nuestro país un centro de referencia en el estudio e investigación del arte rupestre. Quiero finalizar mencionando que España lidera el proyecto “Día Mundial de la Radio” aprobado en el Consejo Ejecutivo de octubre, y sigue trabajando en el proyecto “Cine para la Humanidad”. Asimismo, extendiendo en nombre de nuestro país una invitación a todas las delegaciones para que asistan el próximo 14 de noviembre a la inauguración del ciclo de conferencias “Encrucijada de la cultura, la ciencia y la comunicación en la era digital”, que contará con la presencia de la Directora General de la UNESCO y la Ministra de Cultura de España. Muchas gracias.

(8.1) **Ms Garmendia Mendizábal** (Spain) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Distinguished President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Director-General, authorities, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to represent Spain in this General Conference and I would like to begin by welcoming South Sudan, Curaçao and Sint Maarten to this forum. I would like to inform you that Spain has endeavoured to collaborate with the whole of the European Union on the question of Palestine's application for admission into UNESCO as a Member State. Spain would have preferred that voting take place after clarification of the Palestine initiatives at the United Nations.

(8.2) Ladies and gentlemen, the world is undergoing a period of change and uncertainty, where the economic situation is threatening citizens' present and future well-being. In a context of scarce resources, we must formulate plans and budgets on the principle that it is not always possible to spend more, but we can always make better use of available funds. With the need to prioritize and focus our activities, Spain has been determined to support science and technology, and not to subject research and development policies to the strict budgetary adjustment that we have imposed on the country in order to meet our deficit targets. In this way, we hope to strengthen our position among the scientific powers of the world, currently ranking ninth internationally, a position that has taken us decades to attain. We are investing in science to make progress in our economy and culture as well as to strengthen our commitment to human development beyond our borders. This commitment has been enshrined in the new science, technology and innovation law, which incorporates scientific cooperation in development as a merit in scientists' curriculum vitae and guarantees consistency among our national plans for research and development and the guidelines for Spanish cooperation. We are acting according to our principles, but also because we know that our approach is backed by international partners and, most of all, by UNESCO.

(8.3) Allow me now to speak about education, another of our priorities in these times of crisis and a crucial objective in UNESCO's work. Without quality education in its four dimensions - knowing how to learn, to do, to be and to live in society - human progress is quite simply impossible. We would like to thank UNESCO for its steady work in improving its efficiency in promoting education and, especially, improving coordination of the education for all (EFA) programme. We also congratulate the Director-General for extending the programme beyond 2015. We are especially satisfied with the growing impact of UNESCO's work in promoting literacy, vocational training, teacher training and public policy improvement. Lastly, we support the two global priorities identified by UNESCO: gender-sensitive education policies and increased efforts in Africa.

(8.4) I will now touch upon our commitment alongside UNESCO regarding culture. Spain has 43 sites on the World Heritage List and has established itself as a leading example in heritage management. This would not have been possible without the dedication of public administration, but it is above all the joint achievement of Spanish society, which proudly protects and defends its cultural heritage. To deepen this general sentiment, Spain will celebrate on 16 November each year, international world heritage day, inspired by the forthcoming 40th anniversary celebration of the World Heritage Convention. In addition, the process for the establishment of a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO is reaching completion. This initiative seeks to strengthen the implementation of the Convention in heritage management and establish a centre of reference in the country for study and research on cave paintings. I would like to conclude by mentioning that Spain is spearheading the “World Radio Day” project, approved by the Executive Board in October, and is continuing work on the “films for humanity” project. Additionally, on Spain's behalf, I would like to extend an invitation to all delegations to the inauguration of the cycle of conferences on the crossroads between culture, science and communication in the digital era on 14 November, which will be attended by the Director-General of UNESCO and Spain's Minister of Culture. Thank you very much.

9. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Excellency, for your statement. And now I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador of Mexico and Secretary General of the Mexican National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Mario Chacón. The floor is yours, Sir.

10.1 **Sr. Chacón** (México):

Distinguidos miembros de la Conferencia General: el desafío de hacer asequibles la educación, la ciencia y la cultura a todos los seres humanos es todavía muy grande. A 66 años de la fundación de la UNESCO, hay aún en el mundo 796 millones de analfabetos, de los cuales dos terceras partes son mujeres, así como 69 millones de niños que están fuera de la educación primaria. En ese contexto, mi país celebra 90 años de haber fundado la Secretaría de Educación Pública. El ideal de educación para todos los mexicanos como llave y cimiento del progreso y de la democracia de nuestra nación, que inspiró en 1921 a su fundador, José Vasconcelos, y a su secretario particular en ese momento y más tarde Secretario de Educación Pública y Director General de la UNESCO, Jaime Torres Bodet, hoy lo refrendamos cada día, en cada escuela y en cada aula.

10.2 El Secretario de Educación Pública de México, Alonso Lujambio, ha dicho recientemente: “La educación es el espacio de la equidad, sin distinción de etnia, sexo, creencia religiosa, política o lugar de residencia. La educación es la clave de la democracia y de la cohesión social, el gran igualador de las condiciones de vida y eje también fundamental de la paz entre nosotros”. Actualmente, el sistema educativo nacional cuenta con 34 millones de estudiantes, de los cuales 25 cursan los nueve grados de educación básica. México puede afirmar con gran satisfacción que ha alcanzado la cobertura universal en primaria y la equidad de género en los estudiantes de 3 a 18 años de edad. De igual forma, estamos muy cerca de la cobertura universal en los niños de entre 12 y 15 años, con el 96%. Hemos logrado reducir la tasa global de alfabetismo al 6,9% incluyendo a todas las personas mayores de 15 años. El Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos (INEA), fue acreedor de uno de los dos premios UNESCO Rey Sejong por sus programas de alfabetización bilingüe, entregado en septiembre pasado en Nueva Delhi en una reunión del Grupo E-9.

10.3 En colaboración con el Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas de esta Organización, los días 17 y 18 de agosto de 2011 se llevó a cabo en la Ciudad de México el seminario internacional "Replanteando el desarrollo: ética e inclusión social", en el que subrayamos la importancia de la identidad y la autodeterminación de las comunidades, de los valores democráticos, la sustentabilidad del medioambiente y la inclusión. Para México la educación no es únicamente una cuestión de indicadores cuantitativos, sino, especialmente, cualitativos. La Alianza por la calidad de la educación que ha impulsado el Presidente Calderón avanza con cambios históricos en el sistema educativo nacional y con el respaldo de los padres de familia y la sociedad. Por cuarto año consecutivo, concursamos, de manera abierta y transparente, las nuevas plazas vacantes en educación básica, en beneficio de poco más de 113.000 docentes. A partir de este año establecimos la Evaluación Universal de Docentes y Directivos en Servicio de Educación Básica, pública y privada. Asimismo, estamos fomentando la lectura, mediante acciones dentro y fuera de la escuela, y hemos fortalecido el Programa Escuela Segura, mediante el cual hemos capacitado en prevención de adicciones a casi 545.000 docentes.

10.4 La UNESCO debe atender a los más pobres y marginados del mundo en derechos humanos fundamentales. Para lograrlo, su recurso más importante se encuentra no solo en su presupuesto, sino en su propio conocimiento y, sobre todo, en el conocimiento y las experiencias de sus Estados Miembros. Los países de renta media, como México, cuentan con un acervo de instituciones y políticas muy valioso que debe ser insertado más claramente en la cooperación internacional que genera la UNESCO. Nuestro principal activo de cara a la Organización es nuestra experiencia en temas como educación inicial y preescolar, alfabetización de adultos, educación especial, educación indígena e intercultural bilingüe, educación para jóvenes y adultos, estadísticas y evaluación de la calidad de la educación, equidad de género, infraestructura educativa, sistemas nacionales de investigación científica, conservación del patrimonio cultural e inmaterial.

10.5 Señoras y señores: México refrenda su compromiso de trabajar con la UNESCO y apoya decididamente a la Directora General en su labor de reestructuración y reforma. Mi país se asocia completamente a las propuestas de la doctora Bokova para mejorar la gestión y reformar la Organización y, en particular, el Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas y la estructura de las oficinas fuera de la Sede y su coordinación. Coincidimos con ella en que las iniciativas que lleva a cabo la UNESCO en los planos local, regional y mundial nos ayudan a ver que lo que tenemos en común es más fuerte que nuestras diferencias. México es una nación orgullosa de la riqueza milenaria de su cultura, tenemos el privilegio y la responsabilidad de contar con 31 sitios inscritos en la Lista de Patrimonio Mundial y con seis manifestaciones en la Lista Representativa del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial de la Humanidad. En ese sentido, vemos con preocupación el incremento del tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales, particularmente de piezas arqueológicas. México agradece el esfuerzo de la Directora General por convocar a una asamblea de las partes en la Convención de 1970 en junio de 2012.

10.6 Señora Presidenta: México es candidato al Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO. Hemos presentado nuestra candidatura con el ánimo de contribuir a alcanzar los objetivos de la Organización y apoyar los procesos de reforma que hemos iniciado, particularmente a través de los resultados de la evaluación externa independiente. En caso de resultar elegido, mi país se compromete a trabajar con toda la membresía en un espíritu de diálogo, cooperación y respeto mutuo. Muchas gracias.

(10.1) **Mr Chacón** (Mexico) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Distinguished members of the General Conference, it is still a great challenge to make education, science and culture accessible to all human beings. Sixty-six years after UNESCO was founded, there are still 796 million illiterate people in the world, two thirds of whom are women, and 69 million children are not attending primary school. In this context, my country will celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of the Secretariat of Public Education, founded in 1921 by José Vasconcelos and his Secretary at the time, who later went on to become Secretary of Public Education and Director-General of UNESCO, Jaime Torres Bodet. Its establishment was based on the ideal of education for all Mexicans as a key and a cornerstone for progress and democracy in our nation, an ideal that is kept alive today in every school and in every classroom.

(10.2) Alonso Lujambio, the Secretary of Public Education recently said, "education is a space for equity, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, political persuasion or social background. Education is the key to democracy and social cohesion, the great equalizer of living conditions and the lynchpin for peace between us". The National Education system currently has 34 million students, 25 million of whom are in the nine grades of basic education. Mexico can confirm with great satisfaction that it has achieved universal primary education coverage and gender equality for 3 to 18 year-old students. Similarly, at 96%, we are close to achieving universal education coverage for 12 to 15 year-old children. We have managed to reduce the overall illiteracy rate to 6.9% including people above 15 years of age. The National Institute for Adult Education (INEA) was awarded one of the two UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prizes last September in New Delhi for its bilingual literacy programmes, during an E-9 meeting.

(10.3) In collaboration with UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector, on 17 and 18 August 2011 the international seminar "Rethinking Development: Ethics and Social Inclusion" was held in Mexico City, where we highlighted the importance of identity and self-determination for communities, democratic values, environmental sustainability and inclusion. For Mexico, education is not only a matter of quantitative indicators, but also and especially, qualitative indicators. The Alliance for Quality of Education, launched by President Calderón, is making headway with historical changes in the national education system, with the support of parents and society. For the fourth consecutive year we are holding competitive exams that are open and transparent, through which a little over 113,000 teachers will fill the vacancies in basic education. This year we established the Universal Evaluation of Teachers and Principals in basic education, both public and private. We are also encouraging reading, by means of action inside and outside of school, and we have enhanced the Safe School Programme, training almost 545,000 teachers to prevent addictions in children.

(10.4) UNESCO should cater to the world's poorest and most marginalized in terms of basic human rights. To achieve this, its most important asset is not just its budget, but rather its own knowledge, and above all, the knowledge and experience of its Member States. Middle-income countries like Mexico have a valuable heritage of institutions and policies that should be involved more clearly in the international cooperation led by UNESCO. The main asset we can bring to the Organization is our experience in issues such as early and pre-school education, adult literacy provision, special education, indigenous and



intercultural bilingual education, youth and adult education, statistics and quality assessment of education, gender equality education, educational infrastructure, national systems of scientific investigation and conservation of cultural and intangible heritage.

(10.5) Ladies and gentlemen, Mexico emphasizes its commitment to working with UNESCO and firmly supports the Director-General in her efforts to restructure and reform. My country fully supports Ms Bokova's message to improve management and reform the Organization, especially the Social and Human Sciences Sector, as well as the structure and coordination of the field offices. We agree that the initiatives being carried out by UNESCO at local, regional and global levels will help us see that our similarities are stronger than our differences. Mexico is a country proud of the age-old wealth of its culture; we have the privilege and the responsibility of having 31 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and six elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Consequently, we are concerned to see that the trafficking of cultural property is increasing, especially for archaeological items. Mexico is grateful to the Director-General for her efforts to convene a meeting in June 2012 of States Parties to the 1970 Convention.

(10.6) Madam President, Mexico is a candidate for election to the Executive Board of UNESCO. We have applied because we would like to contribute to achieving the Organization's objectives, and support the reform process that we have started, especially with the help of feedback from the Independent External Evaluation. If elected, my country commits to working with all the Members in a spirit of dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect. Thank you very much.

#### 11. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Education of Slovenia, His Excellency Mr Igor Lukšič. The floor is yours, Sir.

#### 12.1 **Mr Lukšič (Slovenia):**

Madam President, Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, this 36th session of the General Conference is extremely important since the programme and the budget that will be adopted are the last in the current Medium-Term Strategy period. This session is also marked by the first half of the mandate of the Director-General and the final stage of the reform and reorganization process in UNESCO. We in Slovenia have followed this process closely and have also taken part in some reviews, giving us the opportunity to express our views and observations. Nevertheless, I would like to pinpoint some of the positions my country has already expressed on other occasions.

12.2 First, we believe that UNESCO should continue to strengthen its own monitoring mechanism and establish a simple and coherent system of follow-up to different programmes and activities; second, we support the efforts of the Director-General to complete the reforms and reorganization and re-start activities in all fields; and third, much has been said in the past years about the need to strengthen the relevance and visibility of UNESCO. We do appreciate the efforts of the Director-General to regain the relevance of the Organization as a global actor in its fields of competence, and progress made towards making UNESCO's contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in post-conflict and post-disaster situations more visible. Its visibility and relevance in the Member States, however, still remains a major challenge. Being entirely aware of the fact that UNESCO is not a funding Organization, we cannot but emphasize the importance of the Participation Programme; this programme is essential not only for the underdeveloped countries, but also for many others, since it enables National Commissions and NGOs to develop programmes and activities that may not always be the priority of the respective countries, but are the priorities of UNESCO. We support the proposals for the programme not only to maintain but to increase its budget.

12.3 Education should develop more progressively and more attention should be given to vocational training and education, early childhood education, culture in education and the Associated Schools Project (ASP). ASP is one of UNESCO's flagship projects and we would like to recommend that more financial and human resources be allocated to the international coordination of the ASP Network.

12.4 The natural sciences programme encompasses a variety of activities that are appreciated not only among the experts, but also within the general public. Closer association in UNESCO with the Global Geoparks Network would bring added value to both, and would complement the existing intergovernmental programmes like the Programme on Man and Biosphere (MAB), Earth Sciences, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Social and human sciences, in a way, represent the spirit of UNESCO. Ethics in science, bioethics and response to social change and transformation are instrumental in enhancing UNESCO's role in the global community. We would like to commend the activities in the fields of human rights and philosophy, among them World Philosophy Day.

12.5 Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, was awarded the title of World Book Capital in 2010 and in April this year handed the title over to Buenos Aires. This was, of course, a unique experience, but also an opportunity to contribute to the concept of the project by adding a regional dimension – in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Venice, we organized a regional forum for South-East Europe on books, reading and translation, three important aspects of the dialogue among cultures. Regarding the cultural heritage, my delegation expresses our support to the upstream process for a more credible World Heritage List; Slovenia is actively participating in the process with a pilot project. On the basis of our experience in organizing the First South-East Europe World Heritage Youth Forum, we would recommend heritage education for young people as one of the priorities for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In information and communication the ultimate key words are accessibility and press freedom and my delegation fully supports UNESCO's activities in this field.

12.6 When opting for zero nominal growth, we are aware of the fact that we are putting the Secretariat in a very difficult situation. Approving no additional funds for the next biennium, while at the same time requesting the strengthening of existing programmes and even introducing new ones, we are – yet again - sending UNESCO on an impossible mission: to work more with fewer resources. It is up to us to make this mission possible. I strongly wish that UNESCO will continue to perform its role in the future and that this General Conference will again be a meeting place of

different cultures, systems and beliefs with one common goal: to build the defences of peace in the minds of men and women, which can only be achieved by maintaining the humanist perspective and perception of ourselves and the world around us. Thank you.

**13. The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Now I would like to give the floor to the Permanent Delegate of Rwanda to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Jacques Kabale. The floor is yours, Sir.

**14.1 M. Kabale (Rwanda) :**

Excellence, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Excellence, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Excellence, Madame la Directrice générale, distingués délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je joins ma voix à celle des intervenants qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter, Madame la Présidente, et féliciter tous les membres du Bureau, pour votre brillante élection à cette haute et prestigieuse fonction. Je vous souhaite plein succès à la présidence de cette 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Je suis très heureux de vous transmettre également les salutations les plus chaleureuses du peuple et du Gouvernement du Rwanda. Je voudrais en outre remercier la Directrice générale et le Secrétariat pour la qualité de la préparation et de l'organisation de cette session.

14.2 Madame la Présidente, le Rwanda apprécie grandement l'appui que l'UNESCO n'a cessé de lui accorder au fil des années, et plus particulièrement au lendemain du génocide perpétré contre les Tutsis en 1994. Grâce au soutien de l'Organisation, le Rwanda a pu remettre sur pied son système éducatif, détruit pendant le génocide et la guerre. En souscrivant aux Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, le Rwanda a fait siennes toutes les recommandations de l'Organisation en matière d'accès à une éducation équitable et de qualité, de promotion de la culture de la paix, d'égalité entre les sexes, de protection de l'environnement pour un développement durable, etc.

14.3 Madame la Présidente, le Gouvernement du Rwanda a fait de l'éducation une priorité absolue. Il s'est engagé à promouvoir une éducation universelle et de qualité, qui occupait déjà une place importante dans sa Vision 2020. L'éducation de base gratuite et obligatoire de neuf ans sera étendue à 12 ans d'ici 2017.

14.4 Madame la Présidente, le Rwanda accorde une place importante aux nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication. À l'horizon 2020, il entend être une société basée sur la connaissance grâce aux nouvelles technologies. Rappelons que le Président de la République du Rwanda, M. Paul Kagame, copréside avec M. Carlos Slim, grand homme d'affaires mexicain, une initiative mondiale de haute technologie appelée « Broadband Commission » ou Commission « Le large bande au service du développement numérique ». Cette commission mondiale a été créée à l'initiative de M. Hamadoun Touré, Secrétaire général de l'Union internationale des télécommunications, et de Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO.

14.5 Dans cette optique, et aux fins d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, le Rwanda est en train de se doter d'une infrastructure favorisant l'accès aux technologies de l'information. Toutes les villes rwandaises sont aujourd'hui raccordées à la fibre optique. Les écoles des milieux ruraux non connectés au réseau électrique national ont été équipées de technologies utilisant des sources d'énergie renouvelables – essentiellement l'énergie solaire et le biogaz. Avec le programme « One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) », des ordinateurs portables sont distribués aux élèves des écoles primaires, tant rurales qu'urbaines, depuis 2009. Des progrès impressionnants ont également été réalisés en matière d'enseignement supérieur. En l'espace d'une quinzaine d'années, le Rwanda s'est doté de 28 universités et établissements d'enseignement supérieur publics et privés.

14.6 Madame la Présidente, il ne peut y avoir de développement durable sans paix, ni de paix durable sans une bonne gouvernance. Aussi le Rwanda s'est-il préoccupé en priorité de mettre sur pied des mécanismes de bonne gouvernance, de paix et de sécurité intérieure et extérieure, notamment en participant à des missions de maintien de la paix, en préservant et en consolidant de bonnes relations avec les autres pays et en s'efforçant de promouvoir l'unité et la réconciliation entre les Rwandais.

14.7 Permettez-moi une nouvelle fois, Madame la Présidente, de vous féliciter et de vous exprimer tout l'appui du Rwanda pour vos initiatives, réformes et recommandations. Nous ne doutons pas un seul instant que leur mise en œuvre permettra à notre Organisation d'être encore plus forte, plus proche des réalités des pays membres. Nous réitérons enfin notre souhait de voir l'UNESCO user de son pouvoir et de ses moyens afin de partager les bonnes pratiques issues de l'expérience et de l'expertise des États membres. Madame la Présidente, je vous souhaite plein succès pour la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Je vous remercie.

**15. The President:**

Thank you very much. And I would like to give the floor now to the Minister of Education of Argentina, His Excellency Mr Alberto Estanislao Sileoni. The floor is yours, Sir.

**16.1 Sr. Sileoni (Argentina):**

Buenos días a todos y a todas, señora Presidenta, señora Directora General, señores delegados: es un honor para mí, como representante del Gobierno de la República Argentina, dirigirme a esta 36<sup>a</sup> reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO. Queremos ratificar el compromiso de nuestro país con los ideales y objetivos de la Organización, y lo expresamos a través de políticas públicas que tienden a construir una sociedad más justa. Además, Argentina apoya como casi el mundo entero la existencia de un Estado para el pueblo palestino. Esta Conferencia se desarrolla en momentos en que la crisis global afecta a muchas naciones y pone en evidencia la necesidad de reafirmar los postulados de igualdad, equidad y mejoramiento de la dignidad de las personas y los pueblos. No nos asombra el movimiento de indignados que recorre el mundo, porque del mismo modo nuestro país vivió hace algunos años angustias similares, como consecuencia de políticas que generaron una excesiva concentración de la riqueza y un

dramático achicamiento del aparato productivo. Hemos logrado revertir esa situación con decisiones tomadas en los últimos ocho años por un proyecto político que ha relacionado educación, producción y trabajo.

16.2 En 2003, al asumir la presidencia, el Dr. Néstor Kirchner expresó claramente el rumbo afirmando que "no hay factor mayor de cohesión y desarrollo humano que promueva más la inclusión que el acceso a la educación". Nuestra Presidenta, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, profundizó el camino de considerar la educación como un derecho inalienable de los pueblos. Así lo establece nuestra ley nacional, sancionada en 2005, que prescribe que la educación y el conocimiento son un bien público y un derecho personal y social, garantizado por el Estado. Con estas convicciones, empezamos a desarrollar un conjunto de acciones que hoy nos permiten exhibir un sistema educativo en funcionamiento y en constante expansión. Hemos avanzado en materia de asignación de recursos para la educación, con una inversión de 6,40% del producto interno bruto (PBI), y una mejora de las condiciones laborales y salariales de nuestros maestros. Se construyeron más de 1.200 escuelas y sigue el proceso para otras 700, habiendo sido distribuidos más de 45 millones de libros. Alcanzamos la escolarización plena de los niños de 5 años, un crecimiento del 25% en la cobertura de los de 4, la consolidación de la educación primaria para todos y la escolarización de más del 80% de los adolescentes en el nivel secundario. Hemos creado nueve nuevas universidades públicas y generado un programa de becas para orientar la matrícula hacia carreras prioritarias para el desarrollo estratégico del país. Con la creación del Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología consolidamos un modelo de país que relaciona investigación y producción. Por esas políticas regresaron más de 800 científicos que vuelven a confiar en la ciencia de su patria. La inversión en educación técnica permitió el equipamiento y la modernización de las escuelas y el incremento en un 12% de su matrícula. A través de programas específicos hemos hecho descender el analfabetismo al 1,9%. Contamos con dos señales de televisión para niños y jóvenes con una producción de cuya calidad se enorgullece la sociedad de Argentina. El programa Conectar Igualdad posibilita la conectividad de las escuelas y la provisión de 6.600.000 *netbooks* a todos los alumnos de la escuela secundaria, a sus docentes y a los niños y niñas con discapacidad. Estos logros no impiden analizar las deudas: debemos trabajar aún más por la primera infancia, incorporar a los adolescentes que están fuera de la escuela y mejorar los aprendizajes de todos nuestros alumnos. Por eso, junto con el resto de los países de Iberoamérica, nos hemos desafiado con metas educativas para el año 2021.

16.3 Señoras y señores: Argentina reconoce y agradece a la UNESCO el acompañamiento que hace a nuestras políticas y su tarea por la educación en el mundo. Bajo su auspicio hemos creado un centro internacional dedicado a la memoria, promoción y defensa de los derechos humanos. Y lo hicimos, para testimonio de la humanidad, en el mismo sitio donde funcionaba un centro de desaparición de personas en la última dictadura militar. Realizamos acciones conjuntas con el Instituto Internacional de Planeamiento de la Educación, con sede en Buenos Aires, y destacamos la tarea de la UNESCO en torno al canje de deuda por educación. Asimismo, el pueblo argentino agradece la adjudicación a Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo del Premio de Fomento de la Paz Félix Houphouët-Boigny.

16.4 Creemos que es posible encontrar soluciones a esta crisis mundial y hoy debe escucharse la voz de la UNESCO más fuerte que nunca. Este nuevo humanismo al que nos ha convocado la señora Directora General debe sostenerse con la presencia de la Organización en nuestra región, a través de sus oficinas e institutos. Esa voz debe convocarnos a buscar alternativas creativas que permitan lograr que la educación para todos no solo quede escrita en las declaraciones para alcanzarla, hace falta invertir más recursos en educación. La crisis financiera global no debe impedirnos encontrar mecanismos para lograr una inversión que cumpla con el derecho a la educación. Y es aquí donde la UNESCO juega un rol fundamental por su capacidad de articular la protección de las políticas inclusivas de educación ante los organismos internacionales de crédito. La Constitución de la UNESCO declara que es en la mente de los hombres donde deben erigirse los baluartes de la paz. Este postulado no podrá sostenerse con medidas económicas que reduzcan los presupuestos de la educación, la cultura y la ciencia. Esta ocasión nos convoca a asumir la responsabilidad de su defensa. Muchas gracias.

(16.1) **Mr Sileoni** (Argentina) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Madam President, Madam Director-General, dear delegates, good day to you all. It is an honour for me, as the representative of the Government of the Argentine Republic to address you at this 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. We would like to reaffirm the commitment of our country to the ideals and objectives of the Organization, and we show this by way of public policies aiming to build a fairer society. Furthermore, Argentina, like almost everyone, supports the existence of a State for the Palestinian people. This Conference is being held at a time when the global crisis is affecting many nations and highlighting the need to reassert on the tenets of equality, equity and enhancement of the dignity of all individuals and peoples. We are not surprised at the indignant movement that is spreading across the world, because our country went through similar trials some years ago, following policies that generated an excessive concentration of wealth and a dramatic decline in the country's productive apparatus. We managed to turn the situation around with decisions made in the last eight years in favour of a political project that connects education, production and labour.

(16.2) In 2003, when Dr Nestor Kirchner became President, he clearly acknowledged the changes by stating that "there is no bigger factor for human cohesion and development that favours inclusion than access to education". Our President, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner further has enhanced progress by considering education to be an inalienable right of all peoples. This is established through our national law, enacted in 2005, which states that education and knowledge are a public good and a personal and social right, guaranteed by the State. With these convictions, we have started to develop a set of actions that have made it possible for us to offer a working education system today that is continuously growing. We have made progress in allocating resources for education, having invested 6.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) and improved the pay and working conditions of our teachers. More than 1,200 schools were built and the process is ongoing for another 700, with over 45 million books distributed. We have achieved full enrolment for five year-olds, a 25% increase in schooling for four year-olds, consolidated primary education for all and schooling for over 80% of adolescents in secondary education. We have established nine new public universities and a scholarship programme that encourages enrolment into priority disciplines for the strategic development of the country. Also, with the establishment of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation we have consolidated the model of a country that ties research to production. Thanks to these policies, more than 800 scientists have returned to Argentina, confirming their faith in science in their homeland. Investment in technical education has led to schools being equipped and modernized and to a 12% increase in enrolment. Through specific programmes, we

have reduced illiteracy to 1.9%. We have two television channels for children and young adults, whose quality makes the Argentinian society proud. The programme *Conectar Igualdad* (Connecting Equality) enables schools to become more connected and 6,600,000 netbooks have been distributed to secondary school students, their teachers and children with disabilities. However, these achievements do not stop us from analysing our deficits: we must work even harder as far as early childhood is concerned, include adolescents who are out of school and improve learning for all students. Thus, together with the other Latin American countries, we have set ourselves challenges for education goals for the year 2021.

(16.3) Ladies and gentlemen, Argentina acknowledges and thanks UNESCO for supporting our policies and for its work in education throughout the world. Under its auspices, we have created an international centre dedicated to the memory, promotion and defence of human rights, which we have placed, as a testament to humanity, in the same place as a centre that was responsible for the disappearance of people during the last military dictatorship. We are working with the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), based in Buenos Aires, and promoting UNESCO's work through the debt-for-education swap. The Argentinian people also express thanks for the awarding of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize to the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

(16.4) We believe that it is possible to find solutions to this world crisis and that today UNESCO's voice must be louder than ever. The new humanism to which we have been called to adhere by the Director-General should be maintained by the Organization's presence in our region, through its offices and institutes. UNESCO's voice must urge us to find creative alternatives to ensure that education for all does not remain a written goal in declarations; we must invest more in education. The global financial crisis should not stop us from finding mechanisms for investment consistent with the right to education. This is where UNESCO plays an essential role, through its capacity to campaign for the protection of inclusive policies for education before international lending agencies. UNESCO's Constitution declares that it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed. This postulate cannot be maintained through economic measures that cut education, culture and science budgets. On this occasion, we are called upon to assume the responsibility for defending them. Thank you very much.

#### 17. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor now to the Minister of Education of Ghana, Her Excellency Ms Betty Mould-Iddrisu. The floor is yours, Madam.

#### 18.1 **Ms Mould-Iddrisu** (Ghana):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me much pleasure to have this opportunity to address the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO for the first time. Allow me, first of all, to convey warm greetings from the President, His Excellency Professor John Evans Atta-Mills and the good people of Ghana. I must say, we have observed with admiration the leadership of our present Director-General in her effort to make the impact of UNESCO felt at the global, regional and national levels. We would therefore like to congratulate Her Excellency Madam Irina Bokova for the able manner in which she has steered the affairs of UNESCO. The delegation of Ghana to UNESCO also joins previous speakers in congratulating you, Madam Katalin Bogyay, on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Madam President, Ghana commends UNESCO for being at the forefront of multilateral action in efforts to achieve the education for all (EFA) goals. We further note with satisfaction the Organization's preparatory efforts in connection with action beyond the 2015 target.

18.2 Madam President, in order to accelerate progress towards the EFA goals, the Government of Ghana now commits 30% of the national budget to education in addition to a dedicated fund set up to provide educational facilities in the country. The Government has also scaled up access to quality basic education through a variety of interventions including: school feeding in deprived communities; provision of free school uniforms and exercise books for children of school-going age; an upward adjustment of the Capitation Grant to help reduce the financial burden of education on parents; and expansion of educational infrastructure with the construction of over 1,200 additional classrooms over a period of two years. These initiatives have significantly increased enrolment at the basic level of education in Ghana. At the kindergarten level, for example, enrolment increased from 80.8% in 2006 – 2007 to 98.3% in 2010 – 2011. We address these issues, Madam President, in our teacher-centred policy and we have a variety of interventions including: expanding our diploma-awarding colleges; running programmes on early childhood care; establishing the Ghana Teaching Council; provision of distance learning; provision of e-learning facilities to teachers; and information and communication technology (ICT)-enhanced and relevant learning by which the Ghana Government has commenced the implementation of a policy to supply 60,000 computers to basic schools. Madam President, the Ghana delegation notes with satisfaction UNESCO's determination to strengthen Member States' capacity to develop and implement comprehensive and evidence-based policies for technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Our council is expanding both the scope and content of TVET to ease unemployment problems facing youth. We are grateful to the Government of Denmark and the World Bank for their support in this regard.

18.3 Turning now to UNESCO reforms, Madam President, the Government of Ghana notes with concern the ongoing consultations with respect to the locations of the multisectoral regional offices, particularly for the West Africa sub-region. Madam President, it is well established that Ghana was the first African country south of the Sahara to have hosted a UNESCO Regional Centre for Education Research and Information, as far back as 1961. Furthermore, we are currently hosting one of the largest cluster offices on the continent. We believe, Madam President, that our experience coupled with the renowned Ghanaian hospitality could be placed at the disposal of the Organization and we therefore consider Accra as the logical home for the multisectoral Regional Office.

18.4 Madam President, climate change issues have moved from being a mere environmental human tragedy to a global economic issue. We therefore consider it appropriate for UNESCO to prepare the draft universal declaration of ethical principles, reinforcing, no doubt, UNESCO's role as a credible United Nations specialized agency promoting good environmental governance through education, science and culture. I thank you for your attention.

*Ms Lacœuilhe (Saint Lucia) takes the Chair.*

19. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I would like to now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Theo Zurenuoc, Minister of Education of Papua New Guinea

20.1 **Mr Zurenuoc (Papua New Guinea):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of Papua New Guinea to you all. Madam President, we join other countries in congratulating you on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. We trust that your vast knowledge and experience in similar roles both at international level and in your own country will no doubt guide this session of the General Conference with success. We also join other distinguished delegates in congratulating the outgoing President for his strong and coherent guidance in the work of UNESCO in the last two years.

20.2 Madam President, Papua New Guinea and its six million people speak about 800 languages, which is about one third of the world's languages, and hence this augments unity amongst diverse cultures. Papua New Guinea accounts for seven per cent of the world's biodiversity, with the second largest untempered virgin rainforest and its coral reefs and atolls that remain mostly untouched by the pressures of modern development. These virgin ecosystems remain habitats to endemic species of flora and fauna.

20.3 The Government of Papua New Guinea values the work of UNESCO in pursuit of its goal of making humanity realize that the way forward in the promotion of peace is fundamentally in the minds of men, women and young people. This is done through education that is appropriate and is conducive to sustainable development. The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development provides the overarching framework enabling our government to provide education to our population not only through funding support but also by a conducive policy framework that guides the kind and level of education that is needed. Under such a policy, the Government of Papua New Guinea has made sustainable education its number one development priority. We continue to promote the Dakar framework goals. The Papua New Guinea Government gives high priority to the education sector in order to accelerate progress towards education for all by 2015. Papua New Guinea's universal basic education plan 2010-2019 addresses the key priority areas of accessibility, retention, quality of education and management in education. In order to realize this vision, our government promotes an open-access policy, with the provision of free education from elementary up to secondary level and 75% subsidization of tertiary level starting in 2012. This is certainly a challenging commitment. We desire, however, to translate the immense national revenue that we have at this time into long-term human assets.

20.4 Madam President, I wish here to thank UNESCO for its noble vision in supporting literacy development initiatives taken by our government. Equally, I should like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Government of Japan's assistance in promoting literacy and education for sustainable development in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. Your leadership role in education for peace and development in the Pacific is specifically noted. The communication programmes that we have embarked on in partnership with UNESCO must continue because they bring the latest world standards and innovations to our people, schools and communities that are separated by harsh topography and vast oceans between islands and atolls.

20.5 Madam President, Papua New Guinea is a State Party to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Our rich, diverse cultural heritage is the source of our strength and nationhood and will be a laboratory of knowledge for the world. The Government of Papua New Guinea is now in the process of enacting a law on traditional knowledge and cultural expression to safeguard our vast cultural heritage. Madam President, we commend UNESCO's World Heritage Committee for the inscription of the Kuk Early Agricultural Site on the World Heritage List. In relation to the Kuk site, I must quote from Wikipedia, "Agriculture was independently developed in the New Guinea Highlands around 7000 B.C. making it one of the few areas of early cultivation by humans in the world." These findings on Papua New Guinea's potential contribute to UNESCO's mandate in education, science and culture. Therefore, we call upon UNESCO to help us preserve these cultural treasures.

20.6 Madam President, Papua New Guinea, being the largest island among the Pacific island States, adjoining the Asia and the Pacific region, plays certain international roles that are critical to peace, security and development in the region as well as globally. The challenges posed by climate change and regional asylum-seekers are the notable issues. At this juncture I acknowledge the shared role played by all governments of the Pacific Member States in ensuring that peace and security is maintained in the region at all times. Furthermore, we thank the governments of China, Japan and the Czech Republic for providing training opportunities for our national experts over the years under joint fellowship arrangements with UNESCO.

20.7 Madam President, our government is a global champion and leading voice on world climate change issues and, on behalf of many small island developing States in the Pacific, I take this opportunity to re-emphasize UNESCO's role in ensuring that environmental issues relating to prevention, mitigation and protection confronting the Pacific are given the necessary attention.

20.8 Madam President, with these remarks, allow me to remind our distinguished delegates that the 17 UNESCO Member States in the Pacific have not had a voice at the UNESCO Executive Board over the last two years. You will agree with me that it is unfair to have all 12 seats allocated to the region concentrated in only one part of the region. Therefore, the Pacific region is presenting Papua New Guinea as its candidate for a seat on the Executive Board and, colleagues and friends among the Member States, I ask you for your support. Thank you for your attention. May God Almighty bless you all.

21. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I would like to now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Angelina Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education of South Africa.

22.1 **Ms Motshekga** (South Africa):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, heads of delegation, ladies and gentlemen, let me, Madam President, join my colleagues who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your election. It is fitting that we consider ways of strengthening UNESCO's ability to respond to the pressing educational, scientific and cultural challenges that face the African continent. In order for UNESCO to do this effectively, it needs to play a decisive leadership role on key issues of international concern and for the Organization to be steered in a manner that will make it more effective in its action.

22.2 Regarding climate change, preparations are under way in South Africa to welcome the international community and all stakeholders to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at the end of November 2011. The success of the Conference does not depend on South Africa alone but on the willingness of all Parties to reach an agreement. On the request by Palestinians for admission to UNESCO, South Africa welcomes and fully supports Palestine's efforts to seek UNESCO membership. Such membership is long overdue. We also applaud the Executive Board for recommending to the General Conference that Palestine be admitted as a full Member of UNESCO. The African Union has expressed its support, and the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirmed Palestine's right to become a full member of the multilateral community of States.

22.3 On proposals by Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2012-2013 with which UNESCO could be associated, my delegation has proposed the celebration of the 50th anniversaries of the Livonia Trial, which led to the incarceration of former President Mandela, and of the establishment of the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO). We look to the 36th session of the General Conference to approve the recommendation for UNESCO to associate itself with these events. On the Draft Programme and Budget, we commend the Director-General on her efforts to reallocate existing funds towards the substantive work of the Organization. This is, however, not a solution that will suffice on its own, as the growing demand for UNESCO's expertise is not compatible with continued demands for zero growth budgets. We as Member States continue to make demands of UNESCO and yet refuse to provide adequate resources to implement our demands. This is having a negative impact on the relevance and effectiveness of the Organization. On the issue of extrabudgetary contributions, South Africa wants to caution against the negative practice of replacing regular budget funding with extrabudgetary resources. While we appreciate the valuable contribution that extrabudgetary funds make to the work of the Organization, this practice undermines multilateralism, which is based on Member States' ownership of common issues and the means to address them. The continuing tendency to substitute core funding with extrabudgetary resources and its associated conditions diminishes the relevance of multilateral organizations and their ability to address issues of common concern. With regard to the independent external evaluation of UNESCO that was conducted, we continue to support the implementation of its recommendations that are aimed at making UNESCO more focused, better coordinated and more responsive to the needs of developing Member States.

22.4 Education for all (EFA) has been a flagship UNESCO programme. Access, equality and quality are closely interlinked goals. We welcome the initiative by the UNESCO Office to look more closely at benchmarking educational quality. South Africa is proud to have hosted a UNESCO education quality framework meeting on 15-17 August 2011 and we are looking forward to the next event scheduled to take place in the United Arab Emirates. We need to ensure that there are mechanisms and processes in place that will achieve these goals. UNESCO's commitment to prioritizing science for development and gender equality in Africa in its biennial plans will contribute to the development of the continent and empowerment of women in science. Cooperation with UNESCO can strengthen science, technology and innovation systems on the continent. South Africa's bid for the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) is in its advanced stage. In this regard we require the support of UNESCO in advancing the science and technology agenda in the African region and on the world stage. Madam President, the endorsement of the international engineering programme by the Executive Board at its 185th session was a huge step forward for developing Member States in view of the fact that engineering capabilities are central to social, economic and human development. It is therefore with some disappointment that my delegation has learned about the downgrading of this programme to an initiative by the Executive Board and we trust that the Organization's financial situation will improve and it will revert back to an international programme.

22.5 The recognition of cultural diversity is critical to UNESCO, as to South Africa. The precious treasure of Africa's cultural heritage can be enhanced through support for the African world heritage sites. With a view to meeting Africa's water needs the South African Government has approved the hosting of a UNESCO category 2 centre, the "African Centre for Global Change and Water Resources Research". It will serve the needs of the entire continent with regard to climate change and water research and will be hosted at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). We firmly believe that a focused, results-based and development-oriented UNESCO can make a positive practical contribution to Africa in achieving the education for all goals and for all of our children. I thank you, Madam President.

23. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I would now like to give the floor to His Excellency Mr António Correia e Silva, Minister of Higher Education, Sciences and Innovation of Cape Verde.

24.1 **M. Correia e Silva** (Cap-Vert)

*(discours prononcé en portugais ; texte français fourni par la délégation) :*

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et chefs de délégation, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de dire le grand honneur et

la joie que j'ai de prendre la parole en tant que Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur, des sciences et de l'innovation et Président de la Commission nationale cap-verdienne pour l'UNESCO dans cet important forum des Nations Unies. Si, pour chaque pays, cette organisation est d'une importance cruciale parce qu'elle prend en compte les thématiques de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture, de la jeunesse et de l'environnement et qu'elle a pour but d'agir dans ces domaines, il est d'autant plus important de réaliser les objectifs qu'elle s'est fixés pour un petit pays comme le nôtre, le Cap-Vert étant un archipel dépourvu de ressources naturelles. Du fait de sa condition de micro-État situé à la croisée de deux contraintes – isolement océanique et aridité de la zone sahélienne – le Cap-Vert a, dans la construction de son projet collectif, placé d'immenses espoirs dans l'éducation comme instrument d'émancipation individuelle et collective.

24.2 Depuis l'indépendance nationale, conquise le 5 juillet 1975, les gouvernements successifs de mon pays ont déployé d'immenses efforts dans le domaine de l'éducation. Ces efforts constants portent leurs fruits : d'un taux initial d'analphabétisme de l'ordre de 60 %, nous sommes aujourd'hui passés à un taux de 17 %. Nous sommes fiers de pouvoir dire que 98 % des enfants en âge de recevoir un enseignement de base vont à l'école, sans distinction de genre. À partir des années 1990, nous avons augmenté l'accès à l'enseignement secondaire ; nous avons construit des lycées dans l'ensemble des neuf îles habitées de l'archipel et dans toutes les municipalités du pays. Ainsi, le taux de fréquentation dans l'enseignement secondaire a rapidement évolué : 67 % de nos jeunes en âge de scolarisation fréquentent un établissement d'enseignement secondaire, alors qu'il y a peu de temps, l'enseignement secondaire avait à peine une couverture urbaine et n'était accessible qu'à une élite.

24.3 L'option nationale a été de ne pas donner de présence significative à l'enseignement supérieur avec la création d'universités dans ce siècle, l'idée étant que, sinon, nous aurions épuisé les forces que nous devons concentrer sur la mise en place d'une éducation de base universelle et intégratrice qui soit véritablement le fondement d'une démocratie effective. Pour atteindre notre objectif, nous avons lancé en 2001 un système national d'enseignement supérieur. L'État cap-verdien a mobilisé toute la nation autour de la cause de l'éducation, voie la plus crédible pour réaliser les grands desseins nationaux que sont le développement économique, la consolidation de la démocratie et le renforcement et la valorisation de notre spécificité culturelle.

24.4 Madame la Présidente, ce parcours, dont nous sommes fiers, ne nous fait néanmoins pas perdre de vue que les acquis doivent être consolidés, que les victoires obtenues en matière d'équité d'accès doivent aller de pair avec l'amélioration des conditions de fréquentation des élèves aux différents niveaux du système d'éducation. En outre, les progrès quantitatifs ne doivent pas éluder la recherche de nouvelles normes de qualité. Comme dans les premières phases de notre parcours d'État indépendant, nous appelons aujourd'hui les autres membres de la communauté internationale à la coopération en faveur de l'éducation pour faire face aux nouveaux défis de l'institutionnalisation, du renforcement du système d'enseignement à distance, des conditions d'équité dans un contexte de dispersion de l'archipel et de renforcement de l'enseignement des sciences, des langues, des savoirs liés à la citoyenneté et à la paix.

24.5 Étant un petit pays, notre défi consiste à éduquer notre jeunesse afin d'en faire une génération de citoyens cosmopolites, multilingues, sensibles aux grandes causes de l'humanité, notamment la paix, et respectueux de la diversité culturelle, de l'environnement, du savoir, l'accent étant mis en particulier sur les sciences de la terre et les techniques de gestion de l'eau.

24.6 Madame la Présidente, permettez-moi de faire part à cette éminente Assemblée d'un de nos défis collectifs, à savoir la mobilisation des savoirs scientifiques pour comprendre et résoudre les problèmes liés au développement du Cap-Vert. Nous n'avons pas de richesse naturelle significative, nous n'avons pas de marché aux dimensions importantes et attractives. Nous devons intégrer toute la connaissance scientifique et jeter les bases de la recherche appliquée en vue de notre émancipation.

24.7 Au fil de notre histoire, nous avons bâti une intéressante synthèse culturelle, fruit de nos divers métissages. Notre archipel était, comme vous le savez, un lieu de passage, une escale maritime et aérienne sur les diverses routes transatlantiques. L'une d'entre elles, la plus importante, était la « Route de l'esclave », qui a produit la douloureuse diaspora africaine sur les pourtours de l'Atlantique. « Cidade Velha », aujourd'hui patrimoine mondial reconnu par l'UNESCO, en est le témoin. Nous avons ainsi été la première société créole de l'Atlantique, un lieu où, pour la première fois, ont vécu ensemble de façon durable Africains et Européens. Cette réalité a donné naissance à un nouveau type de société.

24.8 Je terminerai en renouvelant l'engagement du Cap-Vert en faveur des causes de l'UNESCO et en manifestant notre foi dans les potentialités positives de la coopération entre les membres de cette immense communauté pour la promotion de l'éducation, des sciences et de la culture.

25. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I would now like to give the floor to His Excellency Mr Afioga Magele Mauiliu Magele, Minister of Education, Sport and Culture of Samoa.

26.1 **Mr Magele Mauiliu Magele (Samoa):**

Madam President, Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I extend to you all a warm greeting from the independent State of Samoa, a small island development State in the Pacific. But first of all, I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and we wish you well.

26.2 As many of you will know, Samoa is the host country of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, which was established back in 1984. Its creation more than met the aspirations of the original and subsequent countries it was intended to serve inasmuch as it was the Pacific Office that first developed and promoted the concept of a small States development paradigm that, in 1987, was reflected in the work plan of the then Department of Educational Planning. In

the years that followed, a full-scale small island State programme evolved. Mention must be made however of the initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat on this subject since it was they who, at a 1986 meeting in Mauritius of small States planners in which UNESCO/Apia participated, that made possible the development of conceptual framework from which the subsequent programme was derived. A compelling one, it highlighted the importance to small island States (SIS) of three critical planning variables, namely: small economies of scale; isolation from most of the world and from one another; and heavy dependence on external assistance for development.

26.3 Madam President, no doubt these remarks have been echoed before in this very forum. Indeed, their programmatic implications were, for the first two decades of the Pacific Office's life, reflected the content and delivery system of UNESCO's cooperative programme in the Pacific. Through the biennially-organized consultations of Pacific Island Directors and Secretaries of Education, consultations were timed in such a way as to ensure that their recommendations would be reflected in the relevant draft C/5 document and proposals were tailor-made to suit the Pacific context imposed by the interplay of these three variables. Not so long ago, Madam President, when I read reports of small island developing States (SIDS) meetings and of the outcome of National Commissions, I was given the impression that we have not progressed much. Today, however, Madam President, in looking through the Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5), let me now say that I am delighted and Samoa applauds Madam Director-General and the Secretariat for the overall vision to take the Organization forward into the next biennium and hopefully beyond. I note in particular, efforts to address the situation of small island States as in UNESCO's intersectoral platform for SIDS. Samoa is encouraged that the Pacific Heads of Education Meeting has endorsed a Pacific island framework in education on climate change for SIDS and hope that it will align with UNESCO's initiatives. Given this endorsement and our commitment to the work of UNESCO overall, let me say, Madam President, that it is imperative for us to seek a place for our Pacific voice in the highest decision-making level of UNESCO, and Samoa respectfully proposes for the support of the General Conference, Papua New Guinea's candidature for the Executive Board.

26.4 Madam President, we wish to thank the Director-General for the recent review on the cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with the National Commissions in 2011. This is a forward-looking move and we are excited about new reforms and developments to come. Despite budgetary constraints, Samoa would strongly support a proposal to enhance resources to the Pacific Office, perhaps through an additional field officer in the Apia Office, to focus on promoting the work of the Pacific National Commissions or a local staff to the National Commissions. Allow me therefore at this point, Madam President, to make special mention and commend the hard work of the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation and Public Information (ADG/ERI) and his staff for the positive developments in support of the National Commissions and the Participation Programme.

26.5 Turning now to programmes Madam President, Samoa is challenged by the everyday demands of meeting requirements in UNESCO's fields of competence. By no means an exhaustive agenda: education addresses culture and languages, sustainable development, gender equity, curriculum and teacher development, our system of examinations and measurements, sports development, information technology in schools and the challenge of Internet access to name a few. Culture is reflected in the inclusion of Samoan cultural ethics, values and practices including Christian/spiritual values in the curriculum and instructive arts and cultural diversity through the Pacific Arts Festival and in-school curricula. Samoa values the World Cultural Heritage Committee and Convention and to that end, Samoa supports our Pacific neighbour Palau in its bid for membership of the World Heritage Committee. In communication, Samoa targets the development of modes of communication. In science we identify strategies to train science and mathematics teachers given the huge shortage in these areas. It is pleasing to note that UNESCO Pacific Office has started deliberations of policy dialogue without formal education and looking forward to continual partnership in development of our non-formal education policy and an education for sustainable development policy.

26.6 Finally, Madam President, education for all. Samoa has recently embarked on a series of educational reforms, including new primary curriculum, right to education, child's right to education, 'fee free' education, initially at primary level, increased places for primary school leavers entering secondary schools and in strategies in culture and sport. All are contributing factors to achieve EFA and all hold huge implications for adequate resources. Madam Chair, Director-General and Secretariat, Samoa requests UNESCO's solid presence and role in assisting all Member States and SIDS in particular, to achieve the MDGs, including EFA by 2015, and beyond. I finally express Samoa's commitment to you, Director-General, and the work of UNESCO. I thank you Madam President.

*Ms Bogyay resumes the Chair.*

**27. The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to the Under Secretary of the Department of Education of United States of America, Her Excellency Ms Martha Kanter. The floor is yours.

**28.1 Ms Kanter (United States of America):**

Madam President, fellow delegates, since the General Conference last convened, great things have happened at UNESCO. UNESCO has taken a central role in the United Nations system. It has strengthened its partnerships with the private sector that support its work. We have all witnessed the incredible transformations imagined and brought to fruition by Director-General Bokova and the Secretariat. UNESCO is more important than ever. Just consider some of its recent accomplishments: in Afghanistan, UNESCO is providing literacy training for the Afghan National Police, making it a stronger and more effective force for nation-building; the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's tsunami warning system helped notify people of the tragic tsunami in Japan earlier this year; in Iraq and Afghanistan, UNESCO is continuing to help rebuild museums, universities and cultural institutions; in the wake of the revolution in Egypt, UNESCO immediately engaged youth to consider how to strengthen civic engagement and democracy in their country. These are



actions of an Organization that is at the heart of facing global challenges and improving the lives of people all around the world. The United States recognizes that UNESCO is a critical partner in creating a better future.

28.2 This fall, the United States announced a new contribution to UNESCO's Holocaust education programme, which helps to educate the world about this historic tragedy and teach students how to help prevent mass atrocities in their own societies. We have partnered with Brazil to create a new "Teaching Respect for All" curriculum that will offer students tools for life in multicultural societies. At this General Conference, we will support the creation of International Jazz Day – a day that will commemorate this uniquely global art form that is played and enjoyed across cultures, languages and musical traditions. With our American Goodwill Ambassadors – Herbie Hancock, Forest Whitaker and Esther Coopersmith – we are working to truly build peace in the minds of both men and women. Two weeks ago, Forest Whitaker spoke to the UNESCO Youth Forum about conflict resolution and peace-building. The United States Government committed \$500 million to support the development of open education and job-training resources in the current fiscal year, with \$1.5 billion more planned over the next three years. And we are pleased to continue to work with UNESCO on the development of the open educational resources (OER) policy guidelines, which will be launched tomorrow. We were proud to host World Press Freedom Day 2011 in Washington, D.C. – a landmark event, which highlighted the constant struggle of so many journalists to safely, freely and accurately inform the public. This event also emphasized the growing importance of social media in journalism. The United States is helping to strengthen UNESCO's work on gender equality. This May, during Africa Week, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited UNESCO for the launch of the Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education. This was the first visit of a Secretary of State to UNESCO and conveys the strong support of my government for this Organization. We are working with UNESCO to build new partnerships with United States companies and foundations. Procter and Gamble is contributing to girls' literacy programming in Senegal, with the sale of every product carrying the UNESCO logo, and many of UNESCO's materials will now be available on Apple's iTunes University. This deep and abiding commitment to a stronger UNESCO is why the United States is running for re-election to the Executive Board. We are fully committed to UNESCO's ideals and to strengthening the Organization because we know that a strong and principled UNESCO benefits both the international community and the United States.

28.3 Madam President, after describing the United States' engagement with UNESCO in so many ways, I must address an issue that this body will be facing later in this session. Delegations will make a decision as to whether to admit Palestine as a Member. We believe this effort is counterproductive, as the only path to the Palestinian State we all seek is through direct negotiations. We urge all States to vote with us in support of this institution and against this premature step.

28.4 At the very first General Conference, United States Senator William Benton said: "...to help make peace: that is the task of UNESCO. It is the hardest, longest, largest task that men (and women) can undertake". The task of creating a more peaceful world is no less important or challenging now than it was 65 years ago. This General Conference is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment because the world needs a strong UNESCO. Thank you.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to invite the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture of the British Virgin Islands, Her Excellency Ms Marcia Potter, to take the floor. The floor is yours.

30.1 **Ms Potter** (British Virgin Islands):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I speak this morning on behalf of the Minister of Education and Culture, the Honourable Andrew Fahie of the British Virgin Islands. I greet you in the name of the Great God of the Universe and I bring greetings from the Government and people of the British Virgin Islands. It is an honour to be here today to reaffirm the British Virgin Islands' commitment to UNESCO's ideals of attaining the highest standards in education, science, culture, communication and information. Madam President, before I move forward, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the 36th session of the General Conference. I wish you success as you assume your role with honour and dignity.

30.2 Colleagues, it is wonderful to once again share with all of you some of the developments in education in the British Virgin Islands. Madam President, like many, we have achieved universal primary and secondary education and are now focusing on early childhood education, special education and technical and vocational education. We have successfully embarked on teacher training programmes, where we aim to have all our teachers qualified with a bachelor's degree in education by 2020, to have implemented a school information system where all our teachers at the primary and secondary levels have been given laptop computers, introduced a school feeding programme to ensure proper nutrition for our children in the fight against obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and undertaken curriculum review and revision to make our curriculum more relevant, among other initiatives. Two years ago I shared my ideas on the continued development of our youth in skill-based professions. I am here again to champion the same cause and ask that you think about what your respective countries have done in this area that would be beneficial models for what we are working towards in the British Virgin Islands. We continue to recognize that our territory requires citizens who are well prepared in academic as well as in technical fields. I am pleased to report that we have an extensive academic programme in place and are working diligently to make sure that the technical skills, which are high in demand, are embedded in our education system. Students with an interest and aptitude for work in technical areas must be given appropriate opportunities.

30.3 Madam President, technical education for us in the British Virgin Island is critical to our development. We continue to shine the spotlight on the "lifeblood" of our territory. Citizens who work in technical fields are the drivers of one of our main economic pillars, tourism. Without their technical skills the industry cannot thrive. That is why, for

example, we are currently integrating a culinary arts institute into our tertiary level education system to develop a productive workforce for the industry. We continue to strive to ensure that our technical and vocational apprenticeship programme is strengthened. Our Ministry of Education continues to raise the level of awareness on the importance of technical education. For too long there has been a stigma around this much-needed driver of our economy. We acknowledge that in this rapidly changing world it is the knowledgeable and skilled citizens who will help our respective economies to thrive and be sustained. While we have developed a technical vocational programme, we however need to develop a national technical and vocational education policy. We recognize that our provision in terms of technical and vocational education must meet the needs of students and the world of work. Additionally, we want to target some of our best students who tend to be attracted only to the professions in medicine, law, accountancy and so forth. Our government is dedicated to building a territory where all its citizens are provided with opportunities to reach their full potential. Access to quality education is a high priority area and is the impetus by which we will promote equality and opportunity for our people so that they can actively participate in and contribute to the sustainable development of our territory. That is why we are continuously working toward quality education for all (EFA) by 2015, supported by the motto "Moving from Good to Great". We will be calling on UNESCO to assist the British Virgin Islands with training and development of educational policies, programmes and protocols based on international best practice so that we too remain relevant in the twenty-first century.

30.4 Madam President, in conclusion I wish to say that the British Virgin Islands have benefited from our membership and association with UNESCO. We therefore pledge our commitment to ensure that every British Virgin Islands resident remains a strong advocate for UNESCO and its ideals. I thank you.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. And now, I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador of Chile to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Jorge Edwards. The floor is yours, Sir.

32.1 **Sr. Edwards (Chile):**

Señora Presidenta de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, señora Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, señores ministros, distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores: señora Presidenta, permítame felicitarla calurosamente por su elección como Presidenta de la Conferencia General y asegurarle la decidida colaboración de la delegación de Chile en los trabajos que ahora se inician. Chile es un país de tradición educacional, de pensamiento en los terrenos de la educación, de pedagogía en el espíritu y en la acción. Gabriela Mistral, Premio Nobel de Literatura después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, fue un miembro activo de la Oficina de Cooperación Intelectual de la Sociedad de las Naciones, precursora de la UNESCO, y su archivo profesional, lleno de sorprendente reflexión formadora, de vocación generosa, se encuentra ahora en gran parte en los subterráneos de esta Organización. La poesía de Mistral la condujo siempre a una visión en profundidad de los grandes temas de la pedagogía. La reflexión suya fue revolucionaria en temas de igualdad de género. Su verso y su prosa fueron de los primeros de la lengua española en inspirarse en el mundo indígena hispanoamericano. Ella participó a fines de los años treinta del siglo pasado en el gobierno del Frente Popular chileno, cuyo lema, animado precisamente por su ejemplo, fue el siguiente: "Gobernar es educar". Es decir, fue uno de los personajes del siglo XX que representó mejor, de una manera más completa, con pasión creadora, los ideales unesquianos.

32.2 En las últimas décadas, Chile ha conseguido resultados importantes en el tema del acceso de todos a la educación. Hoy día, siete de cada diez estudiantes de la educación superior pertenecen a familias que nunca llegaron en el pasado a la enseñanza universitaria. Pero nos encontramos en los umbrales de un desarrollo moderno, en una condición en que todo el país, y sobre todo el país joven, exige un avance mayor en aspectos esenciales: en el acceso democrático, igualitario, a las escuelas y en la calidad de la enseñanza. Mi Gobierno piensa que los jóvenes tienen derecho a la impaciencia, a movilizarse a favor de sus derechos, y los escucha con suma atención. Ha destinado 4.000 millones de dólares, cifra enorme en relación con nuestras reales dimensiones económicas, a incrementar el presupuesto educacional en los próximos cuatro años, y lo ha hecho con el propósito de mejorar la calidad, de ayudar a educarse a los sectores más desfavorecidos, de aumentar la transparencia y combatir toda forma de abuso. Queremos instaurar una educación de alta calidad para todos y evitar que nadie deje de recibir una educación primaria, secundaria o superior por falta de medios económicos. Es un desafío de singular magnitud y exigirá un acuerdo nacional sin precedentes. Pero creemos que ese acuerdo está en gestación en estos mismos días. Y creemos que el país podrá superar esta situación difícil, este conflicto todavía no resuelto, y convertirse de nuevo, como en los tiempos de Gabriela Mistral y de muchos otros hombres y mujeres, gente política y de cultura, en el gran centro cultural, educacional, científico, del extremo sur del continente americano, en una referencia para todos.

32.3 Mi país comprende y siente especial aprecio por el trabajo que efectúa en el terreno y en toda la región la Oficina de la UNESCO en Santiago. También entiende la necesidad y apoya plenamente la acción de la UNESCO en el ámbito de las ciencias. Nos alegramos de que la UNESCO se comprometa en los esfuerzos de la comunidad internacional para enfrentar el cambio climático y queremos destacar el trabajo que realiza la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental (COI), indispensable en la gestión de los recursos oceánicos, la protección de las zonas costeras, la alerta temprana de los desastres naturales y la mitigación de sus efectos, temas que mi país, por desgracia, conoce en forma desproporcionada, pero que le han servido, a la vez, para templar su carácter y para reforzar su identidad como nación moderna.

32.4 Por último, señora Presidenta, puedo asegurarle que Chile valora altamente la acción de la UNESCO en relación a los temas de cultura, de resguardo del patrimonio, de atención a la identidad y la diversidad cultural. Somos, como dijo un clásico del Renacimiento español, el "último Occidente", pero podemos, por esto mismo, ofrecer un conjunto de huellas, monumentos, espacios patrimoniales, de naturaleza única, desde los moáis colocados en forma misteriosa en las laderas de los volcanes de la Isla de Pascua, hasta las callejuelas y los cerros del viejo Valparaíso, y

las iglesias coloniales de la Isla de Chiloé. Señora Presidenta, en una época de conflicto, de turbulencia, de crisis en el mundo y probable crisis en nuestra propia Organización, pensamos que la respuesta no consiste en evadirnos de nuestra complicada coyuntura, sino en enfrentarla con decisión, en asumir los ideales históricos de la UNESCO, unidos a su nuevo humanismo, y profundizar nuestra acción. Mi país, Chile, señora Presidenta, está dispuesto a ayudar, a contribuir, a trabajar con visión abierta, convencido de que la solidaridad internacional es más urgente hoy día que en ninguna época anterior. Muchas gracias.

(32.1) **Mr Edwards** (Chile) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, dear ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Madam President, let me start by warmly congratulating you on your election as President of the General Conference and assuring you that the Chilean delegation is committed to supporting you in the work that is to begin. Chile is a country of educational tradition, of thinking in the fields of education, pedagogy, spirit and action. Gabriela Mistral, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature after the Second World War, was an active member of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations, precursor to UNESCO. Her professional archive, filled with surprising educative thoughts and a generous vocation can now mostly be found in the underground rooms of this Organization. Mistral's poetry always led her to have an in-depth view into the main themes of education. Her reflection was revolutionary in terms of gender equality themes. Her verse and prose were the first of the Spanish language to be inspired by the indigenous Hispanic American world. Towards the end of the 1930s, she played a part in the Chilean Popular Front Government, whose motto, inspired by her example, was "to govern is to educate". That is to say, she was one of the twentieth century's best representatives of UNESCO ideals, in the widest sense and with a creative passion.

(32.2) In recent decades, Chile has achieved important results in the theme of providing education to all. Today, seven out of ten higher education students come from families that had never before made it into university. We are now at a threshold of modern development, in which the whole country - and especially the young - requires more progress in essential aspects: democratic and equal access to schools and quality teaching. My government considers that young people are entitled to be impatient, to mobilize for their rights, and we are giving them our full attention. The Government has allocated US \$4,000 million - a considerable sum in relation to our real economic dimensions - to increasing the education budget over the next four years, with the intention of improving quality, helping the most impoverished sectors to become educated, increasing transparency and fighting any form of abuse. We would like to establish high quality education for all and ensure that nobody misses out on primary, secondary or even higher education owing to a lack of economic means. It is a significant challenge and will need unprecedented national consensus. However, we believe that this consensus is in preparation right now, and we believe that the country can overcome the difficult situation, the as-yet unresolved conflict, and turn itself around once again, like it did during the times of Gabriela Mistral and many other men and women of the world of politics and culture, transforming into a great cultural, educational and scientific centre, a reference for all, located in the most southern region of the American continent.

(32.3) My country can appreciate and is especially grateful for the work that the UNESCO Office in Santiago is carrying out on the field. We also understand the needs and thus wholly support UNESCO's action in the field of the sciences. We welcome UNESCO's efforts alongside the international community in facing climate change and we would like to highlight the work by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which is essential in the management of oceanic resources, the protection of coastal zones, early warning systems for natural disasters and the mitigation of their effects. These are themes that unfortunately affect my country disproportionately, but have served both to develop our character and strengthen our identity as a modern nation.

(32.4) Finally, Madam President, I can assure you that Chile highly values UNESCO's action regarding culture, the safeguarding of heritage, attention given to identity and cultural diversity. We are, as a poet of the Spanish Renaissance once said, "the New World", but this is precisely why we can offer an assembly of vestiges, monuments, heritage sites and unique natural sites, from the *moáis* arranged in a mysterious pattern on the slopes of Easter Island's volcanoes, to the alleyways and hills of the Historical Quarter of Valparaiso Island. Madam President, in a time of conflict, turbulence, a world crisis and a pending crisis of our Organization itself, we believe that the solution does not involve running away from this complicated situation, but rather facing it through decision-making, by upholding the historic ideals of UNESCO added to its new humanism, and thus strengthening our action. My country, Chile, Madam President, is ready to help, to contribute, to work with openness of mind and is convinced that international solidarity is more urgent today than it ever was before. Thank you very much.

### 33. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now, I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Estonia to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Marten Kokk.

#### 34.1 **Mr Kokk** (Estonia):

Good morning, Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to join many others before me in offering my congratulations to you, Madam President, on your election. Good to see you here, Katalin.

34.2 Excellencies, I am happy to say that two weeks ago Estonia celebrated the twentieth anniversary of our membership of UNESCO. During that time we have become increasingly more engaged in UNESCO's activities and we are honoured to have had the experience of working in the Intangible Heritage Committee and World Heritage Committee. During this General Conference, Estonia is participating for the first time in the work of the Legal Committee. We have also presented our candidature to the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and Biosphere and intend to run for the Executive Board in 2013.

34.3 Distinguished delegates, the discussions we will have here on global cooperation in education, science and culture are rooted in the shared values and mutual respect that UNESCO was built on and stands for. The Arab Spring has once again shown that human rights and dignity are universal values to which we all aspire. We have also witnessed the crucial role played by youth in these social transformations and we have been reminded of the importance of the free flow of information and freedom of expression for all that UNESCO actively promotes in the world. Estonia welcomes UNESCO's new programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence that has been proposed as one of the six intersectoral platforms encompassing, *inter alia*, major action relating to intercultural dialogue and human rights. We are

pleased to see the close cooperation between UNESCO and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in furthering intercultural dialogue. Estonia is determined to work with UNESCO in promoting respect for human rights in the world.

34.4 Ladies and gentlemen, Estonia would like to pay tribute to the efforts of the Director-General and her team to reform UNESCO's programmes and structure. As Director-General Irina Bokova herself has said, "this is a reform to perform", and we count on that spirit to continue. We are always judged on the merit of our results, even within the constraints of the zero nominal growth budget. We are pleased to see very substantial increases for Africa and gender equality that correspond to their priority status across the Organization. In this context we would like to point out that gender equality and women's rights are important priorities of Estonia's human rights policy and development cooperation policy.

34.5 We believe that UNESCO's role first and foremost is normative action and respective monitoring, formulation of global policies as well as policy advice and capacity-building in its Member States. Education and especially education for all (EFA) programmes are an important prerequisite for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This year's EFA Global Monitoring Report (GMR) told us clearly that, while progress has been made, we have a long way to go to achieve the 2015 goals and to ensure that educational opportunities are available to all. Given that the majority of out-of-school children and two thirds of illiterate adults are female, we welcome UNESCO's recent initiative to launch the Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education. We also believe it is crucial to look beyond the quantitative and statistical data and focus on the quality of education.

34.6 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO is well known as a standard-setter. We would like to share with you our concerns on the current state of affairs regarding two flagship conventions of UNESCO, namely the 1972 Convention and the 2003 Convention. We regret to say that the increasing operational problems and politicization of the World Heritage Committee threaten to compromise its credibility and the image of the World Heritage List's success. The decisions of the Committee diverge more and more frequently from the professional advice of the advisory bodies. I think this is something that we will all have to work together to remedy. First cycles of implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage reflect both the tremendous interest generated but also the unequal preparation of countries and regions of the world to benefit from it. The Member States' current focus on the lists of the Convention, especially the Representative List, poses a challenge in practical terms. It is important to adopt a responsible attitude to the amount of work the Committee and the Secretariat are able to accomplish during a year. Therefore, the number of nominations that the Committee can examine each year has to be limited.

34.7 As for science, Estonia highly appreciates UNESCO's work in the area of bioethics, world water issues, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, as well as international collaborative research for sustainable development. And finally, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Estonia's commitment to UNESCO and to contribute to its development and work in the years ahead. Thank you all for your attention.

35. **The President:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. And now, I would like to give the floor to the Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO, Her Excellency Ms Gita Kamath. The floor is yours.

36.1 **Ms Kamath (Australia):**

President of the General Conference, Excellencies, colleagues, the world has changed since we last gathered here in Paris in 2009. We have all been moved by the momentous events of the Arab Spring. The historic transitions under way highlight the importance of the continued commitment of all Member States to fulfil UNESCO's mandate and its noble goals of peace and human development. The last two years have also been marked by the enduring global financial crisis. In these times of fiscal austerity, UNESCO needs to be very clear about where it can best add value – it cannot be, and should not try to be, everything to everyone. We welcome the Director-General's efforts to craft a C/5 framework based on zero nominal growth which concentrates on a limited number of strategic objectives. Reforming UNESCO is a shared responsibility between its governing bodies and Secretariat, requiring a sustained and coordinated set of actions. We welcome the Director-General's consolidated action plan and encourage her to continue efforts to streamline business practices and free up resources to reinforce priority programmes. We support developing and implementing exit strategies for marginal and under-performing activities, alongside programme monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that are transparent to Member States. Greater coordination with other United Nations programmes will also assist in minimizing any potential overlap and in ensuring the effective use of resources. We appreciate that the net effect of these actions will take time to bear fruit, but we are heading in the right direction. UNESCO needs to position itself closer to country needs and partners to ensure its relevance and impact. Australia supports the first phase of UNESCO's field network reform which is to be rolled out on the African continent. We are strongly in favour of upgrading over time the UNESCO Office in Apia to a multisectoral regional office better equipped to cover the specific needs of the region.

36.2 Australia welcomes the opportunity to contribute to UNESCO's important work on the education for all (EFA) goals and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Australia will co-sponsor the Global Partnership's Replenishment Pledging Conference in November and encourages UNESCO Members to support this partnership. We value the work of UNESCO to support partner governments in developing effective education systems. In recognition of this, we are providing \$1.35 million over three years to the Global Monitoring Report. We are also renewing our financial contribution to UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning. Education is the flagship of Australia's aid programme. Our assistance is targeted at getting more children into school for a longer and better quality education. Recognizing that educating girls and women yields some of the highest returns of all development investments and benefits individuals, families and society at large, Australia continues to support improvements to women's and girls' education in many

developing countries. The appointment of our first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls will lend a stronger voice in promoting gender issues on the world stage.

36.3 The twentieth anniversary of the Memory of the World Programme next year provides a timely opportunity to reflect on its future. Australia's active engagement in this field was recognized by the designation of the National Archives of Australia as the laureate of the 2011 UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize for its innovative initiatives in the preservation of digital records. Australia looks forward to hosting, with UNESCO's patronage, the 34th International Geological Congress, to be held in Brisbane in August 2012. I am delighted to announce that Australia will sponsor the participation of up to 90 African delegates at this event in recognition of the valuable perspective that countries in Africa can bring to UNESCO's work in science. We are working hard to ensure a strong outcome for sustainable development in the lead-up to Rio+20. Australia hosts the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) Regional Programme Office for the Indian Ocean in Perth which supports the coordination of ocean science applications such as climate forecasting. Australia, India and Indonesia recently assumed key roles for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System coordinated under the IOC. We were pleased with its successful launch earlier this month which will lead to stronger regional collaboration in disaster risk mitigation.

36.4 The World Heritage Convention is nearing two important milestones: 40 years since it came into effect and the inscription of the one thousandth site on the World Heritage List. During its term of office on the World Heritage Committee, Australia is proud to have played a leading role in considering strategic responses to present and future challenges to the Convention to ensure that it continues in its mission for the next 40 years and beyond. We welcome the opportunity to sponsor a world heritage expert meeting in Senegal this year with a particular focus on state of conservation challenges in Africa. We are also particularly proud of our contribution towards raising the capacity of the Pacific to implement the World Heritage Convention.

36.5 Australia welcomes the priority UNESCO is giving to addressing the special challenges facing small island developing States. We observe that in our own region, the needs of the Pacific island States in UNESCO's fields of competence are great and that their voices need to be heard. We therefore welcome the nomination of Papua New Guinea for membership of the UNESCO Executive Board, and Palau's candidature for the World Heritage Committee. Madam President, I wish you and our fellow delegates well as we work together in the coming days to agree on UNESCO's priorities for the next biennium. Thank you.

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And now, I would like to give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Gisele Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Gabon to UNESCO. The floor is yours.

38.1 **Mme Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe (Gabon) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les Sous-Directeurs généraux, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames, Messieurs, en prenant la parole devant cette auguste Assemblée, l'honneur m'échoit de réitérer à Mme la Directrice générale les chaleureuses félicitations du Gouvernement gabonais, suite à sa brillante élection à la tête de notre honorable Institution. Non seulement vous êtes devenue la 10<sup>e</sup> personne élue à la tête de notre Organisation mais vous êtes, surtout, la première femme à la diriger, consacrant ainsi l'approche genre.

38.2 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, le Président de la République gabonaise, S. E. M. Ali Bongo Ondimba, que vous avez reçu dernièrement, a porté à la connaissance de la présente Assemblée le niveau particulièrement élevé de promotion du concept d'approche genre au Gabon, que nous entendons consolider en adéquation avec la Vision de l'émergence. Relativement à cette vision de faire du Gabon un pays émergent par la mise en œuvre des trois piliers que sont le « Gabon vert », le « Gabon industriel » et le « Gabon des services », les domaines de l'UNESCO sont déclinés comme première urgence sociale de l'axe stratégique n° 9, consacré à la lutte contre la pauvreté et contre toute forme d'exclusion. Cette lutte contre l'exclusion se fait par la valorisation et la capitalisation de l'ensemble du potentiel humain national, grâce à une éducation et à une formation de qualité, à une recherche scientifique largement soutenue, à la promotion de l'innovation dans tous les domaines, ainsi qu'à la dynamisation de la culture gabonaise et des civilisations bantoues, comme puissants véhicules des valeurs sociales, sociétales, civiques, culturelles et environnementales à promouvoir. La promotion de ces valeurs africaines doit se faire en synergie avec toutes les formes de culture, dans le cadre d'un nécessaire dialogue des peuples et des civilisations, pour l'affermissement de la paix et de la sécurité dans le monde. Cependant, l'appropriation des valeurs d'une civilisation donnée par une autre ne doit pas être une simple imitation. Il doit plutôt s'agir d'une appropriation prenant la forme de la figure allégorique de Montaigne, qui faisait observer que « Les abeilles pillotent deçà delà les fleurs ; mais elles en font après le miel, qui est tout leur ».

38.3 Parce que la paix passe par l'éducation, la science et la culture – principe proclamé, notamment, par l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO –, le système éducatif gabonais, qui a fait l'objet d'une profonde refondation à l'occasion des états généraux de l'éducation des 17 et 18 mai 2010, est en cours de profonde modernisation. Dans le cadre de cette modernisation, est-il nécessaire de rappeler que le Gabon a atteint, depuis plus de 20 ans, une scolarisation quasi universelle au primaire et une parité entre filles et garçons jusqu'au secondaire, et même dans l'enseignement supérieur.

38.4 Par ailleurs, pour moderniser davantage notre système éducatif, il est envisagé, d'une part, de mettre en place des dynamiques regroupant, autour de l'État, universitaires, industriels et autres producteurs et professionnels, pour une meilleure promotion de la recherche appliquée et de la recherche-développement par l'innovation, et de professionnaliser 60 à 70 % des offres de formation au niveau supérieur. D'autre part, il est envisagé de promouvoir sur

l'ensemble du territoire des écoles dédiées au sport ou à la culture afin d'accueillir les jeunes talents et de former, pourquoi pas ? la pépinière des futures élites nationales et des futurs champions panafricains et internationaux.

38.5 Cette modernisation du système éducatif gabonais intègre également la promotion des sciences et des technologies, notamment des TIC. Dans cette optique, le Gabon, par le biais de sa Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO et du Bureau multipays de l'UNESCO, compte sur le soutien appuyé et renouvelé de l'Organisation dans le prolongement de l'Atelier régional de renforcement des capacités sur la révision des politiques des sciences, de la technologie et de l'innovation (STI), et des statistiques et indicateurs des STI en Afrique centrale, organisé à Libreville du 12 au 15 avril 2011, pour lequel nous remercions vivement les ADG sciences et Afrique.

38.6 En matière culturelle, le Centre international des civilisations bantou (CICIBA) va être relancé très prochainement, à la demande du Chef de l'État. Ses activités ont été repensées dans le sens d'une meilleure promotion de la culture bantoue, partagée dans un espace qui compte 11 pays, pour une population totale de plus de 150 millions d'habitants. La diversité culturelle d'un tel espace peut mobiliser tous les chercheurs de cette aire, dans une dynamique à la fois rétrospective, prospective et transculturelle.

38.7 En s'appuyant, en effet, sur des œuvres, même antiques, on peut faire apparaître des valeurs nouvelles. Grâce au dialogue engagé par les humanistes et les poètes avec l'Antiquité, on est parvenu à l'idée d'une permanence de l'homme, par-delà les distances et les différences. L'histoire nous enseigne également, depuis le voyage du pape Sylvestre II au monastère de Ripoll, en Catalogne, où il exploita des ouvrages provenant du monde arabe, combien l'Occident a pu prendre à la science arabe jusqu'au XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle grâce aux œuvres pionnières de traduction arabe d'ouvrages antiques.

38.8 Dans le cadre du développement durable, le Gabon poursuit un important programme qui entend mettre en place, à Libreville, une agence gabonaise d'études et d'observations spatiales, dans le prolongement du don fait à l'humanité par le peuple gabonais de consacrer 10 % de son territoire à 13 parcs nationaux dont l'un, celui de la Lopé, est classé au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. C'est une importante contribution du Gabon à la lutte contre les changements climatiques, dont les affres – tremblements de terre, inondations, tsunamis et autres catastrophes naturelles graves – affectent l'essor technologique et les industries de production en menaçant l'humanité et la vie sur terre en général.

38.9 C'est donc fortement sensible à ces risques et menaces que le Gabon continuera d'apporter son soutien à l'UNESCO et à l'ensemble de ses programmes, pour ne pas attendre, sans s'engager, que s'accomplisse la prédication de Jacques Attali : « que des catastrophes d'ordre financier, écologique, démographique, sanitaire, politique, éthique, culturel [...] fassent comprendre aux hommes que leurs destins sont liés. Ils prendront alors conscience de l'ampleur des menaces systémiques à venir ».

38.10 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, chefs de délégation, je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

39. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* Your Excellencies, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen, I feel that the hall is a bit noisy. We still have distinguished speakers delivering their national statements and I would like to ask you to listen to them. Thank you very much. And now, I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador of Switzerland to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Rodolphe Imhoof. The floor is yours, Excellency.

40.1 **M. Imhoof** (Suisse) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, après la discussion stimulante et fructueuse qui a eu lieu au Forum des dirigeants, j'aimerais vous assurer que la Suisse se réjouit des initiatives prises par l'UNESCO afin de renforcer la prise de conscience mondiale quant à la nécessité d'édifier une culture de la paix et de promouvoir un développement global et durable. André Malraux ne disait-il pas « l'homme est ce qu'il fait » ? D'ailleurs, les résultats et les recommandations du Forum des jeunes me portent à croire que ces deux axes essentiels sont partagés par ceux qui portent l'avenir de l'humanité sur leurs épaules.

40.2 La jeunesse doit être au centre de nos préoccupations, Madame la Présidente. C'est pourquoi nous attachons une si grande importance à l'éducation – une Éducation pour tous, tout au long de la vie, tant formelle qu'informelle ; une éducation adaptée aux aspirations et aux besoins ; une éducation de qualité qui permette aux jeunes de s'insérer dans un monde en mutation, où la diversité restera le pendant inéluctable de la globalisation.

40.3 S'agissant d'ailleurs de la diversité, de son principe, la jeunesse actuelle a la capacité de se l'approprier mieux qu'aucune autre des générations précédentes. À cet égard, Madame la Directrice générale, nous pensons qu'en ce 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle, le maintien de ce texte au sommet de vos priorités est primordial.

40.4 Mais, et vous le savez bien, la Suisse partage pleinement l'inquiétude, Madame la Directrice générale, que vous avez exprimée quant à certaines décisions prises au niveau des conventions culturelles. Ainsi, à la veille du 40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Convention de 1972, la politisation croissante des décisions du Comité du patrimoine mondial, au niveau tant interne qu'international, est une dérive malheureuse. Celle-ci se fait aux dépens d'une analyse objective de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle des sites candidats et de l'état de conservation des biens inscrits.

40.5 La bonne gestion des conventions culturelles de l'UNESCO doit être un objectif prioritaire. Je pense à un domaine comme celui des transferts des biens culturels, que la Suisse soutient activement. Nous aimerions préconiser

au Secrétariat d'adopter une approche plus globale dans son action normative, avec des moyens suffisants pour toutes les conventions et programmes afin, non seulement, de renforcer cette fonction essentielle et visible de l'UNESCO, mais aussi d'en faire un ensemble cohérent qui permette de tenir pleinement compte de notre diversité.

40.6 Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs, parce que la démocratie et la décentralisation ne sont pas de vains mots pour la Suisse, nous estimons à leur juste valeur les actions menées par l'UNESCO sur le terrain. Notre Organisation est fondée sur l'inclusion de tous les êtres humains – et je dis bien tous. Certes, les actions holistiques se révèlent parfois difficiles à mettre en œuvre. Mais la Suisse sait que les principes qui les sous-tendent finissent toujours par porter leurs fruits, à condition, bien entendu, que l'UNESCO travaille dans la synthèse, l'approche commune, en adéquation avec les besoins, les priorités et les objectifs de ses États membres. Le prérequis reste toutefois la capacité d'action de l'UNESCO, définie d'abord par ses compétences, et ensuite, bien entendu, par ses moyens.

40.7 Démocratie, décentralisation, concordance. Compétences et moyens. À ces différents égards, le réseau des commissions nationales, spécifique à l'UNESCO, constitue assurément un atout, permettez-moi de le dire, sous-exploité. N'oublions pas que les commissions nationales relaient nos messages dans le grand public et que c'est grâce à elles que les idées de l'UNESCO font leur chemin dans la société civile. La somme de leur expertise et de leur engagement est largement méconnue. Madame la Directrice générale, il s'agit donc de les aider à exister comme multiplicateurs du message de l'UNESCO.

40.8 Pour terminer, Madame la Présidente, je tiens à saluer les efforts déployés, avec vigueur et détermination, par la Directrice générale et son équipe pour dépoussiérer notre vénérable Organisation, pour accroître sa visibilité et pour recentrer ses actions sur ses spécificités et ses priorités. Nous lui savons gré également d'avoir engagé la mise en œuvre d'aspirations que nous partageons. Néanmoins, pour remplir sa tâche, l'UNESCO doit pouvoir disposer de moyens appropriés. Si la Suisse rejoint le consensus autour d'un budget à croissance nominale zéro, je me dois ici de rappeler qu'une organisation telle que l'UNESCO ne peut durablement évoluer sans une dotation adéquate de ses services centraux de gestion. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

41. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* Now I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador of Djibouti to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Rachad Farah.

42.1 **M. Farah (Djibouti) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et chefs de délégation, mon pays s'associe au message de solidarité et de compassion adressé à nos sœurs et frères turcs et thaïlandais, qui traversent en cet instant l'enfer des drames causés par les catastrophes naturelles.

42.2 Au Royaume d'Arabie saoudite frère, je présente toutes mes condoléances pour la perte de leur regretté Prince héritier Sultan ben Abdelaziz.

42.3 Permettez-moi de joindre ma voix à celle des illustres orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter, Madame la Présidente, pour votre élection à la tête de notre Conférence générale. J'aimerais également réitérer mes encouragements à Mme la Directrice générale à ne pas relâcher ses efforts dans la bonne conduite de notre Organisation. Nous savons tous à quel point la période que notre monde traverse demande une énergie sans faille pour affronter épreuves, défis et réalités.

42.4 Madame la Présidente, nous ne pouvons nier que la situation actuelle est marquée par une crise économique et financière majeure, qui ne cesse d'accroître nos inquiétudes pour l'avenir. Pas seulement parce qu'elle remet en cause nos modèles économiques contemporains ou nos structures économiques mondiales. Ni parce qu'elle met en exergue les défaillances de nos systèmes. Nous devons viser l'excellence dans notre réflexion sur la bonne gouvernance financière mondiale et stimuler la recherche de mécanismes de financement innovants, alternatifs mais très solidaires.

42.5 Dans ce contexte défavorable, nous reconnaissons l'ampleur des défis qui attendent notre Organisation et qui mettent en péril la bonne mise en œuvre de nos décisions. Mais, à l'image de la croissance démographique mondiale – rappelons que nous sommes aujourd'hui au nombre de 7 milliards d'êtres humains – ces défis majeurs nous rappellent la raison même d'exister de l'UNESCO. Aussi, je le répète, soyons vigilants mais sans céder au défaitisme ni au pessimisme ambiant.

42.6 Certes, si la réduction, plus drastique qu'escomptée, de l'aide publique au développement est incontournable à cette heure, nous ne pouvons que déplorer son impact désastreux sur de nombreuses initiatives. Voilà un exemple concret de la réalité.

42.7 La réalité est surtout le drame humain qui sévit à nouveau dans notre région. Force est de constater que nous avons peine à endiguer les ravages de la famine, alors qu'il nous faut l'éradiquer à sa source. Et cela implique une foi inébranlable en l'avenir, un engagement immédiat et durable par un véritable investissement. Oui, un investissement sur la richesse la plus précieuse de notre continent : la jeunesse, avec une population composée aux deux tiers de moins de 30 ans. Cette jeunesse, première victime, malheureusement, à subir les affres de cette catastrophe humanitaire, n'en reste pas moins porteuse des lumières de demain. C'est pourquoi nous insistons sur l'importance du droit à l'éducation. Oui, la jeunesse conduit le changement. Aussi réitérons-nous notre satisfaction quant au débat tenu par le 7<sup>e</sup> Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO autour des problématiques de l'exclusion, de la vulnérabilité et de la violence. La jeunesse a su garder au centre de sa réflexion les valeurs clés que sont la culture de la paix, la solidarité et le respect des diversités.

42.8 Madame le Présidente, donnons à la jeunesse les moyens de ses ambitions. Créons un véritable mécanisme institutionnel, au sein de notre Organisation, accompagné d'un dispositif financier, aussi modeste soit-il. L'idée n'est pas

de créer un énième chapitre budgétaire mais bien de concrétiser notre croyance profonde en la jeunesse et en ses capacités, en permettant la réalisation des projets qui correspondent point par point aux réalités du terrain. Nommons dès à présent cette initiative de la manière la plus parlante : « À l'écoute de demain ».

42.9 Madame la Présidente, nous attachons la plus grande importance à participer activement à l'élaboration du nouveau programme d'action pour une culture de la paix et de la non-violence. Nous nous félicitons de la qualité du Forum des dirigeants.

42.10 Si la famine dans notre région a occupé le terrain médiatique ces derniers mois, ses dégâts ne font qu'aggraver l'insoutenable réalité qu'affrontent nos frères somaliens, brisés par des décennies de guerre civile et par la gangrène de l'obscurantisme.

42.11 Je réitère ici mon appel à l'UNESCO afin qu'un programme d'éducation de la jeunesse somalienne soit entamé le plus rapidement possible en Somalie au moyen, notamment, des fonds de la Banque mondiale d'un montant de deux milliards de dollars annoncés en faveur des pays de la Corne de l'Afrique.

42.12 Madame, nous sommes attachés à la paix dans toutes nos régions et, en particulier, au Moyen-Orient. Beaucoup de choses ont été dites au sujet du conflit israélo-palestinien et autant de positions ont été exprimées. Mais je souhaite rappeler ici que l'objectif ultime est de pouvoir annoncer la paix et la stabilité dans cette région. Et cela passe inévitablement par la reconnaissance des droits inaliénables des Palestiniens.

42.13 Madame la Présidente, condamnons la propagation de l'obscurantisme au sein de notre jeunesse et rappelons que les conditions de son éradication sont indissociables du respect des diversités culturelles et de leur promotion, ainsi que de l'accès à l'éducation pour les populations les plus défavorisées. Mais il y a pour cela une condition *sine qua non* : ne laissons pas nos craintes, aussi fondées soient-elles, paralyser notre action. Je vous remercie.

43. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup.* Now, I would like to give the floor to the Permanent Delegate of New Zealand to UNESCO, Ms Victoria Hallum.

44.1 **Ms Hallum (New Zealand):**

*Tena koutou katoa kua huihui mai nei i tenei ra* (Greetings to all who have gathered here today). Madam President, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen, this General Conference comes at a time of considerable global change and uncertainty. The challenges of our time only serve to underline the importance of dialogue among people and cultures based upon mutual respect and shared values, the pursuit of which lies at the heart of UNESCO's mandate. Events of the past year have reinforced New Zealand's firm belief in the importance of multilateral solutions to international problems, carried through with the support and participation of all countries. UNESCO's role is to be a catalyst for international collaboration, a laboratory of ideas and a clearing house for cutting-edge thinking, a standard-setter and a capacity-builder across the domains of science, education and culture. As such, UNESCO works to contribute to sustainable development, the expansion of quality educational opportunities for all, the promotion of freedom of expression, the preservation of culture and heritage, and the use of science to tackle problems of global impact which cannot be addressed by States alone.

44.2 Madam President, many countries, including New Zealand, have been affected by natural disasters over the past biennium. Following the devastating earthquakes in Christchurch, my government was deeply appreciative of the messages of support received from the Director-General and from UNESCO Members and colleagues. We take this opportunity to reiterate our heartfelt sympathy to others who have suffered disasters of even greater proportions. The prevalence of such disasters reinforces the importance of effective disaster preparedness, mitigation and recovery. UNESCO's role in providing policy advice, facilitating sharing of knowledge and experience, and education for disaster preparedness is more needed than ever. A striking aspect of the Christchurch earthquakes was the resilience and proactivity of the youth of the shattered city in contributing to the recovery. The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO had an important role to play in bringing together diverse groups of youth leaders to discuss the rebuilding of their city and to present their vision to local and central government. This same group of youth leaders has moved on to plan, in association with the National Commission and UNESCO's Bangkok and Apia Offices, a forum which will be held in Christchurch in December. This forum will bring together young people from the Asia and the Pacific region who have suffered disasters to share their experience and develop recommendations to UNESCO, governments and other relevant bodies.

44.3 Madam President, New Zealand emphasizes the importance of UNESCO's continuing commitment to the Pacific sub-region, a region made up of 17 States, of which 15 are small island developing States spread across a vast ocean. In the context of the reform of UNESCO's field network, we reiterate the essential importance we attach to the UNESCO Office for the Pacific as UNESCO's presence in this region. We look forward to the re-establishment of this office as a multisectoral regional office within the new structure, with strengthened capacity to respond to the needs of its Member States and clarified lines of accountability.

44.4 Madam President, in a world of shrinking resources it is imperative that UNESCO demonstrates its ability to add value. New Zealand reaffirms its support to the Director-General in the reform of UNESCO and the implementation of the independent external evaluation, which we hope will lead to a more focused and cost-effective Organization which is responsive to the needs of Members and is measured by its real impact, rather than by the number of meetings held and publications produced. We also support increased transparency throughout the Organization, as we believe there is a strong correlation between increased transparency and improved performance. We continue to believe that intersectorality is a key comparative advantage of UNESCO. We commend the Director-General for her initiative to rationalize the number of intersectoral platforms and to provide these platforms with dedicated funding. We consider that



the next Medium-Term Strategy should be organized around a limited number of intersectoral themes, and this intersectoral approach needs also to be reflected in the organization of the Secretariat. We encourage UNESCO in its efforts to devise a more effective consultation process with its Member States to identify the programmes whose ongoing value justifies their continuation. Madam, the global financial crisis has compelled governments across the world to observe strict financial constraints, tighten budgets and seek to provide ongoing services with fewer resources. My government has welcomed the call by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, for United Nations agencies to take similar steps. We urge UNESCO to heed the Secretary-General's call to pursue better prioritization and increased financial discipline, including in the budget for the coming biennium.

44.5 Madam President, 65 years ago New Zealand was the second country in the world to sign up to UNESCO. Today we welcome South Sudan as UNESCO's newest Member and pledge our ongoing support for UNESCO's mission. Thank you, Madam President.

45. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now, ladies and gentlemen, we are coming to the Observers. First, I would like to give the floor to the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), His Excellency Mr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu. I should remind you that Observers are required to limit their speaking time to three minutes.

46.1 **Mr Ihsanoğlu** (Organization of Islamic Cooperation - OIC):

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to address this important General Conference of UNESCO. I am happy to say that, under the able and wise leadership of its Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO has achieved significant progress in key areas of its activities.

46.2 First of all, let me, on behalf of OIC, applaud the significant vote and rightful recommendation of the Executive Board to admit Palestine's bid for full membership of UNESCO and commend this very constructive and objective resolution. Therefore, OIC calls upon UNESCO's General Conference to adopt that resolution, in order to foster the Palestinians' legitimate aspirations for statehood and increase the possibilities for a lasting peace based on the vision of the two-State solution. After long years of occupation and oppression, it is now high time for Palestine to be admitted to the United Nations and UNESCO. This is also imperative to create conditions for ending ongoing violations in the occupied Palestinian territories through confiscating lands, demolishing houses, building illegal settlements, constructing the apartheid wall, erecting hundreds of checkpoints, detaining thousands of Palestinians and imposing an unjust blockade on Gaza. The systematic process of altering the historical identity of the Holy City by Judaizing occupied East Jerusalem, the efforts to change the demographic composition and the excavations underneath the Holy Mosque are nothing short of an attack on the culture of a great civilization. We think that UNESCO has a responsibility to protect, preserve and promote the historical, cultural and natural environment.

46.3 I need not emphasize the important and pivotal role of UNESCO in today's world, where cultural diversity and intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue have become major challenges for a global order based on peace, mutual understanding and respect. It is a matter of great concern for OIC and indeed for the entire international community that Islamophobia has emerged as a new form of racism. The prevailing situation calls for a structured and committed engagement to work out a mechanism to study and address the sources and root causes of this malaise. OIC's initiative with the United States and European governments in drafting United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 entitled "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief" and its unanimous adoption broke the myth that a meeting of minds on the issues of intolerance was not possible. On 15 July, in Istanbul, OIC hosted a ministerial meeting co-chaired with United States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, to discuss the implementation of United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18. OIC's firm commitment to human rights is also reflected in the establishment of an Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) within OIC.

46.4 Madam President, in conclusion, allow me this opportunity to reiterate OIC's commitment to continue to cooperate and coordinate with UNESCO. The establishment of the OIC Liaison Office at UNESCO Headquarters validates this commitment. I would also like to emphasize that the need for diversity, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence has emerged strongly

46.5 To end, I would like to reiterate once more our call to support Palestinian's request for full membership of UNESCO, which dates back to 1989 and has been reiterated at each session of the General Conference. Today, we are on the verge of a historic vote with the whole world waiting for your decision. I am sure that everybody in this hall will rise to this moral obligation and stand on the right side of history. Thank you, Madam President.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give the floor to the last speaker on the list of national statements, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine, His Excellency Mr Riad Al-Malki.

48.1 **Mr Al-Malki** (Palestine):

Thank you very much. Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General, Your Excellencies, ministers, ambassadors, delegation members, ladies and gentlemen.

*(The speaker continues in Spanish.)*

48.2 Comienzo mi presentación felicitando a la señora Katalin Bogyay, Presidenta de la Conferencia General, por su elección y por la confianza que ha recibido por parte de los Estados Miembros en su elección, deseándole todo éxito. Paso ahora al árabe.

(48.2) (translation from the Spanish) I wish to begin my presentation by congratulating Ms Katalin Bogyay, President of the General Conference, for her election and for the confidence she has inspired among the Member States upon her election, wishing her every success. I will now continue in Arabic.

(The speaker continues in Arabic)

٤٨,٣ يشرفني، من على هذا المنبر، أن أجدد التأكيد على تقدير الشعب الفلسطيني لليونسكو ولأهدافها التي تتجسد فيها طموحات البشرية لعالم يسوده السلام والتعاون بين البشر كلهم؛ عالم تلتزم به الأمم جميعها بمبادئ الحرية والعدل. تعلمون من غير شك مدى تقدير الشعب الفلسطيني لمنظمتكم النبيلة، ولأهدافها البناء السامية، ولا يخفى عليكم أن الشعب الفلسطيني يعتبر أهداف اليونسكو جزءاً من أهدافه الوطنية لأن مطالبه تتلخص في العدل وإحقاق الحق كقاعدة وحيدة للسلام والتعايش وصناعة المستقبل. ويسعدني أن أنتهز هذه المناسبة الثمينة لكي أنقل إليكم اعتزاز الشعب الفلسطيني بالدعم المعنوي الفعال الذي أفصحت وتفصح عنه اليونسكو إزاء كفاحه من أجل الاستقلال والكرامة الوطنية، وأن أؤكد من جديد رغبة فلسطين الشديدة في الانضمام إلى منظومة البشرية الحرة ومؤسساتها كعضو كامل العضوية، وفي الإسهام، بطموحاتنا التي صقلتها المعاناة وخبرة الأمل واللجوء والكفاح من أجل العدل، في بناء عالم يضمن للأجيال القادمة الأمن والعدل.

٤٨,٤ إن مواكبة التقدم والتطور في مجالات الثقافة والتربية والعلوم هو الهدف الأول لطموح فلسطين إلى الانضمام إلى اليونسكو كعضو كامل العضوية، وذلك نظراً لحاجة فلسطين الماسة إلى الحفاظ على تراثها من جهة، وإلى توفير الظروف الملائمة للتعليم والإسهام في ترسيخ قيم العدل والمساواة من جهة ثانية. فكيف تستقيم حجج أولئك الذين يعترضون على التحاقنا بمسيرة الثقافة والتربية في العالم، ويسعون إلى إعاقة انضمامنا إلى اليونسكو؟ إن عضوية فلسطين الفعالة في اليونسكو، واضطلاعها بدور إيجابي في مسيرة البشرية الحديثة وفي ترسيخ معايير الحرية وقيم المساواة بين الناس دون تفرقة بسبب الجنس أو اللون أو المعتقد أو الأصل، هو إسهام مؤكد في بناء الاستقرار والسلام الدوليين. ثقوا بأننا، إذ نطلب منكم التصويت لصالح عضويتنا الكاملة، فذلك لأن مساندتكم وتأييدكم لقبول فلسطين عضواً كاملاً العضوية في اليونسكو هو أكبر إسهام في صنع السلام في أرض السلام.

٤٨,٥ وأود أن أؤكد للجميع هنا وللمراقبين أجمعين أن عضوية فلسطين في اليونسكو غير مرتبطة بطلب انضمامنا إلى الأمم المتحدة وعضويتنا فيها. فقد بدأنا هذا الجهد منذ اثنين وعشرين عاماً، ونأمل أن يتكفل هذا الجهد اليوم بالنجاح. ونؤكد أيضاً أن عضويتنا ليست بديلة لعضوية أحد، وإنما إضافة نوعية إلى أسرة الدول الأعضاء في اليونسكو على أمل ألا يؤثر ذلك على عضوية أي دولة فيها. أدعوكم باسم فلسطين وشعبها وتاريخها وتراثها وحاضرها، وباسم مستقبلها الذي نرسمه معاً هذا اليوم، أتوجه إليكم فرداً فرداً ودولة دولة، وأناشدكم أن تحكموا العقل وأن تهضوا بالمسؤولية وأن تجعلوا العدالة أساس تصويتكم، وأن تنظروا إلى هذا التصويت اليوم ومعانيه غداً، وإلى المسؤولية التاريخية التي نحملها في هذه اللحظة، لإزالة جزء صغير من الظلم التاريخي الذي ارتكب بحق الشعب الفلسطيني. نطلب منكم صوتكم اليوم لنصنع الأمل ونرسخ قيم المساواة والعدل والحق. أطلب منكم أن تصوتوا مع فلسطين، فالتصويت مع فلسطين، هو التصويت مع الحق ومع العدل ومع المستقبل. وشكراً لكم.

(48.3) (translation from the Arabic) I am pleased to convey to you once again, from this rostrum, the appreciation of the Palestinian people for UNESCO and its objectives, which embody the aspirations of humanity for a world in which peace and cooperation among all people reign supreme, a world in which all the nations adhere to the principles of freedom and justice. You doubtless know how much the Palestinian people appreciates your noble Organization for its lofty and constructive objectives, and you are not unaware that the Palestinian people considers the objectives of UNESCO part of its own national objectives because its demands may be summarized as follows: justice and upholding right as a single rule for peace and co-existence and the shaping of the future. I am pleased to take this valuable opportunity to convey to you the pride of the Palestinian people in the effective moral support provided by UNESCO for its struggle to obtain independence and national dignity, and to stress once again the strong desire of Palestine to join the free humanitarian system and its institutions as a full member and to contribute with its aspirations honed by suffering and the experience of pain, and its struggle for justice in building a world which guarantees security and justice to the future generations.

(48.4) Keeping abreast of progress and development in the fields of culture, education and the sciences is the first objective of the Palestinian aspiration to join UNESCO as a full member, in view of the urgent need of Palestine to preserve its heritage, on the one hand, and to provide appropriate conditions for education and to help to consolidate the values of justice and equality on the other hand. What to think of the arguments of those who object to our joining the march of culture and education in the world, and seek to thwart our joining UNESCO? Effective membership of Palestine in UNESCO and Palestine's playing of a positive role in the modern march of humanity and in inculcating the standards of freedom and the values of equality among people without discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, creed or origin constitutes a definite contribution to the building of international stability and peace. If we ask you to vote in favour of our full membership, be assured that your assistance and support for the acceptance of Palestine as a full member of UNESCO will be the greatest possible contribution to peace-making in the land of peace.

(48.5) I should like to stress to all present here and to observers that Palestine's membership in UNESCO is not linked to our request to join the United Nations or our membership therein. We began this endeavour 22 years ago, and we hope that it may today be crowned with success. We also reiterate that our membership is not an alternative to anyone else's, but rather constitutes a qualitative addition to the family of UNESCO's Member States, in the hope that that will not affect the

membership of any other State in UNESCO. On behalf of Palestine and the Palestinian people, history, heritage, present and future, which we are charting together today, I urge you individually and State by State to think carefully and assume your responsibility and make justice the basis of your vote, and that you give careful consideration to this vote today and its implications for tomorrow, and to the historic responsibility we are assuming at this precise moment to remove albeit a small part of the historic oppression committed against the Palestinian people. We ask for your vote today in order to give hope and to consolidate the values of equality, justice and right. I ask you to vote in favour of Palestine; a vote for Palestine is a vote in favour of right, justice and the future. Thank you.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency (*applause*). Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we would now like to continue our session. This was our last speaker for this morning. We thus conclude this year's national statements. I wish to thank you very much for your inspiring remarks, observations and suggestions. The Director-General and her staff have been listening closely and taking good note of your comments. Madam Bokova will deliver her reply this afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to inform you that I have requested a live webcast of the next part of this meeting.

**Item 9.1: Request for the admission of Palestine**

**Point 9.1: Demande d'admission de la Palestine**

**Punto 9.1: Solicitud de admisión de Palestina**

**Пункт 9.1: Просьба о приеме Палестины**

البند ٩, ١: طلب انضمام فلسطين إلى عضوية اليونسكو

项目 9.1: 要求接纳巴勒斯坦加入教科文组织

50. **The President:**

And now, ladies and gentlemen, we will examine item 9.1, "Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO". This item has been placed on the agenda in conformity with Resolution 74 adopted by the General Conference at its 35th session and is the subject of the Executive Board's recommendation at its 187th session as required in the Constitution in Article II. Now, I would like to give the floor to the Chair of the Executive Board. Your Excellency, Ms Mitrofanova, the floor is yours.

51. **Ms Mitrofanova** (Russian Federation), Chair of the Executive Board:

Thank you very much. Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, pursuant to 182 EX/Decision 52, the Executive Board, at its 187th session, considered the request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO. Following a vote taken by roll-call, with forty votes in favour, four votes against and fourteen abstentions, the Executive Board adopted 187 EX/Decision 40, by which it recommends that the General Conference admit Palestine as a Member of UNESCO. Madam President, on behalf of the Executive Board and in conformity with Article II, paragraph 2 and Article V.B, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Constitution of our Organization, may I therefore recommend that the General Conference adopt the text of the aforementioned Board decision. Thank you very much.

52. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. According to Article II, a two-thirds majority vote of the General Conference is required for admission to membership of the Organization. Ladies and gentlemen, you have in front of you document 36 C/PLEN/DR.1 submitted on this item by 43 Member States and co-sponsored by another 11 Member States. It is my understanding that we may proceed to a vote unless I see any objections. I see that Canada wishes to take the floor. Canada, the floor is yours, Excellency.

53. **M. Bachand** (Canada) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. J'aimerais demander que nous votions par appel nominal. Merci.

54. **The President:**

Does anybody wish to second that? Netherlands, the floor is yours, Sir.

55. **Netherlands:**

Thank you, Madam President. My delegation seconds the proposal of Canada.

56. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, according to Rule 88 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, vote by roll-call shall be taken if it is requested by not less than two Members. Further to the request of the representatives of Canada and the Netherlands, the General Conference will now proceed to vote by roll-call. Let me remind you that, according to Rule 85, paragraph 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure, the decision requires a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting. The Secretary will now call on each Member State alphabetically. The Member called upon shall vote on whether it is in favour of adopting the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/PLEN/DR.1. Those in favour should say *Yes*. Those against, simply, *No*. Members can, of course, also abstain. Mr Secretary, you may proceed with the roll-call.

57. *A vote by roll-call is taken. The results are as follows:*

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, France,

Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe;

**Against:** Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Lithuania, Netherlands, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sweden, United States of America, Vanuatu;

**Abstention:** Albania, Andorra, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia;

**Voting rights suspended:** Antigua and Barbuda, Central African Republic, Comoros, Dominica, Guinea-Bissau, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone;

**Absent:** Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guyana, Madagascar, Maldives, Mongolia, Niue, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan.

58. **Le Secrétaire:**  
Le vote est terminé.

59. **The President:**  
Ladies and gentlemen, the vote is now finished and the Secretariat is counting the votes. While we are waiting for the results, let me remind you again that, according to Rule 85, paragraph 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure, the decision that has been just voted requires a two-thirds majority of the Member States present and voting.

*The meeting is suspended while the votes are counted.*

60. **The President:**  
Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the votes have now been counted. Here is the result: number of Members entitled to vote: one hundred and eighty-five; number of Members present and voting: one hundred and seventy-three; number of abstentions: 52; majority required: 81; votes in favour: 107 (*applause*); votes against: 14. Ladies and gentlemen, the General Conference has voted to **adopt** the draft resolution and **decided** to admit Palestine as a Member of UNESCO. (*Applause*) Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me congratulate Palestine on behalf of the General Conference for its admission to membership of UNESCO.

**Statements in explanation of vote**  
**Déclarations en explication du vote**  
**Declaraciones en explicación de voto**  
**Заявления по мотивам голосования**  
**بيانات مدلى بها في إطار تعليل التصويت**  
**对投票的解释性发言**

61. **The President:**  
Let me share with you just a few thoughts as the President of the General Conference. We are here in the home of cultural diplomacy. I myself see our world as a global cultural space, a multilayered treasure. The process of inspiration followed by the creativity of people working together is to me the most beautiful aspect of this varied cultural space and if we truly believe that diversity in thoughts, ideas and cultures is a source of inspiration and not a burden, we can make the world together a better place. I would like to remind everybody that the role of Members of UNESCO is to endeavour to overcome existing divisions and differences, to build a better future for our children, a future of peace and prosperity. And now we come to the statements in explanation of vote. Ladies and gentlemen, Member States who now wish to do so may request the floor to make a statement or explain their vote. Each speaker will have two minutes. After that, I will give the floor to the representative of Palestine and, at the very end, I will ask the Director-General to make her statement. Before I give you the floor, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to make an appeal to all speakers to respect this solemn moment, as well as UNESCO as the house of culture and dialogue. I would like to give the floor to the United States of America.

62.1 **Mr Killion** (United States of America):

Thank you, Madam President. The United States has voted against Resolution 9.1 because we cannot accept Palestine's premature admission as a full Member to a United Nations specialized agency such as UNESCO. No nation is more committed to the quest for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians than the American people. As President Obama said in May, "A lasting peace will involve two States for two peoples; Israel as a Jewish State and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the State of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people; each State enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace." The United States has been very clear about the need for a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but the only path to the Palestinian State that we all seek is through direct

negotiations. There are no shortcuts, and we believe efforts such as the one we have witnessed today are counterproductive.

62.2 Madam President, President Obama has made strong multilateral engagement across the United Nations system – including at UNESCO – a top priority and a core aspect of United States foreign policy. We are here in UNESCO today because the contributions it continues to make – including its mission of building peace; promoting education, culture and science; and its praiseworthy focus on Africa and on women and girls – are so very important to the United States. However, we recognize that this action today complicates our ability to support UNESCO's programmes; there are other ways of promoting the cause of the Palestinian people that would not have involved seeking premature membership of UNESCO. We sincerely regret that the strenuous and well-intentioned efforts of many delegations to avoid this result fell short.

62.3 Madam President, let there be no doubt, the United States remains deeply committed to UNESCO and its noble mission to build peace in the minds of men and women. Despite the challenges ahead, we pledge to continue our efforts to find ways to support and strengthen the important work of this Organization. Thank you, Madam President.

63. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. And now I would like to give the floor to India. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

64. **Mr Oberoi (India):**

Thank you, Madam President. I speak with a sense of history, with a sense of responsibility and a sense of constructive anticipation. I speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the affirmative and significant vote in favour of Palestine and welcomes Palestine to the UNESCO family. The Group believes that this will strengthen the inclusiveness of UNESCO and enhance its role as a platform for discussion and dialogue, as a place where ideas and thoughts mingle in a common and just cause in the promotion and furtherance of peace. Thank you, Madam President.

65. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. I give the floor to Mexico.

66. **Sr. de Icaza (México):**

Gracias, señora Presidenta. La comunidad internacional ha realizado ingentes esfuerzos para lograr una paz duradera en el Medio Oriente que atienda todos los aspectos del conflicto entre palestinos e israelíes. Las Naciones Unidas, los países que tienen responsabilidades en la zona y los Estados de la región se han involucrado decididamente en esta compleja tarea. A pesar de ello, el conflicto perdura y no se han resuelto los temas que permitirían ponerle fin de manera duradera e integral y que conduzcan a la creación de un Estado palestino soberano e independiente, política y económicamente viable que conviva con Israel en paz, dentro de fronteras seguras e internacionalmente reconocidas. Este objetivo siempre ha sido compartido e impulsado por México y continuaremos respaldando todas las iniciativas que conduzcan hacia esta solución porque creemos firmemente que es la única forma de modificar sustancialmente las condiciones de vida tanto de los palestinos como de los israelíes. No debe haber duda del pleno apoyo de México a la causa palestina y a las legítimas aspiraciones de su pueblo. La solicitud palestina que acabamos de considerar debe apreciarse desde la perspectiva más amplia de otros procesos en curso dentro y fuera de las Naciones Unidas. En este preciso momento, los miembros del Consejo de Seguridad están considerando la solicitud de ingreso de Palestina a las Naciones Unidas, en seguimiento de una iniciativa que fue planteada a finales de septiembre. Al mismo tiempo, los miembros del Cuarteto están trabajando con ambas partes para que en un plazo de tres meses presenten propuestas concretas. Si bien comprendemos las razones que animan la solicitud de ingreso de Palestina a la UNESCO, mi delegación estima que hubiera sido preferible dar prioridad a estos procesos antes de determinar la conveniencia de presentar este proyecto de resolución. En opinión de México, la UNESCO no es el foro competente para alcanzar la solución duradera integral a la que todos aspiramos. Más aún, consideramos que la decisión adoptada hoy podría perturbar las otras iniciativas en curso que serán determinadas para resolver de una vez por todas este largo conflicto. Por estas razones, México ha tomado la decisión de abstenerse en la votación del proyecto de resolución. Muchas gracias.

(66) **Mr de Icaza (Mexico) (translation from the Spanish):**

Thank you Madam President. The international community has made enormous efforts to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East, taking into account all the aspects of the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. The United Nations, the countries that have responsibilities in the region and the States of the region have committed themselves fully to this complicated task. Despite all this, the conflict persists and the themes that could attain a comprehensive and lasting solution have not been resolved. These themes would lead to the creation of a sovereign and independent, politically and economically viable Palestinian State, living in peace with Israel within safe and internationally recognized borders. This goal has always been shared and promoted by Mexico and we will continue to support all initiatives leading to this solution as we firmly believe that this is the only way to substantially change the living conditions of Palestinians and Israelis alike. There should be no doubt that Mexico fully supports the Palestinian cause and the legitimate aspirations of the people. The Palestinian request we have just considered should be understood from the wider perspective of other processes under way inside and outside the United Nations. In this precise moment, Security Council members are debating Palestine's request to join the United Nations following an initiative introduced at the end of September. At the same time, members of the Quartet are working with both parties so that in three months' time, concrete proposals can be made. Although we understand the reasons behind Palestine's request to join UNESCO, my delegation considers that it would have been preferable to give priority to those processes before determining the advantages of submitting this draft resolution. In Mexico's opinion, UNESCO is not a competent forum in which to attain the comprehensive and lasting solution that we all desire. Moreover, we believe that the decision adopted today could disrupt other initiatives that are being carried out to resolve this long-term conflict once and for all. Consequently, Mexico decided to abstain from voting on the draft resolution. Thank you very much.

67. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador of Israel.

68. **Mr Barkan (Israel):**

Thank you very much. Madam President, Madam Director-General, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished delegates, this resolution of the General Conference is a tragedy for the idea of UNESCO and a great disservice to international law and to chances for peace. In UNESCO, we have twice expressed our severe disagreement with its content, most recently in the speech of Minister Sa'ar here last Thursday. UNESCO deals in science, not science fiction. However, a large number of States, though most emphatically less than two thirds of the Member States of this Organization, have adopted a science fiction version of reality by admitting a non-existent State to the science Organization. We are grateful to those who wisely supported reality and would not be dragged into this fiction. The supporters forced on UNESCO a political subject, outside its competence, refusing to render the United Nations the respect it deserves by waiting, not a very long time, for its decision. With eyes wide open, they are forcing a drastic cut in the contributions to the Organization. This cut will severely curtail its positive work and may also lead to severe politicization of its programmes, tarnishing its image for many years to come. It is a sad day for any organization when it decides to disconnect itself from reality. It sows the seeds for its potential implosion. That is, unfortunately, what has happened here today. Thank you.

69. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. Now I give the floor to Sweden.

70. **Mr Ahnlid (Sweden):**

Thank you Madam President. I would like to make the following explanation of our vote on the resolution before us today. Sweden completely understands the aspiration of Palestine to become a Member of UNESCO. Sweden has long been deeply committed to the international efforts towards achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the two-State solution with an independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel. We believe that such a solution can only be reached through negotiations. We therefore strongly welcome the Quartet's result-oriented approach with clear expectations of concrete proposals and timelines for this endeavour. Sweden has long been a major partner of Palestinian State-building and provider of assistance to the Palestinian people. We congratulate Palestine that the ad hoc liaison committee's assessment is that the Palestinian institutions are above the threshold of a functioning State. Sweden takes note of the United Nations application which is now before the Security Council. Our vote on the draft resolution today has to do with its timing, not its substance. It should be viewed from the perspective of the urgency we attach to reaching a two-State solution within the timeframe set by the Quartet. It does not in any way prejudge the position that Sweden might take if the question of the status of Palestine is brought before the United Nations General Assembly. Thank you, Madam President.

71. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Pakistan.

72. **Ms Inayatullah (Pakistan):**

For over six decades Palestinians have proven to be superb human beings but have regrettably remained without their rights. Today I shall humbly laugh; this inexcusable wrong has been righted. Today they stand proud in the committee of nations, and UNESCO, in exercise of its mandate, has enabled this to happen. Madam President, I hasten to add that Palestine's admission as a Member State places a profound responsibility on all three organs of UNESCO and I refer to our Constitution; I refer to creating peace in the minds of men and women in Palestine and Israel. I invite and request UNESCO's leadership, three magnificent women, to immediately put in place an initiative with and through youth, taking them up on their Youth Forum Declaration. This is an idea whose time has come. Madam President, for peace in the world, the momentum of today's momentous decision must be sustained. Common sights of a Palestine of defaced mosques, defaced schools, burnt hamlets, death and destruction must, from today, be a thing of the past. Democracy and majority rule has prevailed; the statehood bid of President Mahmoud Abbas has been realized, the honour of Palestinians stands vindicated and Pakistan dedicates the success of which it is proud to be a part to the inimitable hero, the one and only Yasser Arafat. We do so in the name of our late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who used his intellect and political skills and recognized international standing as an untiring advocate of the just cause of the Palestinians for their homeland. Thank you.

73. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement. I give the floor to the Russian Federation.

74.1 **Г-н Гатилев (Российская Федерация):**

Благодарю вас. Российская позиция в вопросе о приеме Палестины в члены ЮНЕСКО всегда была последовательной и прагматичной. Мы считаем, что рассмотрение палестинской заявки должно было проходить без излишней политизации и искусственного затягивания. Что касается принципиальной позиции России в отношении признания Палестинского государства, то она хорошо известна. Хотели бы вновь напомнить, что государство Палестина мы признали уже более двадцати лет назад и с 1990 г. в Москве функционирует его посольство. С удовлетворением отмечаем, что палестинские представители твердо исходят из того, что их обращение в ООН и другие международные структуры не является альтернативой достижению переговорного решения с Израилем. Это принципиальный момент, поскольку только через переговоры можно обеспечить создание полноценного территориально целостного Палестинского государства, которое будет жить в безопасности и мире бок о бок с Израилем и другими странами региона. На это, собственно, и направлено содержание министерского заявления квартета, принятого 23 сентября этого года в Нью-Йорке.

74.2 В целом оздоровление ситуации на Ближнем Востоке могло бы существенно способствовать продвижению процесса переговоров по ближневосточному урегулированию, основные параметры которого определены и зафиксированы и в резолюциях Совета Безопасности ООН, и в Мадридских принципах, и в Арабской мирной инициативе. Этими подходами мы руководствуемся и в Нью-Йорке при рассмотрении этого вопроса Организацией Объединенных Наций. Благодарю вас.

(74.1) **Mr Gatilov** (Russian Federation) (*translation from the Russian*):

Thank you. The position of the Russian Federation on the admission of Palestine as a member of UNESCO has always been consistent and pragmatic. We consider that examination of the Palestinian claim should have taken place without unnecessary politicization and artificial delay. As regards Russia's position of principle concerning recognition of the Palestinian State, it is very well known. We should like to recall, once more, that we recognized the State of Palestine more than 20 years ago, and its embassy has been operational in Moscow since 1990. It is with satisfaction that we note that the Palestinian representatives are clearly proceeding on the assumption that their approach to the United Nations and other international structures is not an alternative to the achievement of a negotiated settlement with Israel. This is crucial, as only negotiations can ensure the establishment of a Palestinian State with full territorial integrity, which would live in security and peace side by side with Israel and the other countries in the region. This is, specifically, the thrust of the ministerial statement of the Middle East Quartet adopted on 23 September 2011 in New York.

(74.2) On the whole, the improvement of the situation in the Middle East could have essentially contributed to the promotion of the negotiating process on a Middle East settlement, whose basic parameters are defined and set in resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the Madrid Principles and the Arab Peace Initiative. We will be guided by these approaches in New York as well on consideration of this issue by the United Nations. Thank you.

75. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor now to Egypt.

٧٦,١ السيد رمضان (مصر):

السيدة الرئيسة، اسمحي لي في البداية أن أتقدم، بالنيابة عن المجموعة العربية، بالتهنئة إلى المؤتمر العام لليونسكو وإلى المنظمة على هذا القرار الهام والعاقل والتاريخي الذي يؤكد أنّ الدول الأعضاء في المنظمة، تقف في الجانب الصحيح للتاريخ. إنّ اعتماد القرار لا يثبت فقط حيادية المنظمة وإعلاءها للمبادئ السامية التي قامت وتقوم عليها، بل يؤكد أيضاً احترام اليونسكو لقواعد المشاركة السياسية وللديمقراطية في اتخاذ القرار على المستوى الدولي، الأمر الذي يتطلب منا جميعاً أن ننظر إلى المستقبل وأن نمضي قدماً في الاضطلاع بمسؤولياتنا المشتركة تجاه المنظمة وأهدافها دون تسييس. واسمحي لي الآن يا حضرة الرئيسة بإلقاء كلمة قصيرة بالنيابة عن حركة عدم الانحياز، وسألقبها بالإنجليزية.

(76.1) **Mr Ramadan** (Egypt) (*translation from the Arabic*):

Madam President, allow me at the outset, and on behalf of the Arab States group, to congratulate the General Conference of UNESCO and the Organization on this important, just and historic decision, which affirms that the Member States of the Organization as a whole stand on the right side of history. The adoption of this resolution not only demonstrates the neutrality of the Organization and its upholding of the lofty principles that it has defended and continues to defend, but also UNESCO's respect for the rules of political participation and democracy in decision-making at the international level, which requires us all to look to the future and to move forward in shouldering our common responsibilities towards the Organization and its objectives without politicization. Now, Madam President, allow me to make a short statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, which I shall deliver in English.

(*The speaker continues in English*)

76.2 Madam President, Egypt, in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), would like to welcome this historic decision of the General Conference to admit Palestine as a Member of our Organization. In this regard, we would like to report the decision of NAM at its 16th Ministerial Conference in Bali at the end of May 2011. We, like other groups and countries that supported the decision, believe that the membership of Palestine is a positive step forward towards upholding the universal principles that UNESCO stands for, and should also be viewed as a contribution to the realization of peace, stability and development. Thank you, Madam President.

77. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor now to Austria.

78. **Ms Plassnik** (Austria):

*Madame la Directrice générale*, the question of Palestinian membership of UNESCO has been debated thoroughly within the European Union (EU). Austria very much regrets that we have not achieved a common EU position on the matter. Austria's yes vote today is a vote in favour of the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian people gaining full access to the valuable work of UNESCO. We hereby underline that the application of Palestine for membership of the United Nations is being dealt with by the Security Council according to the established procedures. Thank you.

79. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I give the floor to Belgium.

80.1 **Mme Chainaye** (Belgique) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Aujourd'hui, une très large majorité des États membres de l'UNESCO, dont la Belgique, a voté en faveur de l'admission de la Palestine à l'UNESCO. Elle devient donc membre à part entière de cette Organisation.

80.2 Ceci reflète le fait que l'Autorité palestinienne a considérablement progressé sur la voie de la constitution d'un État, grâce, notamment, aux contributions de l'Union européenne et de mon pays.

80.3 L'admission à l'UNESCO n'est cependant qu'une étape sur cette voie. Les semaines qui viennent s'annoncent cruciales pour faire démarrer un processus de véritables négociations entre la Palestine et Israël. Pour la Belgique, il n'y a pas d'alternative aux négociations, aussi difficiles soient-elles et en dépit du fait que les positions des deux parties restent très éloignées. Israël et la Palestine doivent pouvoir vivre côte à côte en paix et en sécurité.

80.4 La Belgique espère que, dans les mois qui viennent, la Palestine démontrera qu'elle est un membre responsable et fiable de l'UNESCO. Enfin, la Belgique appelle tous les États membres à maintenir leur appui aux actions que mène l'UNESCO dans le cadre de sa mission en faveur de la construction de la paix, notamment dans les domaines de l'éducation et du dialogue interculturel, et réitère son soutien sans faille à l'action de l'UNESCO en ce sens. Je vous remercie.

81. **The President:**

*Merci beaucoup. Now I give the floor to Libya.*

٨٢,١ السيد اليقوي (ليبيا):

سيدتي الرئيسة، حضرات السادة والسيدات، أود أن أتقدم، باسم بلدي ليبيا، بالتهنئة إلى المؤتمر العام لاتخاذ قرار انضمام فلسطين إلى اليونسكو. والقرار كما هو واضح ليس ضد أي أحد، وإنما هو اعتراف بحق إنساني وبحق الشعب الفلسطيني في التعليم والثقافة والمعرفة شأنه في ذلك شأن كافة شعوب العالم. إن قبول فلسطين عضواً في اليونسكو قبل قبولها عضواً في الأمم المتحدة ليس بدعة أو بالأمر الجديد فقد انضمت دول من قبل إلى اليونسكو قبل انضمامها إلى الأمم المتحدة.

٨٢,٢ حضرات السادة والسيدات، إننا نعتقد جازمين بأن قبول فلسطين عضواً في اليونسكو سيكون دعماً لحق إنساني، ودعماً دون شك لعملية السلام في المنطقة، هذه العملية التي تعثرت لعقود طويلة. ويُعدّ هذا الأمر في الوقت ذاته ترجمة حقيقية لمبادئ اليونسكو وتطبيقاً عملياً لحق الشعوب في التعليم والترقية والثقافة والمعرفة. وأقول مرة أخرى إن انضمام فلسطين إلى اليونسكو ليس دعماً للسلام في المنطقة فقط، بل هو وبكل تأكيد دعم للسلام العالمي وإنصاف لشعب طالما عانى من الإقصاء. وشكراً سيدتي الرئيسة.

(82.1) **Mr Eliagoubi (Libya) (translation from the Arabic):**

Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of my country, Libya, I should like to present my congratulations to the General Conference for having adopted a resolution allowing Palestine to join UNESCO. It is clear that the decision is not directed against anyone; rather, it is recognition of a human right, the right of the Palestinian people to education, culture and knowledge, the same as for all the other peoples of the world. Palestine's becoming a member of UNESCO before it becomes a member of the United Nations is nothing new; other States have joined UNESCO before joining the United Nations.

(82.2) Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we believe firmly that accepting Palestine as a member of UNESCO would provide support for a human right, and no doubt support for the peace process in the region, this process that has faltered for long decades. At the same time, this represents a faithful translation of the principles of UNESCO and a practical application of the right of peoples to education, culture and knowledge. I say once again: Palestine's joining UNESCO is not only in support of peace in the region; it is a reaffirmation of world peace and justice for a people which has suffered too long from exclusion. Thank you Madam President.

83. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Germany.

84. **Ms Nibbeling-Wießnig (Germany):**

Thank you very much, Madam President, Madam Director-General, for allowing me to explain why Germany could not support the draft resolution submitted under item 9.1, "Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO". The basic request for membership has been submitted for a number of years and until now the Executive Board and the General Conference were wise enough not to push for a decision. This year, however, Palestine has also applied for full United Nations membership. That application is now being examined by the Security Council of which Germany is a member. As everybody knows, a decision has not been taken yet. On 23 September, the Quartet proposed a timetable and framework for the resumption of negotiations. A first meeting of the Quartet took place a week ago. The next three months will be crucial. We have called on all concerned to do everything possible to foster this process and to avoid everything that might interfere with or prejudice the outcome of this process. Our goals remain to see a Palestinian State alongside a secure State of Israel. Germany has repeatedly asked for the postponement of the decision on UNESCO membership for Palestine while deliberations in the United Nations Security Council are ongoing and the Quartet is in a sensitive phase. We regret that our request to postpone has not met with sufficient support. Germany fully understands the Palestinian wish to obtain UNESCO membership as soon as possible and has been looking forward to welcoming Palestine as a Member of UNESCO at the appropriate time and under the right circumstances. Germany's support for the two-State solution is not in doubt. I hope delegations will understand that, at this point in time and for the reasons mentioned, Germany had to vote against the proposal. This vote should by no means be interpreted as prejudging our position in other fora; and we are confident that we all together here will do our best in a spirit of cooperation to ensure that the functioning of our UNESCO will not be jeopardized by the decision of the General Conference. Thank you very much.

85. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Lebanon.



٨٦ السيدة فضل الله (لبنان):

شكراً السيدة الرئيسة. إنها لحظة تاريخية نشهد فيها انضمام فلسطين إلى منظماتنا كعضو كامل العضوية ترسيخاً لمبادئ التضامن والعدل والحرية المكرسة في ميثاقنا التأسيسي، هذه المبادئ التي نسعى جميعاً إلى تحقيقها. ففلسطين العريقة بتاريخها وتراثها، والغنية بثقافتها وعلومها، وجدت اليوم المكان المناسب لتعاون متبادل وتضامن فكري ومعنوي وثيق. وأود أن أهنئ، باسمي وباسم لبنان، فلسطين بعضويتها في منظماتنا. وإني واثقة بأنها ستساهم بفعالية في توطيد المبادئ العريقة للمنظمة، وفي إرساء برامجها الثقافية والتربوية والعلمية. إنها لحظة تاريخية في حياة منظماتنا التي قامت، إذ أتاحت لفلسطين الانضمام إليها في مؤتمرنا العام هذا، بمنح دور محوري أكيد للثقافة في بناء وإرساء السلام في النفوس والعقول. وشكراً.

(86) **Ms Fadlallah (Lebanon) translation from the Arabic:**

Thank you Madam President. This is an historic moment in which we witness the admission of Palestine to our Organization as a full member, in consolidation of the principles of solidarity, justice and freedom consecrated in our Constitution, these principles which we all strive to put into practice. Venerable Palestine, with its history, heritage, culture and science, has today found the right place for mutual cooperation and close intellectual and moral solidarity. I should like to congratulate Palestine, on behalf of Lebanon and in my own capacity, on its membership in our Organization. I am confident that it will contribute effectively to reaffirming the venerable principles of the Organization and to consolidating its cultural, educational and scientific programmes. This is an historic moment in the life of our Organization, which has now afforded Palestine the opportunity of joining it at this General Conference, and thereby granting a pivotal role to culture in the building and consolidation of peace in people's souls and minds. Thank you.

87. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to New Zealand.

88.1 **Ms Hallum (New Zealand):**

Thank you, Madam President. New Zealand supports increased Palestinian participation in international bodies, in particular as a way to further build on Prime Minister Fayyad's State-building agenda and in recognition of the general success of this agenda. New Zealand supports the aspirations of the Palestinian people to have a representative voice in international organizations. We also recognize that a number of countries have become Members of UNESCO prior to or without becoming United Nations Member States. It was our preference, however, that the issue of Palestine's United Nations membership be addressed first in the United Nations Security Council before UNESCO decided on Palestinian membership.

88.2 Membership of the United Nations and membership of UNESCO are of course different and separate issues. Furthermore, we wish to make clear that New Zealand's abstention here today does not indicate how we might vote on future related issues in New York. We continue to urge all parties to give every chance for the necessary compromises to be reached so that renewed negotiations might have an opportunity for success. We hope and expect that the broader question of Palestine taking its place within all international organizations can be resolved in the near future. Thank you, Madam President.

89. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement. And now I give the floor to Sri Lanka.

90.1 **Mr Jayatileka (Sri Lanka):**

Thank you, Madam President, Madam Director-General. One of our distinguished colleagues reminded us that André Malraux said that *Man is what he does*. May I add that this is also true of international organizations. The Open UNESCO exhibit has a blue disk on the wall by the exhibit's end, which quotes the great Asian statesperson Jawaharlal Nehru who said that "*UNESCO is the conscience of the world community*". And today UNESCO has acted precisely as the conscience of the world community. Jawaharlal did not say that UNESCO is the conscience of the world community if that is okay with New York or if it flies over the hill or if it plays in Peoria. UNESCO is the conscience of the world community. This we have shown by what we have done.

90.2 Madam President, there has been a specious argument here that what we have done is somehow contradictory to the bid for a negotiated settlement and efforts going on elsewhere, such as in New York. I fail to see the logic, Madam President. I think that by showing that Palestine's independence is an idea whose time has come and that this has broad recognition in the world community, we have in fact bolstered all the efforts which we respect towards a negotiated peace and towards the recognition that is sought in the Security Council. I would conclude by quoting something that Yael Dayan, herself a soldier in the Six-Day War and the daughter of the great soldier-diplomat Moshe Dayan, after whom I have the good fortune of having been named by my parents, said to Russian television yesterday when she was interviewed on whether or not the Palestinian bid to seek recognition in various arms of the United Nations system was helpful to the bid for peace. And Yael Dayan, the soldier-daughter of a soldier, said "*Yes, it is helpful because if national efforts are somehow blocked or retarded as they seem to be, then the international effort becomes all the more important*". So I think we have made a positive contribution to a negotiated peace today. Thank you.

91. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency, for your statement. Now I give the floor to Saudi Arabia.

٩٢ السيد الدريس (المملكة العربية السعودية):

شكراً السيدة الرئيسة. سأهنئ اليونسكو قبل أن أهنئ فلسطين. اليوم خرج رأس المولود الفلسطيني الجديد من رحم العالم، وسيستكمل خروج بقية الجنين أو المولود هناك في الأمم المتحدة في نيويورك خلال الأيام القادمة بإذن الله. اليوم لم تولد فلسطين فقط، بل ولدت يونسكو جديدة، يونسكو ملامحها قوة العدالة لا عدالة القوة التي هيمنت لعقود مضت. اليوم نحن أمام أول نتاج لإطار الإنسانية الجديدة التي دعت إليها السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا في حملتها الانتخابية في

عام ٢٠٠٩. فهذا هو المسار الذي جعلته ضمن حملتها آنذاك. وها هي السيدة بوكوفا تفي بوعدها الانتخابي وتقوم بدورها المحايد، فتفتح المجال الديمقراطي لأي دولة لكي تتقدم لنيل عضوية اليونسكو، وها قد فعلت فلسطين اليوم وكسبت. لقد سمعنا كثيراً من الدول الأعضاء وهي تتحدث وتثني على الربيع العربي، وكنت أتساءل لماذا أرادت هذه الدول التي قالت لا لفلسطين أن تظلّ فلسطين في الخريف وألا تدخل في الربيع مثل بقية الدول العربية؟ لن أستبق الأحداث، لكنني أقول إذا أقامت فلسطين والدول العربية، أو المجموعة العربية، احتفالية بهذه المناسبة، وأتوقع أنها ستفعل ذلك، فسنوجه الدعوة إلى الذين قالوا لا قبل الذين قالوا نعم، حتى نؤكد ونسترجع روح أسرة اليونسكو الواحدة، ولأننا نعلم بأنهم لم يقولوا لا لأنهم يكرهون فلسطين لكن لأنهم مكرهون على قول لا بسبب ضغوط خارجة عن إرادتهم. باسم وفد المملكة العربية السعودية، نهنئ مجدداً فلسطين على حصولها على عضوية اليونسكو ونأمل أن يكون هذا تدعيماً للمسار السلمي. وشكراً.

(92) **Mr Al-Drees (Saudi Arabia) (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you, Madam President. I should like to congratulate UNESCO before I congratulate Palestine. Today the head of the newborn Palestine emerged from the womb of the world; the rest of the baby will come out at the United Nations in New York in the next few days, God willing. Not only has Palestine been born; UNESCO, too, has been born anew. The hallmark of UNESCO is the force of justice rather than the justice of force, which has been the dominant paradigm over the past few decades. Today we find ourselves in the presence of the first fruit of the new humanism framework urged by Ms Irina Bokova in her electoral campaign in 2009. This is the course that she traced in her campaign at that time. And now, Ms Bokova has kept her electoral promise and is playing her neutral role by opening the democratic field to any State to enable it to become a member of UNESCO. And this is what Palestine has done today and won. We have heard much from the Member States as they speak of and commend the Arab Spring. I was wondering why these States which said "no" to Palestine wanted Palestine to remain in the autumn rather than to enter the spring like the other Arab States. Without wishing to jump ahead of events, I nevertheless say that if Palestine and the Arab States, or the Arab States group wished to hold a celebration of this occasion, and I expect they will, we shall extend an invitation to those who said "no" before those who said "yes", so that we may reiterate and recover the spirit of the single UNESCO family, because we know that they did not say "no" because they hate Palestine, but rather because they are obliged to say "no" as a result of external pressure beyond their control. On behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we congratulate Palestine once again on having obtained full membership in UNESCO, and we hope that this will be in support of the course of peace. Thank you.

93. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. And now I give the floor to Serbia.

94. **Ms Tomić (Serbia):**

Madam President, Serbia's vote in favour of the draft resolution on the admission of Palestine to UNESCO is consistent with its recognition of the State of Palestine, which dates back to the times of the former Yugoslavia, and in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions and the unequivocal support within the international community, including the parties concerned, for the two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Serbia was able to support this draft also because the procedure for the admission of new Member States provided for in UNESCO's Constitution has been fully adhered to and that the prerequisites have been fully met. Serbia has therefore joined the overwhelming majority of UNESCO Member States in supporting the admission of Palestine to the Organization. Thank you.

95. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I give the floor to Portugal.

96. **Mr Castro Mendes (Portugal):**

Thank you, Madam President. In our delegation's view, today's vote comes at an untimely moment. At the Security Council the Palestinian application for United Nations membership is being assessed and discussed in a meaningful way, and these discussions have not yet come to an end. In this regard, Portugal is assuming its special responsibilities as a non-permanent member of the Security Council whereby we are committed to promoting a sustainable compromise. We firmly believe that until the debate is over, we should avoid taking any action or position that would prejudice or in any way influence the result of such discussions. That was the sense of the approach we have been adopting in order to find the solution that would have avoided the need for this vote at this particular juncture. This approach reflects the position and call by the European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton that we very much supported. We believe that the solution for the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians can only be achieved through negotiations in accordance with the well-known principles, timeframe and roadmap defined by the Quartet and endorsed by the European Union. This is the track on which we must responsibly concentrate all our work. Since the efforts to resume negotiations are still ongoing, we abstain today together with a large group of European Union Member States; but in the same vein and consistent with the action and purpose manifested by Portugal at the United Nations General Assembly last September, it should be noted that we would never have voted against. Portugal has always stood for a sovereign, independent, democratic and contiguous, viable State of Palestine and the State of Israel living side by side in peace and security. Thank you, Madam President.

97. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I give the floor to Denmark.

98. **Mr Dam Kristensen (Denmark):**

Thank you, Madam President. Denmark is a strong supporter of Palestinian rights and aspirations for statehood within the framework of international law. We support Palestinians, Palestine's participation in the important work of UNESCO, including the efforts to ensure the protection of heritage located in Palestinian territory. Denmark believes that the issue of United Nations membership should be properly dealt with in New York before turning to specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies. Equally, Denmark believes that the ongoing efforts by the Quartet following its statement on 23 September are essential for getting negotiations restarted. For these reasons, Denmark has decided to abstain; but we do call on all Members to continue their support for UNESCO's mission. This is about peace, identity,

culture, heritage and freedom of expression. We should do everything we can to prevent damage to the very United Nations organization which places these themes at the heart of its work. Thank you, Madam President.

99. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to China.

100. **施女士（中国）：**

谢谢主席女士。中国代表团热烈祝贺巴勒斯坦成为教科文组织的成员。我支持 77 国加中国主席、印度大使的讲话。我还支持大会主席您自己的讲话。中国一贯支持巴勒斯坦人民争取恢复民族合法权利的正义事业，认为独立建国是巴勒斯坦人民不可剥夺的合法权利，是实现巴勒斯坦、以色列两个国家和平共处的基础和前提，有利于中东地区的长治久安，也有利于中东地区国家在教科文组织的职责范围内开展教育、科学和文化领域的国际合作以及地区合作。因此，我呼吁所有的会员国团结起来，团结合作，共同努力，完成历史赋予我们共建和谐世界和共建世界和平的崇高使命。谢谢！

(100) **Ms Shi (China) (translation from the Chinese):**

Thank you, Madam President. China warmly congratulates Palestine's admission as a UNESCO Member. I endorse the intervention of the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, Ambassador of India, and I endorse your speech, Madam President. China has always supported the Palestinian people in their just cause of the restoration of their legitimate rights. We believe that the foundation of an independent State is the legitimate and inalienable right of the Palestinian people. It is also the foundation and prerequisite for the peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel, which will contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East and to regional and international cooperation among countries of the Middle East, in terms of education, science and culture within UNESCO's fields of competence. Hence, I call for the unity of all Member States in order to build a harmonious and peaceful world, the noble mission entrusted to us by history. Thank you.

101. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I give the floor to the Czech Republic.

102. **Ms Kaiserová (Czech Republic):**

Thank you, Madam President. Allow me to explain why the Czech Republic decided to vote against the resolution on admission of Palestine to membership of UNESCO. The Czech Republic reiterates its support for negotiations leading to Palestine statehood, all efforts and steps to that end and its readiness when appropriate to recognize the Palestinian State. The Czech Republic is of the opinion that the issue of United Nations membership should be properly dealt with in New York before turning to specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies. Equally we believe that ongoing efforts by the Quartet are essential for getting negotiations seriously started. We deem the Palestinian initiative in UNESCO ill-timed and to be further complicating the process aimed at restarting negotiations between the parties as proposed in New York by the Quartet declaration of 23 September and pending a Security Council decision on the Palestinian request for admission to the United Nations. Palestinian statehood should not be an issue resolved by unilateral steps. We refuse to accept such an approach. We call upon both sides to avoid steps that run counter to the Quartet's efforts to restart negotiations. We especially deplore the acts of violence constituted by the renewed rocket attacks from Gaza this past weekend. Our decision today should by no means be interpreted as prejudging our future position. Thank you.

103. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. Now I give the floor to Cuba.

104. **Sra. Flórez Prida (Cuba):**

Gracias, señora Presidenta. Señora Directora General: ante todo, mi delegación desea apoyar las declaraciones formuladas por las delegaciones de la India y de Egipto en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China, y del Movimiento de Países No Alineados, respectivamente. Señora Presidenta, señora Directora General: hoy hemos presenciado un momento histórico en nuestra Organización. La admisión de Palestina como miembro de pleno derecho de la UNESCO, por una abrumadora mayoría de los Estados Miembros presentes en esta Conferencia, reafirma el carácter universal de la UNESCO y rectifica una injusticia histórica contra el sufrido pueblo palestino. Esta decisión confirma además el liderazgo y visibilidad de la UNESCO en la arena internacional. Cuba da la bienvenida a Palestina. Muchas gracias.

(104) **Ms Flórez Prida (Cuba) (translation from the Spanish):**

Thank you Madam President. Madam Director-General, above all, my delegation wishes to support the declarations by the delegations of India and Egypt in the name of the Group of 77 and China, and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively. Madam President, Madam Director-General, today, our Organization has witnessed an historic moment. The admission of Palestine as a full member of UNESCO, supported by an overwhelming majority of Member States present at this Conference, reaffirms the universal character of UNESCO and rectifies a historical injustice inflicted on the long-suffering Palestinian people. This decision also confirms the leadership and visibility of UNESCO in the international sphere. Cuba extends a warm welcome to Palestine. Thank you very much.

105. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. Now I give the floor to Indonesia.

106. **Mr Rachman (Indonesia):**

*Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm. As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). Indonesia would like to congratulate UNESCO. God has created mankind with different races, different languages and different opinions so that people will make efforts to understand each other. Today, Madam President, UNESCO has answered and made the effort to understand mankind and for people to understand each other. Indonesia congratulates UNESCO for such a remarkable and valuable historic moment accomplished together, and the responsibility we have taken for the coming generation. *Al-ḥamdu lillāh* (All thanks and praise be to God). Indonesia trusts that UNESCO will be successful in the

future in achieving peace as our responsibility on this planet. Thank you very much. *As-salāmu ‘alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

107. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I now give the floor to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

108. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Madam President. The United Kingdom calls for the urgent resumption of negotiations that will lead within an agreed timeframe to a two-State solution with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. We recognize that with this vote the Palestinian people are sending a message to the international community that that process must be speeded up. In the context of UNESCO we support initiatives that ensure the protection of Palestinian cultural and natural heritage and enhance education cooperation with Palestine. Nonetheless, we still believe that the issue of United Nations membership should be properly dealt with in New York. For this reason, we decided to abstain. This vote was about the here and now and must not be read as giving any indication of our position in another place or at another time. We call on all Members of UNESCO to now pause for reflection before taking any precipitous action here or elsewhere. As my Danish colleague noted, at the centre of this issue are themes of peace, identity, heritage, culture and freedom of expression. We must be absolutely sure in moving forward from this decision that we avoid damaging the very United Nations Organization that places those themes at the heart of its work.

109. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I give the floor to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

110. **Sr. Bonilla** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela):

Gracias, Presidenta. Para el Gobierno bolivariano es motivo de especial alegría la decisión que hoy acaba de tomar la UNESCO. Consideramos de especial importancia ratificar que hoy se reconcilia este cuerpo con buena parte de los grandes anhelos de la humanidad. Cuando escuchaba la votación de los diferentes países a favor de la admisión de Palestina, lo que escuchaba eran las risas de millones y millones de niños, niñas y adolescentes que creen en un mundo de paz, de justicia y de igualdad. Con esta votación, la UNESCO ratifica que una educación basada en la justicia social es la mejor garantía para la paz. Bienvenida, Palestina, a este cuerpo.

(110) **Mr Bonilla** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Madam President. For the Bolivarian Government, the decision that UNESCO has made today is a cause for celebration. We believe that it is highly important to reaffirm that today, this body has reconciled with a widespread desire of humanity. When I was listening to different countries voting in favour of Palestine's admission, what I heard was the joy of millions and millions of boys, girls and teenagers who believe in a world of peace, justice and equality. With this vote, UNESCO has confirmed that education based on social justice is the surest guarantor of peace. Welcome, Palestine, to this Organization.

111. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Singapore.

112. **Mr Murthy** (Singapore):

Madam President, while we can understand and sympathize with the desire of the Palestinians to participate in UNESCO, we should not brush aside the fact that this application for UNESCO membership comes at a particularly contentious time for the United Nations as a whole and indeed for the Middle East generally. This position cannot be considered independently of its broader political context. The question that we therefore asked ourselves was whether this position at this point in time would help or hinder UNESCO's primary mission of promoting education, science and culture. The answer was to us obvious: that it has already divided and politicized the Organization is evident from what we heard when the resolution was considered by UNESCO's Executive Board. Furthermore, this resolution was submitted just after Palestine had applied for full membership of the United Nations. That application is still being considered by the Security Council in New York, and we understand that there is a possibility of some action on this matter in the General Assembly as well. We cannot ignore the fact that UNESCO's position would be a political judgement that would have implications for Palestine's application for United Nations membership and was, perhaps, intended to influence that application. It is no part of UNESCO's mandate to play such a political role. For these reasons, Singapore decided to abstain on the vote to admit Palestine to UNESCO. Thank you, Madam President.

113. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Argentina.

114. **Sr. Estrella** (Argentina):

Muchas gracias. La Argentina tiene una relación profunda y legendaria con la UNESCO y, si su adhesión ha sido siempre constante y militante, es por los principios con que fue creada esta institución que nosotros queremos tanto. Conozco muchísimo y admiro y quiero la historia del pueblo judío. En Argentina conocemos mucho más de la historia del pueblo judío que de la historia de un pueblo como el de Palestina. Es en esta casa, en el año 88, en que el Director General de entonces me nombró Embajador de Buena Voluntad que pude conocer a Isaac Rabin, a Shimon Peres y a Arafat, los tres. Arafat –me acuerdo que en ese escenario– abrazó a sus dos hermanos judíos diciéndoles: “Somos los tres hijos de Abraham”, lo cual es cierto. Dijo: “Falta la pata cristiana, mi mujer es cristiana”. Bueno, desde ahí la UNESCO me encomendó trabajar uno de los programas como Embajador de Buena Voluntad en Medio Oriente y así pude conocer la tragedia del pueblo palestino, de un pueblo ocupado. Por eso, eso que es mucho menos conocido que el dramático camino del pueblo judío, yo lo viví *in situ*, conversando con los palestinos de los campos palestinos, trabajando con los niños, haciéndolos cantar, haciendo música para ellos. Entonces, yo no puedo considerar de ninguna manera prematuro que esta institución, que es clave para los que somos humanistas en el mundo entero, haya decidido

dar luz verde al queridísimo pueblo palestino para que sea un verdadero Estado. Y estoy seguro que la paz de Israel va a ser garantizada. Mi hermano el colega de Arabia Saudita, que es poeta, también lo dijo de una manera mucho más bonita que yo, pero creo que la paz es posible y que tenemos que meditar, y la UNESCO tiene que ser la primera, tiene que estar en la primera fila, luchando para la paz en Medio Oriente, para la seguridad de Israel y para la existencia real de un pueblo que está ocupado. Gracias.

(114) **Mr Estrella** (Argentina) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much. Argentina has a profound and longstanding relationship with UNESCO, and its steady and loyal membership is only so because of the principles upon which this institution, so dear to us all, was established. I know, admire and love the history of the Jewish people very much. The Jewish people's history is much better known to Argentina than that of the Palestinian people. It was in this house, in the year 1988 that the Director-General at the time appointed me UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, thus enabling me to meet Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Arafat, all three of them. On that occasion, Arafat, I recall, embraced his Jewish brothers saying, "We are the three sons of Abraham", which is certainly true. He said, "A Christian hand is missing, my wife is a Christian". Then, after that, UNESCO put me in charge of one of the programmes as Goodwill Ambassador to the Middle East, and that is how I learned more about the Palestinian people's tragedy, a people under occupation. That is how I gained first-hand experience of a situation that is less well known than the dramatic story of the Jewish people; I did it by chatting with the Palestinians in camps, working with children, making them sing, making music for them. Therefore, I cannot consider it premature that this institution, which is essential for humanists like us throughout the world, has chosen to give the green light to the dear Palestinian people so that they can become a real State. And I am sure that Israel's peace will be guaranteed. My brother, colleague and poet from Saudi Arabia said this in a much more charming way than I did. However, I believe that peace is possible and that we need to give thought - with UNESCO first in line and leading the way - to the struggle for peace in the Middle East, for safety in Israel and for the existence of a real State for an occupied people. Thank you.

115. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. Now I give the floor to France.

116.1 **M. de Canson** (France) :

Madame la Présidente, le 21 septembre dernier, devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, le Président de la République française, M. Sarkozy, présentait la vision de la France pour avancer sur le chemin de la paix au Proche-Orient, pour avancer sur le chemin d'une solution au conflit israélo-palestinien.

116.2 Il proposait que l'Assemblée générale élabore une résolution permettant à la Palestine de rehausser son statut au sein de l'ONU en devenant un État non membre observateur. Nous continuons à penser qu'une telle résolution constituerait une avancée légitime vers la reconnaissance d'un État palestinien, sans créer, comme nous pouvons le craindre d'une démarche au Conseil de sécurité, une confrontation diplomatique majeure qui conduirait à l'impasse.

116.3 Aujourd'hui, la question qui était posée était de savoir si la communauté internationale répondait oui ou non à la demande d'adhésion de la Palestine à l'UNESCO. Certes, nous aurions préféré que cette question fût posée après le traitement du sujet par l'Assemblée générale à New York. Mais, à partir du moment où elle l'est aujourd'hui, il nous faut prendre nos responsabilités et répondre sur le fond. Sur le fond, la France dit oui. Oui, la Palestine a le droit de devenir membre de l'UNESCO.

116.4 La Palestine a le droit de devenir membre de l'UNESCO, cette organisation dont la vocation est d'œuvrer à la généralisation d'une culture de la paix au sein de la communauté internationale. Une telle adhésion entre pleinement dans la logique de la démarche à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies proposée par le Président de la République.

116.5 La France a toujours été, est aujourd'hui et restera demain du côté de la paix. Elle soutient les responsables palestiniens, au premier rang desquels le Président de l'Autorité palestinienne, dans leurs efforts pour l'édification d'un État palestinien vivant côte à côte, en paix et en sécurité avec l'État d'Israël.

116.6 Le Président de la République l'a souligné le 21 septembre devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies : si quiconque, à travers le monde, menaçait l'existence d'Israël, la France serait immédiatement et totalement aux côtés d'Israël. Nous le disons et le répétons. C'est avant tout par le biais de négociations entre Israéliens et Palestiniens que l'objectif de deux États vivant en paix et en sécurité sera atteint. Nous appelons les deux parties à faire tous les compromis nécessaires pour que ces négociations puissent reprendre sans délai. Je vous remercie.

117. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement. Now I give the floor to Switzerland.

118.1 **M. Imhoof** (Suisse) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale. La Palestine vient d'adhérer à l'UNESCO. La Suisse le comprend comme démontrant l'intention de la Palestine de participer et de contribuer à la mission de l'Organisation, celle d'une culture de la paix, d'une compréhension des diversités culturelles par l'éducation, la science et le rapprochement des cultures.

118.2 Le débat sur le statut de la Palestine constitue un enjeu politique majeur, en particulier pour le Moyen-Orient, dont il ne faudrait pas préjuger l'issue. Si la Suisse s'est abstenue lors de ce vote, c'est qu'elle considère que le débat n'a pas à être mené dans le cadre d'une organisation à vocation technique comme l'UNESCO. Il appartient davantage aux organes politiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies de considérer la question.

118.3 La Suisse continuera d'œuvrer pour que des négociations en vue de la création d'un État palestinien viable, vivant côte à côte avec un État d'Israël et établi dans des frontières sûres et reconnues, conduisent à un règlement durable de ce conflit. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

119. **The President:**  
*Merci beaucoup.* And now I would like to give the floor to Norway.
120. **Mr Eriksen (Norway):**  
Madam President, I will explain the Norwegian vote. Norway is a strong supporter of Palestinian rights and aspirations for statehood within the framework of international law. Given the difficult circumstances in which the Palestinians work to protect their cultural and natural heritage, we support initiatives that would ensure the protection of this heritage in the Palestinian territory. Our vote, a yes, is consistent with the need to recognize the legitimacy of Palestinian aspirations and needs as regards the protection of this heritage. Our national procedures to formally recognize the State of Palestine are still pending. Norway supports the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders. A comprehensive, just and lasting peace can only be achieved on the basis of a negotiated solution between the parties. Thank you, Madam President.
121. **The President:**  
Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Nicaragua.
122. **Sra. Henríquez González (Nicaragua):**  
Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta. Señora Presidenta, señora Directora General: Nicaragua, al decir sí a la adhesión de Palestina a la UNESCO, ha sumado su voz a la de tantos otros países en aras de la construcción de la paz y la fraternidad universal, a favor del diálogo y la diversidad cultural, del derecho a la educación, la cultura y la ciencia, que constituyen los pilares sobre los que se alza la UNESCO, los cuales queremos, en un acto de justicia, sean cada vez más sobre los que también se alce el pueblo palestino de ahora en adelante. Por eso, dentro del marco de los principios fundamentales que guían a esta institución y de la solidaridad internacional, Nicaragua acoge con beneplácito y satisfacción la adhesión de Palestina a la UNESCO y la felicita calurosamente. Muchas gracias.
- (122) **Ms Henríquez González (Nicaragua) (translation from the Spanish):**  
Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, Madam Director-General, when Nicaragua said “yes” to the admission of Palestine to UNESCO, it added its voice to that of many other countries in favour of building peace and global kinship, in favour of dialogue and cultural diversity, the right to education, culture and science, the pillars on which UNESCO stands tall. These pillars should become, through an act of justice, the ever-growing support for the Palestinian people from now on. Therefore, within the framework of these fundamental principles that guide our institution and international solidarity, Nicaragua welcomes with satisfaction Palestine’s membership of UNESCO with hearty congratulations. Thank you very much.
123. **The President:**  
Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Japan.
124. **Mr Kiso (Japan):**  
Thank you, Madam President. Please let me emphasize that Japan is and always has been deeply understanding about the long-cherished aspiration of Palestine for statehood. However, Japan feels that the submission of this particular resolution was premature when the request by Palestine for membership of the United Nations itself is still being considered by the United Nations Security Council. UNESCO’s pre-empting the discussions at the United Nations in this manner can further complicate matters and, therefore, is not deemed desirable. Under the circumstances, Japan had no choice but to abstain. I will also add that Japan, as the second largest contributor to UNESCO, considers the implications that this accession might have on UNESCO’s financial management in the months ahead to be a matter of great concern. Thank you.
125. **The President:**  
Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. Now I give the floor to the Netherlands.
- 126.1 **Mr Zeldenrust (Netherlands):**  
Thank you, Madam President. The Netherlands wishes to record its concern about the vote we have just taken. Full Palestinian membership at this point in time runs counter to the interests of UNESCO. It pre-empts the outcome of deliberations in the Security Council on the Palestinian bid for full United Nations membership and will make the negotiating process between Israel and the Palestinians more difficult. For any if not all these reasons, the Netherlands believes that this General Conference should not have taken up the proposal at hand.
- 126.2 Let me make it clear that the Netherlands supports the Palestinian ambition to become a full Member of the United Nations. This should happen as a result of a negotiation process between the parties themselves, to which end initial and important steps were taken by the Quartet with the parties on 26 October. This should lead to the establishment of a viable, democratic and peaceful Palestinian State and secure, internationally recognized Jewish State of Israel living side by side in peace and security. The only way to get there is for the parties to immediately engage in negotiations without preconditions and to abstain from unilateral steps that prejudice the outcome of these negotiations. All efforts of the international community should be geared towards making negotiations happen rather than towards making them more difficult. Unilateral steps will not get us closer to peace. This is not the time or the place for decisions like the one at hand. The Netherlands endorses the timeframe outlined by the Quartet and we stand ready to assist where we can. We are a major donor to the Palestinian Authority. Our message is simple and clear: negotiate. Thank you, Madam President.
127. **The President:**  
Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. Now I give the floor to Spain.
128. **Sra. Garmendia Mendizábal (España):**  
Tras las intervenciones que me han precedido, quisiera hacer una muy breve intervención y señalar que, como ministra del Gobierno de España, me siento afortunada por haber podido estar hoy aquí y muy orgullosa de haber

formado parte de este gran momento de emoción compartida. España quiere hacer llegar al pueblo y a las autoridades de Palestina una calurosa y emocionada felicitación por su admisión a la UNESCO. Y nosotros también desde España lamentamos que Europa no haya alcanzado una posición común, seguiremos trabajando para alcanzarla y confiamos en que nuestras responsabilidades tras el resultado de la votación refuercen realmente las posibilidades y el éxito de una negociación de paz en Oriente Medio, en beneficio tanto de Palestina como de Israel. Muchas gracias.

(128) **Ms Garmendia Mendizábal** (Spain) (*translation from the Spanish*):

After the speeches we have just heard, I would like to briefly mention and point out that as a Minister in Spain's government, I feel lucky to have been here today and very proud to have been a part of this significant and emotional moment that we have shared. Spain would like to extend to the Palestinian people and authorities warm and heartfelt congratulations for its admission to UNESCO. In Spain, we also regret that Europe has not reached a consensus on the matter; we will continue to work towards this and trust that our responsibilities, especially after this vote, are able to increase the chances of success of peace talks in the Middle East for the benefit of both Palestine and Israel. Thank you very much.

129. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Algeria.

130.1 **M. Sbih** (Algérie) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. L'Algérie salue la décision historique de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, qui consacre enfin l'admission de la Palestine en tant que membre à part entière de l'UNESCO.

130.2 Cette importante décision, votée à une majorité significative, constitue un acte de paix conforme aux idéaux et objectifs de l'Organisation et représente une avancée majeure dans la reconnaissance attendue de la Palestine comme État membre des Nations Unies. Je vous remercie.

131. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Australia.

132.1 **Ms Kamath** (Australia):

Thank you, Madam President. Australia strongly supports the aspirations of the Palestinian people for their own State and believes the negotiated peace process between the parties is the way to achieve this. Our decision to vote against reflects Australia's strong concern that consideration of Palestinian membership of UNESCO is premature. The matter of Palestinian membership of the United Nations has recently been placed before the United Nations Security Council for its consideration. We should allow the United Nations Security Council process to run its course rather than seek first to address this question in different United Nations fora.

132.2 Our decision also reflects our concern about the possible implications of the successful vote on UNESCO funding. Australia has been a consistent supporter of the peace process. We have provided extensive support and committed to over \$300 million in humanitarian and development assistance during the next five years for the building of the institutions of a future Palestinian State. Australia has made clear our strong support for efforts to achieve a comprehensive and enduring peace based on a negotiated two-State solution. We urge both parties to return to direct talks. Thank you.

133. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement. Now I give the floor to Canada.

134.1 **M. Bachand** (Canada) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Le Canada souscrit sans réserve à l'objectif d'une paix globale, juste et durable entre Israël et le peuple palestinien, y compris la création d'un État palestinien viable et indépendant, coexistant avec Israël dans la paix et la sécurité grâce à un accord négocié entre les parties.

134.2 Toutefois, le Canada est profondément préoccupé par les initiatives unilatérales de l'Autorité palestinienne pour devenir membre des organes des Nations Unies, y compris l'UNESCO. Le Canada est l'un des principaux partisans du processus de paix et a mis en œuvre un programme d'aide quinquennal de 300 millions de dollars destinés à l'Autorité palestinienne pour renforcer les capacités dans les domaines clés de la réforme du secteur de la justice et de la sécurité et favoriser une croissance économique durable.

134.3 Le Canada fournit également une aide humanitaire en Cisjordanie et dans la bande de Gaza. Il a toujours soutenu que la seule façon de parvenir à un État palestinien était de négocier un accord avec Israël. Des dispositions relatives à la sécurité aux frontières doivent être négociées. Des solutions aux questions des réfugiés et de Jérusalem doivent être trouvées.

134.4 Contourner le processus de négociation bilatérale comme on tente de le faire par cette démarche est inutile et nuisible aux efforts visant à trouver un règlement négocié. Suggérer que les Palestiniens peuvent obtenir un État sans négocier un accord de paix avec Israël mine le processus de paix. Le Canada regrette profondément que l'Autorité palestinienne ait choisi de demander un statut de membre de l'UNESCO plutôt que de chercher à obtenir un règlement négocié avec Israël.

134.5 Le Canada regrette aussi profondément la décision de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO d'approuver la demande palestinienne de devenir membre de l'UNESCO. De telles actions ne contribueront pas à faire progresser le processus de paix, ne changeront pas les faits sur le terrain et ne rapprocheront pas les vues. Pour ces raisons, le Canada a voté contre cette demande. Le Canada exhorte les parties à reprendre les pourparlers de paix directs sans tarder et sans condition préalable à la suite de la Déclaration du Quatuor du 23 septembre. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

135. **The President:**  
*Merci beaucoup.* I would like to give the floor to the Dominican Republic.

136. **Sra. Hernández de Grullón** (República Dominicana):  
Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta. Solo para decir que la República Dominicana aprueba la admisión de Palestina a la UNESCO porque el ingreso de Palestina a esta Organización representa un paso para alcanzar la paz, la defensa de los principios universales defendidos por la UNESCO, y no es posible que hoy en día se le niegue a un pueblo el derecho al acceso a la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la comunicación a través de una organización con tanto prestigio y con tanta credibilidad como lo es la UNESCO. Muchísimas gracias.

(136) **Ms Hernández de Grullón** (Dominican Republic) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I just want to say that the Dominican Republic approves the admission of Palestine to UNESCO because Palestine's membership with this Organization represents a step towards achieving peace, the defence of the universal principles defended by UNESCO. It is not possible that, in this day and age, people should be deprived of the right to education, science, culture and communication through an Organization with such prestige and credibility as UNESCO. Thank you very much.

137. **The President:**  
Thank you very much for your statement. Now I give the floor to Ecuador.

138. **Sra. Rodríguez** (Ecuador):  
Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta. Señores delegados: mi país, acorde con su política internacional, ha venido sosteniendo un apoyo sostenido a la paz en Medio Oriente. Consideramos que el reconocimiento de Palestina en la UNESCO es un paso en esa dirección y nos congratulamos de que muchos países en esta sala hayan dado este paso también importante de reconocimiento a Palestina. Auguramos lo mejor para Palestina y cuenten con el apoyo permanente de nuestro país para este esfuerzo tanto en reconocimiento en este organismo como también en las Naciones Unidas. Muchas gracias.

(138) **Ms Rodríguez** (Ecuador) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Dear delegates, my country, in line with its international policy, has long supported peace in the Middle East. We believe that the recognition of Palestine within UNESCO is a step in the right direction and we are pleased that many countries in this room have taken this step to recognize Palestine, which is such an important action. We are sure that good things await Palestine and would like to reiterate the unwavering support from our country in this process of recognition as much in UNESCO as in the United Nations. Thank you very much.

139. **The President:**  
Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to the Syrian Arab Republic.

١٤٠ السيد الراشد (الجمهورية العربية السورية):

السيدة المديرية العامة، السيدات والسادة، إن تصويت الدول الأعضاء في اليونسكو بمنح الأمل بعد أكثر من ستين عاماً من الحرمان للشعب الفلسطيني ومعاناته اليومية في حياته الثقافية والتعليمية والتربوية. والجمهورية العربية السورية، التي عرفت في الجولان السوري المحتل وما تزال تعرف وطأة الحرمان التعليمي والثقافي على أبنائها، تتطلع إلى رفع المعاناة والظلم عن الشعوب المطالبة بحقها في تقرير مصيرها. وذلك بما ينسجم مع ما ينص عليه الميثاق التأسيسي لليونسكو، وهو بدايةً ببناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر. وتحتفي الجمهورية العربية السورية فلسطين بعزويتها في اليونسكو كمنظمة رائدة. وشكراً لكم.

(140) **Mr Al Rasched** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*translation from the Arabic*):

Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, this vote by the Member States of UNESCO allows us to have hope after more than 60 years of deprivation for the Palestinian people in its daily suffering in its cultural and educational life. The Syrian Arab Republic, which has known the occupant in the Syrian Arab Golan, and continues to suffer the heavy foot of educational and cultural deprivation for its citizens, looks forward to lifting the suffering and oppression from the peoples demanding their right to self-determination, in accordance with the provisions of UNESCO's Constitution, which calls first and foremost for the defences of peace to be constructed in the minds of men. The Syrian Arab Republic congratulates Palestine on its admission to UNESCO, a pioneering organization. Thank you very much.

141. **The President:**  
Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Thailand.

142. **Mr Vacharathit** (Thailand):  
Madam President, Madam Director-General, Thailand abstained in the vote on the issue of Palestine, but please allow me to clarify that Thailand fully supports a two-State solution leading to peaceful coexistence between Israel and Palestine. We support negotiations under the Quartet roadmap for peace and the Arab peace initiative. Your recognition of the State of Palestine is an important issue that has been on the agenda of the Thai Cabinet for some time. However, owing to a national emergency of having to deal with flash flooding in Thailand and helping the people involved, the Cabinet has been prevented from deliberating on this matter. Thailand hopes to be able to give this issue the thorough examination that it deserves in due course. Thank you.

143. **The President:**  
Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Peru.

144. **Sr. Businza** (Perú):  
Gracias, señora Presidenta. Señora Presidenta: hace poco un gran amigo de Israel, el Premio Nobel de Literatura Mario Vargas Llosa, escribió lo siguiente: "El reconocimiento del Estado palestino por las Naciones Unidas es un acto de justicia con un pueblo cautivo en su propio país que vive una servidumbre colonial intolerable en el siglo XXI". Reconocer este hecho no implica justificar a las organizaciones terroristas ni a los fanáticos que se niegan a reconocer



el legítimo derecho a la existencia de Israel, sino enviar un mensaje de aliento a la gran mayoría de palestinos que rechazan la violencia y aspiran solo a trabajar y vivir en paz, como los indignados israelíes. Aunque representan ahora solo una minoría, muchos ciudadanos de Israel están lejos de solidarizarse con las políticas extremistas y luchan por la causa de la paz. Los verdaderos amigos de Israel debemos afiliarnos con ellos en su difícil resistencia, porque son ellos quienes advierten con lucidez y realismo que las políticas belicistas, intolerantes, represivas y de apoyo a la expansión de asentamientos en territorios ocupados tendrán consecuencias catastróficas para el futuro de Israel. Señora Presidenta: el Perú, amigo de Israel, e Israel no debe tener ninguna duda de esto, y amigo de Palestina, ha votado esta mañana en favor de la admisión del Estado palestino como miembro de la UNESCO. Y ha votado en favor porque se trata de un acto de justicia. Señora Presidenta: la búsqueda de la justicia forma parte del espíritu humano. Desde que comenzamos a pensar, los seres humanos buscamos de manera incansable una y otra y otra vez la justicia, y hoy, en esta sala, la tuvimos al alcance de la mano y no la dejamos escapar. Estoy convencido, señora Presidenta, de que el tiempo nos va a dar la razón. La justicia siempre traerá la paz, y por ese motivo deseo felicitar no solamente a Palestina por su admisión a la UNESCO, sino también al muy querido pueblo de Israel. Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

(144) **Mr Businza** (Peru) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, only recently, a great friend of Israel, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature Mario Vargas Llosa wrote that "the United Nations' recognition of the State of Palestine is an act of justice for a people captive in their own country and undergoing colonial servitude that is intolerable in the twenty-first century". Recognizing this fact does not mean justifying terrorist organizations or fanatics that refuse to accept Israel's legitimate right to exist. Rather, it means sending a message of support for the great majority of Palestinians who reject violence and only wish to work and live in peace, as do the indignant Israelis. Although they represent only a minority now, many Israeli citizens do not support extremist policies but pursue the cause of peace. As true friends of Israel, we should stand by them in their difficult resistance, because they are the ones that lucidly and realistically warn us that warmongering, intolerant and repressive policies that support the increasing settlement in occupied territories will have catastrophic consequences for Israel's future. Madam President, Peru, a friend of Israel, (Israel should be assured of that) and a friend of Palestine, voted this morning in favour of the admission of Palestine into UNESCO. It voted in favour as an act of justice. Madam President, the search for justice is engrained in the human spirit. Since we began to think, we human beings have tirelessly and repeatedly sought justice, and today, in this room, it came within our reach and we held on to it. I firmly believe, Madam President, that time will prove us to be right. Justice will always bring peace, and this is why I wish to congratulate not only Palestine for its admission to UNESCO, but also our very dear friend Israel. Thank you very much, Madam President.

145. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to give the floor to Gabon.

146.1 **Mme Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe** (Gabon) :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Madame la Présidente, le Gabon a voté tout à l'heure en faveur de l'admission de l'État de Palestine. Le Gabon souhaite dire qu'il reconnaît l'État de Palestine depuis les années 1980, puisque l'Ambassadeur Abu Amine Assira a été doyen du corps diplomatique pendant 14 ans.

146.2 Le Gabon note que le vote d'aujourd'hui intervient alors que trois grandes dames, originaires de Bulgarie, de Hongrie et de la Fédération de Russie, sont à la tête des instances de notre Organisation à l'occasion de ce vote historique d'admission de la Palestine à l'UNESCO. Ce n'est pas surprenant car, premièrement, ce sont des femmes, c'est-à-dire des êtres qui donnent la vie – et, à ce titre, elles ne peuvent être silencieuses devant les souffrances de femmes, d'enfants, de vieillards, d'hommes vivant l'oppression –, et, deuxièmement, parce qu'elles savent ce qu'est un régime d'oppression.

146.3 Mesdames, nous souhaitons, à ce stade de nos travaux, vous féliciter toutes les trois pour avoir conduit ce processus et dire qu'il n'a pas été mené contre Israël. Il est mené précisément pour permettre aux deux pays de continuer à négocier, de s'asseoir pour trouver une solution satisfaisante par l'existence de deux États, israélien et palestinien, vivant en bonne intelligence et en bon voisinage.

146.4 Madame la Directrice générale, c'est le chercheur sur le Moyen-Orient qui s'exprime et qui exprime également ici la position de son Gouvernement. Je vous remercie.

147. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. Now I give the floor to Turkey.

148. **Mr Türkoğlu** (Turkey):

Madam President, as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, my delegation congratulates Palestine and the General Conference for today's historic, just and legitimate decision. Turkey, also as an active supporter of the Middle East process and the two-State solution, believes that UNESCO's admission of Palestine as a Member will constitute a contribution to peace and, at the same time, to the credibility and inclusiveness of UNESCO and of the United Nations system through UNESCO. My delegation hopes that Palestine's membership will also help UNESCO to work efficiently to ease the suffering of the Palestinian people regarding their educational institutions and the conservation of their heritage through the implementation of the relevant Executive Board decisions. Now we think it is time to work together with Palestine for a stronger and united UNESCO. Thank you.

149. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to Malta.

150. **Mr Bondin** (Malta):

Madam President, I shall try not to repeat what others have said, but for us, being in the middle of the Mediterranean, the peace process is extremely important. We have always valued and worked very hard for peace in the Mediterranean, and that means giving all the necessary security and support to both Israel and Palestine. However, peace cannot even be discussed without giving Palestine its full rights as a nation, as a people. UNESCO is more than

asking us about people, about peace, about giving the right for a people to speak about their culture, their education system, their size. So, I am sure that history will eventually look upon this decision in a very positive way. As a step forward in bringing peace and nothing else, UNESCO has shown today that it is not looking at certain legal problems or maybe problems with regards to financing, but has made the decision solely on the basis of the principle that Palestine has a right to be here like all the other nations. Thank you.

151. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I give the floor to Brazil.

152. **Ms da Rocha (Brazil):**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. En admettant la Palestine comme État membre, l'UNESCO réaffirme sa tradition avant-gardiste dans le système international. En votant en faveur de l'admission de la Palestine à l'UNESCO, le Brésil réitère sa position traditionnelle en faveur d'un État palestinien démocratique, géographiquement contigu et économiquement viable, coexistant en paix avec l'État d'Israël qui est un pays ami avec lequel nous entretenons des relations bilatérales qui n'ont jamais été aussi fortes. Aux Palestiniens, Madame la Présidente, nous souhaitons la bienvenue dans la grande famille de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie beaucoup.

153. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now ladies and gentlemen I will give the floor to Jordan.

154.1 **Ms Kawar (Jordan):**

I just want to say a word, being neighbours with Palestine and sharing many of their concerns, if you may.

*(The speaker continues in Arabic)*

١٥٤,٢ أود أن أتقدم بأصدق مشاعر التهنية والمباركة إلى الوفد الفلسطيني، ومن خلاله إلى شعب فلسطين الشقيق، على قبول فلسطين كدولة عضو في اليونسكو. ويُعدّ انضمام فلسطين اليوم إلى المنظمة أمراً تاريخياً، إذ يدلّ على دعم المجتمع الدولي لطموح الشعب الفلسطيني إلى الحفاظ على تراثه وثقافته ولرغبته في التقدم نحو آفاق أوسع في مجال التربية والعلوم. ويؤسس هذا الأمر لمرحلة جديدة من مراحل الكفاح الفلسطيني من أجل قيام الدولة الفلسطينية المستقلة وإحقاق السلام. وقد جاء دعم الأردن للمسعى الفلسطيني إيماناً بمشروعية التطلعات الفلسطينية، والتزاماً بالدور الداعم والمساند لهذه التطلعات الذي يفرضه حكماً عمق العلاقة الأردنية الفلسطينية. كما يأتي الموقف الأردني منسجماً مع ما أكدت عليه اللجنة الوزارية لمبادرة السلام العربية التي اجتمعت أمس في الدوحة حيث جددت دعمها القوي للطلب الفلسطيني الخاص بالحصول على العضوية الكاملة.

١٥٤,٣ وأود أيضاً أن أتقدم بالشكر العميق إلى كل من ساند هذا المسعى الفلسطيني، منتبهة الفرصة لأؤكد أن المصلحة الدولية تقتضي الاعتراف بالحق الفلسطيني في إيجاد حلّ عادل وشامل لقضيته قائم على أساس حلّ الدولتين، تقوم بموجبه الدولة الفلسطينية المستقلة وذات السيادة على خطوط الرابع من حزيران/يونيو ١٩٦٧ وعاصمتها القدس الشرقية. وشكراً.

(154.2) *(translation from the Arabic)* I should like to offer sincerest congratulations and blessings to the Palestinian delegation, and through it to the fraternal people of Palestine on Palestine's admission as a Member States of UNESCO. Palestine's joining the Organization today is an historic event which demonstrates the support of the international community for the aspirations of the Palestinian people to preserve its heritage and culture and its desire to advance towards ever broader horizons in the fields of education and science. This event paves the way to a new stage in the Palestinian struggle for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State and for the establishment of peace. Jordan's support for the Palestinian efforts is rooted in its belief in the legitimacy of Palestinian aspirations, and in its commitment to its own supporting role for these aspirations, which is imposed by the deep-seated Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. The Jordanian role is also consonant with what was reaffirmed by the Ministerial Committee for the Peace Initiative, which met yesterday in Doha and renewed its strong support for the Palestinian request to obtain full membership.

(154.3) I should also like to offer sincere thanks to all those who supported this Palestinian endeavour, and to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the international interest requires us to recognize the Palestinian right to find a just and comprehensive solution to its cause based on a two-State solution with an independent and sovereign Palestinian State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Thank you.

155. **The President:**

Thank you very much Jordan. And now I give the floor to Palestine.

١٥٦,١ السيد المالكي (فلسطين):

شكراً سيدي الرئيسة، إننا فعلاً للحظة تاريخية نعيد فيها لفلسطين، عبر هذا التصويت، بعض حقوقها ومكانتها الطبيعية بين الدول والشعوب. أشكركم على تصويتكم لعضوية دولة فلسطين في منظماتكم. فتصويتكم التاريخي يعتبر جزءاً لا يتجزأ من المحافظة على التراث والحضارة والثقافة الإنسانية والدولية. ففلسطين مهد الديانات، ومنبت الحضارات والثقافات، ومنبع التعايش والتسامح. وأود في هذا المجال أن أؤكد لكم أن فلسطين، بعد حصولها على العضوية الكاملة في اليونسكو، ستقوم بكل جهد ممكن حتى تستمر هذه المنظمة العريقة في القيام بمهامها ومسؤولياتها على أكمل وجه. إن فلسطين تؤكد استعدادها للتعاون مع جميع الدول الأعضاء في الحفاظ على التراث الحضاري والإنساني الموروث. ولقد كنا في سعينا للعضوية نكرس حقاً طبيعياً لنا.

١٥٦,٢ والآن شكري لكل الدول والمجموعات التي وقفت معنا طوال الفترة الماضية وآزرتنا، ودعمت رغبتنا في العضوية على مرّ السنين، وساهمت في تحقيق هذا الإنجاز اليوم. وأخص بالذكر الدول العربية والإسلامية والأفريقية، ودول عدم الانحياز، ودول أمريكا الجنوبية وأمريكا الوسطى والكاربي، والدول الآسيوية والأوروبية، دولة دولة، أقول لكم، باسم شعبي وباسم حكومتي، شكراً، شكراً جزيلاً من أعماق أعماق قلوبنا. نعاهدكم أن نكون عنصراً إيجابياً فاعلاً لصالح

أهداف هذه المنظمة وأهداف الإنسانية جمعاء. أما بالنسبة للدول التي صوتت ضد عضوية فلسطين، فأود أن أؤكد أنّ فلسطين لن تُضمر أي ضغينة لتلك الدول التي صوتت ضد عضويتها، أو لتلك التي امتنعت عن التصويت. فنحن، بعد قبولنا عضواً، نرغب في فتح صفحة جديدة من العلاقات بين الدول الأعضاء من أجل تقوية المنظمة وتحقيق أهدافها وإنجاح برامجها. وسنسمو فوق كل ذلك، ونتمنى أن تعطونا الفرصة لثبث للجميع مدى التزامنا بمبادئ المنظمة واستعدادنا لنكون عنصراً إيجابياً لصالح الإنسانية جمعاء التي نحن جزء منها. لقد اتصل بي الرئيس الفلسطيني محمود عباس عقب التصويت، وهو يشكركم جميعاً على إتاحة هذه الفرصة لفلسطين لتأخذ مكانها الطبيعي في منظومة الأمم وفي اليونسكو تحديداً. شكراً لليونسكو، وألف مبروك لكم جميعاً ولشعبنا الفلسطيني في كل أماكن تواجده. وشكراً.

(156.1) **Mr Al-Malki (Palestine) (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you Madam President. This is indeed an historic moment in which, by means of this vote, we are restoring to Palestine some of its rights and its natural position among States and peoples. I thank you for voting in favour of admission of Palestine as a Member State of your Organization. This historic vote is an inseparable part of the preservation of the humanitarian and international heritage, civilization and culture. Palestine is the cradle of religions, the birthplace of civilizations and cultures, and the seedbed of co-existence and tolerance. I should like in this connection to reiterate to you that Palestine, following its admission to full membership in UNESCO, will spare no effort to ensure that this venerable Organization continues to perform its tasks and shoulder its responsibilities in optimal fashion. Palestine reiterates its readiness to cooperate with all Member States to preserve the human cultural heritage we have inherited. In our efforts to obtain membership we were consecrating a natural right of ours.

(156.2) Now, my thanks go to all the States and groups which stood with us throughout the past period and supported us and backed our search for membership over the years and contributed to this great achievement today. Special thanks go to the Arab, Islamic and African States and the non-aligned States, the States of South America, Central America and the Caribbean, the Asian States and the European States, each and every one. I say to you, on behalf of my people and my government, "Thank you, thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts!" We vow to you that we will be a positive element in the service of the objectives of this Organization and the objectives of all humankind. With regard to the States that voted against Palestinian membership, I should like to state that Palestine will harbour no rancour towards those States that voted against membership or towards those that abstained from voting. Now that we have been accepted as a member, we should like to turn over a new leaf in relations between Member States in order to strengthen the Organization and achieve its objectives and ensure the success of its programmes. We shall rise above all that and we hope that you will give us an opportunity to demonstrate to all our commitment to the principles of the Organization and our readiness to be a positive element in the service of all humankind, of which we are a part. The Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, contacted me following the vote to say that he thanks you all for giving Palestine the opportunity to take its rightful place in the concert of nations and in UNESCO in particular. Thank you, UNESCO, a thousand thanks to you all and to our Palestinian people wherever they may be. Thank you.

157. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Your Excellency. And now I would like to give the floor to the Director-General of UNESCO.

158.1 **La Directrice générale :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous ressentons tous, en cet instant, le moment historique, la portée symbolique et l'importance de cette décision pour le peuple palestinien et pour l'UNESCO.

158.2 Elle est le fruit de l'aspiration d'un peuple à rejoindre pleinement la famille des Nations Unies du monde, liées entre elles par une même ambition de paix et le partage de valeurs communes. Comme l'a souligné le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Ban Ki-moon, une solution où les deux États vivraient en paix et en sécurité dans la région se fait attendre depuis longtemps.

158.3 Je souhaite la bienvenue à la Palestine et je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour rappeler que notre coopération remonte à de nombreuses années. Je pense à notre action en faveur de la formation des enseignants ou bien encore de la scolarisation des étudiants dans la bande de Gaza. Je pense également aux bourses d'étude que nous finançons, aux ateliers de formation à la sécurité destinés aux journalistes. L'UNESCO s'est fortement investie dans la préservation du patrimoine culturel et la mise en place d'un plan de gestion durable des sites de Tell Balata à Naplouse, du parc archéologique et des mosaïques de Qasr Hisham et de l'Église de la Nativité et du Musée de la Riwaya palestinienne à Bethléem.

158.4 J'entends toujours, plus fort que jamais, l'appel du peuple palestinien à l'UNESCO afin qu'elle intensifie son engagement et renforce son action dans ses domaines de compétence. En réponse à cet appel, je tiens à réaffirmer que je veillerai à poursuivre cette coopération, animée de la plus profonde conviction que la qualité du système éducatif, comme le dynamisme culturel ou le pluralisme des médias, sont le fondement solide de toute société.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

158.5 Ladies and gentlemen, the admission of a new Member State is a mark of respect and confidence. This must be an opportunity to strengthen the Organization and not weaken it, a chance for all to commit once again to the values we share and not to be divided. Let me be frank. As Director-General, it is my responsibility to say that I am concerned about the potential challenges that may arise to the universality and financial stability of the Organization. I am worried we may confront a situation that could erode UNESCO as a universal platform for dialogue. I am worried about the stability of its budget. It is well known that funding from our largest contributor, the United States, may be jeopardized. I believe it is the responsibility of all of us to make sure that UNESCO does not suffer unduly as a result.

158.6 I am thinking of those thousands of girls and women in Afghanistan, in Africa and around the world, who have learned to read and write, with the help of UNESCO. I have in mind Khalida, this young Afghan woman from the Paktika

Province, enrolled in a UNESCO training course, who said, and I quote: "My family was hesitant at first about me joining this programme. But I have learned many new techniques and realized that, as an Afghan woman, I can work together with men and service my community." Khalida benefits from UNESCO's work to enhance literacy in Afghanistan.

158.7 I am thinking about the illiterate policemen in Kabul, in Kandahar and other cities, who are learning to read and write to better protect their citizens, thanks to us. I am thinking of the Iraqi education satellite channel that supports learning for Iraqi girls and boys, including refugees and internally displaced persons. I am thinking of the hundreds of journalists around the world who are at this very moment harassed, killed or imprisoned, because they stand by the truth -- UNESCO stands by them and speaks out for them. I am thinking also about the stolen treasure of Benghazi, Libya, for which UNESCO was first to ring the alarm bell. I am thinking of the millions of lives that may be saved by the tsunami warning system we launched in the Indian Ocean six years after the disaster on 12 October this year. At this time, I know these thoughts are also on your mind as well.

158.8 The fabric of our societies can be easily torn and is long to mend. I am saddened by the possible loss of momentum and energy in UNESCO. I cannot imagine we would let these women and men down. UNESCO's work is too important to be jeopardized. Our Organization was created 66 years ago to ensure that education, the sciences, culture and communication bring people together and foster a culture of peace. This is our role as a specialized agency of the United Nations. We are committed to taking our vital mandate forward. I appeal to you to keep up UNESCO's ability to act. In welcoming once again Palestine to the UNESCO family, let me state out loud: we need each and every Member of this Organization to be fully engaged. Thank you for your attention.

159. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam Director-General for your statement. We have come to the end of our agenda for this meeting. I would suggest that this afternoon's meeting start here at 4.30 p.m. *This meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 3.10 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 15 h 10*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 15.10*  
*Заседание закрывается в 15.10*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٣, ١٠ بعد الظهر*  
*会议于 15 时 10 分结束*

# Twelfth plenary meeting

Monday 31 October 2011 at 4.40 p.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Douzième séance plénière

Lundi 31 octobre 2011 à 16 h 40

Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Duodécima sesión plenaria

Lunes 31 de octubre de 2011 a las 16.40

Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Двенадцатое пленарное заседание

вторник 31 октября 2011 г. в 16.40

Председатель: **г-жа Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الثانية عشرة

الاثنين ٣١ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٤,٤٠ بعد الظهر  
الرئيسة: السيدة بوجياي (المجر)

# 第十二次全体会议

2011年10月31日星期一 16时40分

主席：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）

**Report of the Youth Forum (36 C/47)**  
**Rapport du Forum des jeunes (36 C/47)**  
**Informe del Foro de la Juventud (36 C/47)**  
**Доклад Форума молодежи (36 C/47)**  
تقرير منتدى الشباب (٤٧/م ٣٦)  
青年论坛的报告 (36 C/47)

#### 1.1 **The President:**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the twelfth plenary meeting of the 36th session of the General Conference. After having listened to 179 national statements since last Thursday, the Director-General will deliver her reply this afternoon. Before that, we will listen to several interesting reports. First, we have representatives from the Youth Forum, then we will of course hear from the Legal Committee. We will also listen to a statement by the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

1.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I suggest we begin with the report of the Youth Forum, which was held from 17 to 20 October at UNESCO Headquarters. In this respect, it is my great pleasure to give the floor to Ms Nasma Dasser and Mr Miika Tomi, delegates at the Youth Forum who have been selected by their peers to present the conclusions of this year's Forum. Ms Dasser and Mr Tomi, you have the floor.

#### 2.1 **Mme Nasma Dasser (Suisse) (Rapporteur du Forum des jeunes) :**

Madame la Présidente de la 36<sup>e</sup> Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, en cette journée qui restera inscrite dans l'histoire de l'UNESCO et gravée dans nos mémoires, c'est avec un immense plaisir que nous avons l'honneur de vous adresser un message qui influera certainement sur le futur et métamorphosera notre présent. L'immense responsabilité qui nous a été confiée à travers ce Forum des jeunes est porteuse d'espoir et de renouveau pour le monde que l'on souhaite construire ensemble. Ce message, vous le comprendrez, n'est ni un cri de colère, d'amertume ou de découragement ni un réquisitoire. Non, car en prenant le temps d'écouter ce message, ce n'est pas à nous, représentants de la jeunesse – qui constitue d'ailleurs la moitié de la population mondiale – que vous faites une faveur, mais bien à vous-mêmes, représentants de vos gouvernements et organisations. En effet, il est temps de prendre en main l'avenir en donnant un signal clair et positif à la jeunesse. C'est pourquoi j'en appelle à la jeunesse qui sommeille en vous. Le monde tel que nous l'avons connu hier se transforme aujourd'hui. Durant l'année écoulée, nous avons été témoins de vastes mouvements sociaux pacifiques qui se sont propagés dans toutes les régions du monde. Des peuples entiers, à l'écoute d'une jeunesse excédée, sont prêts, souvent au péril de leur vie, à s'exprimer sur la place publique pour y clamer leurs préoccupations et revendications légitimes. Nous ne pouvons nous permettre d'ignorer ce phénomène. D'autant plus qu'aujourd'hui même un seuil symbolique a été franchi : sept milliards d'êtres humains peuplent désormais la Terre. Mais qu'allons-nous en déduire ? La famille s'élargit, mais sera-t-elle pour autant plus heureuse ? Et comment allons-nous agir pour nous assurer que les générations du futur et du présent trouvent leur place au sein d'un monde en constante évolution et dont les ressources s'épuisent ?

2.2 Notre réponse est simple : il est temps d'arrêter de parler. Il est temps de s'écouter. C'est plus que d'un changement dont nous avons besoin, c'est d'une évolution. Une évolution des mentalités et des pratiques vers des principes communs. Mais cette évolution ne doit point effrayer, car nous pouvons la réaliser ensemble. Et ce n'est qu'ensemble que nous évoluerons vers un monde où le non-respect des droits de l'homme, le manque de démocratie et de transparence, les discriminations, la pauvreté, les ravages du changement climatique, l'analphabétisme et les limitations imposées à la liberté d'expression et aux autres libertés fondamentales feront partie du passé. Ce n'est qu'à travers le dialogue que l'on pourra mieux s'écouter. Et comme le disait Julian Huxley, membre fondateur de l'UNESCO et premier Directeur général : « une paix fondée sur les seuls accords économiques et politiques des gouvernements ne saurait donner satisfaction », puisqu'elle ne pourrait « entraîner l'adhésion unanime, durable et sincère des peuples ». « Par conséquent, cette paix doit être établie sur le fondement de la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de l'humanité. »

*(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)*

2.3 The very first milestone towards dialogue and mutual understanding is, we believe, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We implore all Member States to fully implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), with a view to ensuring the eradication of poverty and all forms of violence, discrimination and intolerance. It is indeed of the utmost importance for the future of humanity that the young people of the world be given the same rights and opportunities, regardless of their origin, religion, possible disabilities, gender and sexual orientation.

2.4 We are also convinced that, as UNESCO was one of the first agencies of the United Nations system to define and develop specific programmes for young people, UNESCO should aim to make young people its next global priority.

#### 3.1 **Mr Tomi (Finland) (Rapporteur of the Youth Forum):**

Dear ladies and gentlemen, education is the natural response to a human being's deep desire for learning. Education implies a continuous nurturing of the body, soul and mind. It provides the most definite escape from poverty and it simply elevates humanity. About 69 million children of school age did not go to school in 2008. Imagine your child being one of them. Education is a way to stability, as peace begins in people's minds. Therefore, we urge Member States to ensure not only equal access to quality public education, but also free, universal and mandatory education up to the secondary level.

3.2 We, the youth delegates, believe that in order to have a complete education we need access not only to quality

formal education, but also to quality non-formal education. Accordingly, human rights-based, informal, intercultural, value-based and civic education must be seen as equal parts of the lifelong learning process. Sports and arts education must be recognized as key elements in preventing violence and promoting a culture of peace. Special attention needs to be paid to empowering girls and women by promoting gender equality, abolishing illiteracy and providing comprehensive sex education. We request that you recognize the importance of gender equality in order to achieve peace and sustainable development throughout the world. In rapidly changing labour markets where young people are suffering from very high youth unemployment rates, we must reinforce intergenerational partnerships, entrepreneurial skills and training opportunities, and invest in non-traditional fields such as e-learning. We must also bear in mind the need to ensure equal learning opportunities for children with migration backgrounds and refugee children.

3.3 Nearly 17,000 species of plants and animals are currently at risk of becoming extinct. During the last decade, we lost 5.2 million hectares of forest area per year. Even if emissions were frozen at their current level, we would still need two planets to continue living the way we do now. Imagine your grandchildren living in the world that we will leave behind. We therefore request, firstly, that Member States acknowledge that climate change endangers all young people's futures. Sustainable development solutions and opportunities engaging young people must be embraced, especially as we move towards Rio+20.

3.4 Secondly, we call upon Member States to provide training for young people and encourage youth-led initiatives that promote green societies, emphasize the importance of green jobs, reduce fossil fuel dependency, foster disaster-risk management and preserve our natural heritage. Young people can easily be seen as a threat or a burden. However, while a society that has suppressed its young might secure a peaceful existence, it will certainly have lost its future. A country that is able to strengthen the powerful force of young people and channel it, in a positive way, into the construction of society will have a bright future ahead of it. Therefore we urge you all to include youth representatives in your national delegations to the General Conference and to enhance youth participation in decision-making. These youth delegates must be selected through an absolutely transparent process, one year in advance, respecting gender equality and thereby ensuring they have a broad mandate to represent young people in their countries.

3.5 Two years ago, our colleagues stressed exactly this same issue. Nasma and I are both part of our national delegations, but unfortunately we are still a rare exception. This experience has meant a lot to us and we hope that the same privilege will be provided for many more in the future. We believe that the way to active and responsible citizenship begins at an early age. Consequently, we request that all students of all ages have the right to participate in youth-led student democracy at both the local and the national level. Permanent youth representation must be established and reinforced in all National Commissions for UNESCO. Additionally, opportunities to volunteer and join mentorship programmes should be expanded. The world's greatest resource is undoubtedly human capital and, to our minds, especially youth capital. The creativity, innovation and fresh ideas young citizens can bring to policies and programmes for sustainable lifestyles will, to borrow the Director-General's slogan, "reform to perform".

١٤ السيد داسير (مقررة منتدى الشباب):  
سيداتي سادتي، الحضور الكرام، نحن منفتحون على الحوار والعمل معاً. وهذه السنة، أعطى المؤتمر العام لليونسكو أهمية كبيرة للشباب، ونحن نشكركم على ذلك.

(4.1) **Mme Dasser** (Rapporteur du Forum des jeunes) (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Mesdames, Messieurs, distingués participants, nous sommes ouverts au dialogue et au travail en commun. Cette année, la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO accorde une grande importance à la jeunesse, et nous vous en remercions.

(*L'oratrice poursuit en anglais*)

4.2 Let us end with one last quote from a fellow youth delegate when he was asked what the role of young people was: "Why call youth 'the future' when they are here now making change? I want to be called 'Mr Right Now', 'Mr Today' and 'Mr Future'." Thank you very much.

5. **The President:**

Thank you so much, Ms Dasser and Mr Tomi, for presenting the report of the Youth Forum. I think we have a good future ahead if we have such brilliant young representatives here around us. Thank you very much. May I now suggest that the General Conference take note of the report? I see no objections. *It is so decided.*

**Statement by the Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – IOC**

**Déclaration du Président de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale de l'UNESCO – COI**

**Declaración del Presidente de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental de la UNESCO – COI**

**Заявление Председателя Межправительственной океанографической комиссии ЮНЕСКО – МОК**

بيان من رئيس لجنة اليونسكو الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

教科文组织政府间海洋学委员会 (IOC) 主席的发言

6. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to give the floor to Mr Sang-Kyung Byun, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), who will make a statement on the 50th anniversary of the Commission. Mr Byun, you have the floor.

7.1 **Mr Byun** (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO – IOC):

Excellencies, Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased you have given me an opportunity to report the main achievements of IOC's 50th anniversary to you.

7.2 IOC was established in 1960 as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO. Its purposes are to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in ocean and coastal research, services and capacity building. Since then, IOC has become one of UNESCO's flagship programmes. In the 2007-2008 biennium, the IOC governing bodies decided to celebrate IOC's 50th anniversary. Commemorative events began in 2009 and continued during the next two years. Commemorative activities mainly focused on creating awareness, demonstrating the importance of IOC achievements, promoting a better image of UNESCO and its IOC and obtaining governments' commitment to take action and provide adequate resources to support IOC and the ocean. The official closure of the commemorative year took place in June this year during the IOC Assembly. More than 50 conferences, meetings and training activities dedicated to the anniversary were implemented during the period 2009 - 2011. Eleven substantive publications were issued by Member States to commemorate the anniversary of IOC and its input to research on ocean and coastal zones and to their protection.

7.3 A special, related achievement was the publication of the book *Troubled Waters: Ocean Science and Governance* by Cambridge University Press. The book contains information on the development of IOC during its first 50 years as well as leading scientists' forward-looking visions of the future of ocean science and IOC. More than 30 research and training cruises were implemented under the IOC anniversary flag in different parts of the world. Furthermore, underwater film festivals were organized, dedicated websites were launched and press releases, promotional flyers and posters were published. The IOC commemorative medal was developed and presented to more than 50 individuals. You may be surprised to learn that all the above-mentioned activities were implemented within the regular budget of IOC and without any specially allocated 50th anniversary funds. The generous financial contributions of Member States and partners, which amounted to \$400,000, made it possible to meet the anniversary objectives.

7.4 IOC's 50th anniversary helped remind Member States of why continued and strengthened support for IOC is a vital investment for our future. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is, and has been for the last 50 years, the sole United Nations organization specializing in ocean-related science and services. The ocean and IOC deserve and appreciate your support, especially now that, with the support of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon, UNESCO is making the ocean and the blue-green economy one of the key topics of Rio+20. I invite you all to join our side event tomorrow at 1 p.m. in Room IX. Thank you for your attention.

8. **The President:**

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

**Reply by the Director-General to the general policy debate**

**Réponse de la Directrice générale au débat de politique générale**

**Respuesta de la Directora General al debate de política general**

**Ответ Генерального директора на обсуждение вопросов общей политики**

**رد المدير العام بشأن مناقشة السياسة العامة**

**总干事对总政策辩论的答辩**

9. **The President:**

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure of giving the floor to the Director-General, who will deliver her reply to the general policy debate.

10.1 **The Director-General:**

Thank you. Madam President of the General Conference, ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, the President of Serbia reminded us last week of the words of Thomas Mann: "*Speech is civilization itself [...] – it is silence which isolates.*" This is the objective of UNESCO and the United Nations – to ensure that every voice has a tribune and that we act together to respond to common challenges. The General Conference has benefited from the participation of Member States at the level of heads of State and of government. The presence of so many international organizations, non-governmental organizations and observers testifies to our convening power and the relevance accorded to our activities. We have heard how young States, from Timor-Leste to the Maldives, are building the foundations of vibrant democracies, notably by placing emphasis on education and culture. We were honoured by record participation from Pacific Member States, and especially the participation of the President of Palau. We have heard the experience of many post-conflict countries in building reconciliation and a better future, giving priority to UNESCO's areas of competence. We have heard about Haiti's determination to make access to education free for all children, to develop science programmes and to safeguard its rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage. I know that side events over the past week have allowed you to exchange views at the highest level on the quality of education in Latin America and Africa, on reinforcing literacy partnerships in the E9 countries and on taking forward the Capacity Development for Education for All programme (CapEFA) in 20 priority countries. I wish to thank everyone who took part for their engagement in a vibrant debate.

10.2 The Prime Minister of Grenada reminded us that the rising numbers of natural disasters are: "a great threat to global prosperity and security." The Indian Minister of Human Resource Development said: "We are at a critical juncture in history. The past is collapsing and the future is uncertain." Many statements were equally poignant. This debate has provided us with a measure of our times. I believe it has also shown something more powerful. This is the resolve that



exists to respond to common challenges, to act and to act together. Nelson Mandela once said that courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. We heard a lot about courage, in all parts of the world. We heard about the will to act together that exists. I take this as confirmation of the commitment of Member States to UNESCO and our work to build cooperation in education, culture, the sciences and communication. Member States agree these are precisely the stakes of peace and sustainable development today. UNESCO was created to ensure that education, the sciences, culture and communication do not become battlefields but bridges. This is the humanist ambition of our 1945 Constitution – it has retained all of its vitality and rallying power today. To succeed, UNESCO must remain a universal platform for dialogue, where all are engaged in the common pursuit of peace and committed to the values we share. To succeed, we need continuous commitment by all, as well as financial stability. Our mandate and mission have never been in such demand as they are today.

10.3 I have heard the high expectations all States have for UNESCO. I will ensure that UNESCO assumes the leadership it should, according to its mandate. I am shaping this Organization to meet your expectations. I thank you for your strong support for the root-and-branch reform we have launched. We are moving forward shoulder to shoulder, on the basis of the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of UNESCO, the work of the Executive Board's ad hoc working group on the IEE and the initiatives that I have taken and that I plan to take as Director-General. This concerns all aspects of our work, including, for instance, my deep commitment to building balanced, effective cooperation with non-governmental organizations from across the world. This unanimous support provides us with a solid foundation. I am encouraged by this and look forward to moving forward together. To do so, the Organization needs predictable funding at levels that are commensurate with the tasks at hand and the results expected. I know these are difficult times for many governments. I understand that Member States are moving towards a consensus on the alternative Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, the zero nominal growth proposal. I see this as a call for the Organization to act. I pledge to focus like a laser on proving and improving our capacity to deliver. This will guide my action to enhance our work in the field. I thank Member States for their support for the new architecture I have proposed. I am pleased by your attention to the multidisciplinary nature of field reform. I am aware that implementing this reform, whose first phase concerns sub-Saharan Africa, is not without challenges. Rest assured that consultation will remain the hallmark of this process.

10.4 A stronger UNESCO on the ground means a UNESCO that is more responsive to Member States. It also means deeper integration into the United Nations system and a greater role in its reform. UNESCO, I believe, is today an increasingly appreciated partner in the United Nations system. But we will continue to deepen our engagement. I thank Member States for their continuing extrabudgetary support for UNESCO's activities, including in new priority areas in the Complementary Additional Programme (CAP) – notably, the Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education. I am comforted that Member States support UNESCO's developing new partnerships with the private sector. The draft policy framework submitted for your consideration will reinforce this focus and ensure the coherence of partnerships with our core values and priorities.

10.5 Ladies and gentlemen, two paramount priorities have emerged from the Leaders' Forum general policy debate. These are the objectives of fostering a culture of peace and sustainable development. During the Leaders' Forum, the Prime Minister of Kenya said: "Peace and sustainable development are two sides of the same coin. Neither can truly exist without the other." These words eloquently capture the spirit of our debate. Culture of peace and sustainable development are intrinsically linked. Without peace, there can be no sustainable development. The President of Palau was equally clear: "Development is never sustainable when there is no peace." At the same time, endemic poverty, the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, marginalization and discrimination – all of these are obstacles to peace. A first conclusion is that peace starts with protecting the inherent dignity of every woman and man – this is the basis for respecting human rights; this is the foundation for empowering every member of society. The importance of UNESCO's mandate lies here. Education, culture, the sciences and communication are the building blocks for human dignity, for empowered development, for solidarity between peoples and cultures. All Member States placed education at the heart of a culture of peace and sustainable development. Education is a powerful development accelerator. It is also much more. It is the best way to support human rights and citizenship, to foster tolerance and respect, to craft a new culture of sustainability.

10.6 The twenty-first century must be built in schools. This means ensuring that educational curricula and content are free from xenophobia and intolerance and portray an inclusive approach to our history. Education for Holocaust remembrance has a special place here. We will continue to support the community of researchers and teachers worldwide, to produce learning materials and to facilitate educational workshops on the Holocaust, including by the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). On 15 November, with the support of the United States, UNESCO plans to launch a project to develop a curriculum framework for anti-racism and tolerance that countries will be able to adapt to their needs. But, ladies and gentlemen, education is also the best way to develop the skills and behaviours necessary for sustainability.

10.7 Many delegations called for stronger action regarding climate change education. I wish to thank Japan and Bangladesh for their thoughtful ideas. The statement made by the representative of El Salvador also underlined the vital importance of education. We will further promote education for sustainable development (ESD), using climate change education as an entry point and increasing our engagement in disaster risk reduction. And then, culture lies at the heart of our programme. I agree with Guatemala, Tunisia and many other States that peace cannot be achieved through economic development alone. It must draw on the strength found in humanity's cultural heritage and cultural diversity. Indonesia poignantly described itself as "a massive living laboratory of diversity". May I say how much I look forward to meeting with the President of Indonesia in two days' time. In the words of the representative of Malaysia: "Cultural diversity must be seen as a source of strength, rather than a source of conflict." The Minister of Education of Guatemala

spoke eloquently about the role of culture in a post-conflict society. These ideas underpin the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, whose tenth anniversary we will celebrate in a special plenary on 2 November.

10.8 The UNESCO conventions provide the only framework for managing globally the opportunities and challenges raised by cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions. We must promote a positive vision of cultural diversity and advance cultural literacy through learning, exchanges and dialogue. These are essential for fighting against discrimination, prejudice and extremism. Cultural diversity and cultural literacy are essential forces for the renewal of our societies. We will move forward in close cooperation with all of our partners, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). I thank Member States for their support for UNESCO's work to link culture and development. There can be no sustainable development that ignores local cultural circumstances or that puts aside the wealth of cultural diversity. I will continue to advocate for the integration of culture into all development policies as systematically as possible. This is not a goal in itself – it is the way to achieve all of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

10.9 Many delegations stated that the current global crisis is also a crisis of values. I agree that we must do everything to strengthen the values we share – especially in societies undergoing complex transitions and in countries suffering from conflict or its consequences. Promoting freedom of expression, the free flow of information and the development of free, independent and pluralist media is especially important in such cases. These are also core priorities of UNESCO. This Organization will remain a fierce advocate of these fundamental freedoms, and we will take forward the work of the United Nations to increase the safety of journalists. We will deepen our engagement to support the development of independent media in Tunisia and Egypt and throughout the Arab world. This is an essential prerequisite for supporting citizenship, democracy and human rights. I agree with delegations who underlined the importance of our Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme. We will move ahead with the Programme's reorientation, to concentrate on two priorities of global significance – social inclusion and global environmental change. In this respect, I look forward to the forthcoming Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America that will be held in Honduras.

10.10 And then, Rio+20 must succeed. That is a central conclusion of this debate. Expectations are high in Member States, and outside government buildings. UNESCO must play a key role in this success. I will bring to Rio a roadmap to make the most of the transformative power of education, the sciences, culture and media. We must build inclusive, equitable "green societies" along with "green economies". The Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability we will launch tomorrow illustrates our unique contribution. This important document, just mentioned by the Chairperson of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), as was the related side event, was produced jointly by IOC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The five-day Science Forum we will organize with the Brazilian Government in Rio before the United Nations Conference provides another illustration. UNESCO's Rio+20 roadmap embodies our holistic, integrated approach to fostering a culture of peace and sustainable development. To succeed, we need all your support. I count on Member States to ensure that our ideas are strongly represented in the Rio+20 outcome document. I cannot fathom an outcome document in which UNESCO's contribution is not strongly represented. This is part of my wider policy to strengthen the links between science and development and between science and a culture of peace. On 9 November, I will launch UNESCO's Biodiversity Initiative. This will promote intersectoral collaboration on all aspects of biodiversity – from scientific to traditional and indigenous knowledge to culture, ethics and education. I expect the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to be fully implemented in 2012 under the institutional co-hosting of UNESCO.

10.11 UNESCO will continue to act where needs are most acute. Many Member States called for strong action together with the small island developing States (SIDS). We will work with these States across our mandate to address their vulnerabilities. Our priorities are clear – climate change education for sustainable development, better opportunities for young people, the conservation of biodiversity, reinforcing local and indigenous knowledge, and protecting cultural heritage. I agree with the Minister of Education of the Solomon Islands, who underlined that islander cultures and languages are the country's greatest resource in the face of climate change. As stated by the Republic of Korea and many others, sustainable development must build on the strength of local knowledge systems. This also relates to the strong point made by Mali, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Benin and other States on the need to protect indigenous languages in danger. We know the importance of such languages for the identity of people. We also know the vital link between them, literacy and learning. Once again, this highlights the tight connection between culture and development.

10.12 Africa, ladies and gentlemen, is a global priority in UNESCO's work to foster a culture of peace and sustainable development. I thank Member States for their encouragement and ideas for moving forward. The new field architecture will allow us to respond more effectively to the needs of African societies. The development of a UNESCO strategy on priorities with African countries will also sharpen the focus of our work. I am pleased to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding two days ago with President Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire. It provides a comprehensive programme of post-conflict support by UNESCO across all of our areas of competence. Our work in Africa is part of a wider focus on least developed countries (LDCs). I will take forward the UNESCO programme that I presented to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Istanbul last May. Education, culture, the sciences and communication are powerful forces for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and we will make the most of them.

10.13 I also thank Member States for their overwhelming support for our Global Priority on Gender Equality. We have already cleared a great deal of ground, and I am determined to push forward ever more firmly. I will ensure this priority comes through in all of our work, at Headquarters and in the field. To borrow the words of the representative of Norway gender equality must be a "backbone", and it will be our backbone. We will sharpen our focus on increasing the number of women in science and empowering them to enjoy the fruits of scientific research – including, notably, through the

UNESCO-L'ORÉAL partnership. I agree that we must do more to integrate women into peace-building efforts. Girls and women are disproportionately affected by conflict. They have a vital role to play in reconciliation and normalization efforts.

10.14 And then, young people are at the front of all our minds. I am so happy that I can say this in the presence of our two very special guests whose statements we just heard, representing the Youth Forum that we held here. The representative of Pakistan rightly noted: "Youth are the pulse of society." Meeting young people's expectations is essential to peace and sustainable development. We must focus more on promoting their participation in political and social processes, on preventing violence and on building the life skills necessary for them to succeed in careers, education and community life. Special attention must be paid to the role of young people in post-conflict and post-disaster situations.

10.15 I will take forward the Strategy on African Youth in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC), and build on recent partnerships I have signed – for instance, with the International Youth Foundation (IYF) to support youth-led innovation in Africa. I request that all Member States seriously consider the report of the seventh UNESCO Youth Forum which we have just heard and which is being discussed in all programme commissions. The 2011 Forum was uniquely inclusive and dynamic. We must ensure young voices come through in our work. I am aware that we can do more, and I am determined to integrate youth more systematically throughout all of our activities.

10.16 One last point, ladies and gentlemen, on the culture of peace. I wish to request that Member States help take UNESCO's message to New York to ensure that our contribution is strongly represented in the General Assembly's current discussion of a resolution regarding the culture of peace. I appeal to Member States to better connect Paris and New York. I cannot imagine such an important United Nations resolution being adopted without a strong endorsement of UNESCO's action and ideas on a culture of peace.

*(The Director-General continues in French)*

10.17 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, je me réjouis des initiatives, nombreuses, novatrices, lancées par nombre d'États membres pour assurer l'équité et l'inclusion dans l'éducation, ou pour améliorer la formation des professeurs. Les mesures de gratuité adoptées dans bien des pays d'Afrique en sont quelques exemples. J'ai l'espoir que les nouvelles initiatives de l'UNESCO pour atteindre les groupes marginalisés nous permettront d'obtenir de nouveaux résultats. Je pense évidemment à notre Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes, ou bien encore à notre programme éducatif en Afghanistan. À seulement quatre ans de la date fixée pour atteindre les objectifs fixés à Dakar, notre devoir est de préparer l'après-2015, tout en accélérant encore nos efforts jusqu'à la date butoir, parce que les résultats obtenus – ou non – et les moyens utilisés pour les atteindre nous donnent des informations vitales pour améliorer notre action. Dans cette optique, il est essentiel de viser la qualité de l'éducation, et pas seulement l'accroissement du nombre d'élèves inscrits, pour réaliser les objectifs du développement. Il est essentiel de penser à l'échelle du système éducatif tout entier, depuis l'éducation de la petite enfance jusqu'à l'enseignement supérieur.

10.18 Je tiens à réaffirmer notre engagement prioritaire en faveur des pays les plus éloignés de la réalisation des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous, l'accent étant mis en particulier sur l'alphabétisation, la formation des enseignants, l'enseignement technique et la planification. Nous allons entamer les consultations sur cette stratégie au sein de la Commission Éducation dès cette semaine. Je vous encourage à penser de façon créative et ambitieuse. À cet égard, je vois au moins deux conditions à la réussite de notre action : la réforme de l'architecture de coordination de l'Éducation pour tous en est une et doit absolument être menée à bien ; la recherche de sources novatrices de financement de l'éducation en est une autre, et elle doit aboutir d'ici 2015. J'ai noté le très fort consensus autour de la formation technique et professionnelle. Plusieurs délégations constatent le changement de perception de l'enseignement technique, considéré autrefois comme une « voie de garage », et de plus en plus reconnu aujourd'hui comme une filière à haute valeur ajoutée. Les étudiants s'inquiètent de savoir où leur formation les conduira, et si elle leur permettra de participer pleinement à la vie économique et sociale. La délégation de l'Inde a fait remarquer que certaines compétences techniques, comme la maîtrise des nouvelles technologies, sont des connaissances de base indispensables dans le monde actuel. Mon ambition est de faire du Congrès international de l'UNESCO sur l'enseignement et la formation techniques et professionnels, l'année prochaine en Chine, un tremplin pour la promotion et le partage des bonnes pratiques en la matière.

10.19 Notre approche de l'école doit être résolument guidée par cette philosophie de la compétence, qui est indissociable de la connaissance et des savoirs : compétences professionnelles, compétences civiques, compétences environnementales. Les entreprises du secteur privé ont également beaucoup à offrir en termes d'apprentissage et doivent faire partie intégrante de cet effort. Le double enjeu de la préparation des sociétés aux risques naturels et de l'éducation des individus au réchauffement climatique commence à l'école, et commande d'investir massivement dans le développement scientifique et technologique, dans la science fondamentale et appliquée. En réponse à toutes les délégations qui appellent à un renforcement de ces activités, je veux dire que l'UNESCO entend jouer un rôle crucial dans ce domaine, que ce soit à travers la création du réseau mondial de groupes de recherche – qui vise à évaluer les politiques scientifiques dans leurs pays respectifs – ou bien à travers l'Observatoire mondial des instruments de politique de science, de technologie et d'innovation, qui a pour mission d'éclairer les décisions des responsables politiques. L'objectif du Haut Panel sur la science et le développement est aussi de nous aider à renforcer notre stratégie dans ce domaine. C'est une vision qui rejoint, je crois, la vision du Brésil d'une « science sans frontières » et son expertise dans ce domaine. À titre d'exemple de cette « science sans frontières » à laquelle nous aspirons tous, je voudrais saluer la création de la réserve de biosphère transnationale de Trifinio/Fraternidad à cheval entre El Salvador, le Honduras et le Guatemala, et la coopération entre le Belarus, l'Ukraine et la Pologne pour la création de la réserve de biosphère de

Polésie. Les réserves de biosphère du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère sont, comme les géoparcs, des outils stratégiques pour appréhender le réchauffement climatique.

10.20 Vous avez été nombreux à saluer l'action de l'UNESCO dans les deux domaines importants des océans et de la gestion de l'eau. La Commission océanographique intergouvernementale est effectivement l'un des programmes phares de l'UNESCO, et nous avons vu les progrès rapides et significatifs des systèmes d'alerte aux tsunamis. C'est pourquoi – pour répondre aux remarques de la Barbade et de la Belgique – j'ai renforcé les moyens de la Commission océanographique de plus de 12 %. Mais ce que vous dites de positif sur l'UNESCO, vous pouvez également le dire à l'extérieur de cette enceinte, en permettant par exemple à l'UNESCO d'acquiescer le statut d'agence de projet du Fonds pour l'environnement mondial, et nous ouvrir de nouvelles opportunités de financement. Je parle ici de ce que l'on appelle en anglais, le GEF (*Global Environment Facility*).

10.21 En ce qui concerne la question vitale de la gestion de l'eau, sur laquelle la Belgique a fortement attiré l'attention, je veux que l'UNESCO soit un chef de file encore mieux reconnu dans ce domaine. Nous coordonnons et nous hébergeons déjà, à Pérouse, en Italie, le Programme mondial pour l'évaluation des ressources en eau, chargé de produire le Rapport mondial sur l'eau qui sera lancé le 12 mars 2012 à Marseille. Le Programme hydrologique international va poursuivre son action pour accompagner les États dans la gestion de l'eau douce, dans les situations de sécheresse comme dans la Corne de l'Afrique, et face aussi aux inondations. Le modèle de prévision des inondations mis en place par l'UNESCO au Pakistan va servir de modèle dans d'autres pays. Tous ces efforts, comme vous l'avez largement souligné, Mesdames et Messieurs, appellent une action conjointe et transdisciplinaire : et c'est justement l'objectif des deux plates-formes intersectorielles sur les Petits États insulaires en développement et sur le changement climatique, qui sont pour la première fois dotées de ressources propres. Vous avez presque tous souligné le rôle essentiel des communautés, des langues locales, des savoir-faire autochtones, comme « agents facilitateurs » du développement durable. La gestion de l'eau est l'un des domaines où les savoir-faire locaux, comme les systèmes traditionnels d'irrigation, apportent des solutions très concrètes, et très solides à des millions d'individus.

10.22 Ces savoir-faire sont fragiles et peuvent être perdus. Nous avons découvert que plus de 100 000 personnes dans le nord de l'Iraq avaient dû quitter leurs terres, faute de savoir utiliser le système d'irrigation des Karez de manière durable. Nous avons travaillé avec le gouvernement pour réhabiliter ces ouvrages, et former les populations pour leur apprendre à revitaliser un système qui est le seul moyen de distribuer l'eau dans certaines zones arides. J'y vois l'essence même de notre rôle en matière de partage des savoirs et de recherche scientifique. C'est vrai dans le domaine des sciences, et c'est aussi évidemment le cœur de notre effort de préservation de la culture. Nous en avons fait l'un des principes directeurs de notre action pour les Conventions de 1972, de 2003 et bien sûr de 2005. J'ai noté avec plaisir l'augmentation du taux de ratification des conventions culturelles de l'UNESCO, notamment en Afrique, et je veux redire ici mon soutien à la mise en œuvre des activités du Fonds africain du patrimoine mondial. Je suis consciente de la nécessité de faire davantage dans des situations particulières comme celles des pays insulaires, qu'ont évoquées les Comores, Sainte-Lucie et Trinité-et-Tobago, aux territoires dispersés, fragilisés dans leurs efforts pour préserver la culture de leurs sous-régions. Reste à protéger la crédibilité de ces conventions, qui est la condition de leur autorité. Un plan d'action stratégique a été développé à ce sujet par le Comité du patrimoine mondial, et j'espère qu'il sera adopté par l'Assemblée générale des États parties dans quelques jours.

10.23 La prochaine session du Comité du patrimoine culturel immatériel, à Bali, en Indonésie, doit également se prononcer sur les mesures à prendre pour garantir la crédibilité du processus d'inscription. Quant à la Convention de 1970, Mesdames et Messieurs, sur le trafic illicite des biens culturels, la réunion que nous aurons l'an prochain sera, je l'espère, une nouvelle étape décisive de son renforcement, et je remercie le Mexique, et bien d'autres pays, pour l'appui qu'ils ont exprimé à cet égard dans leur intervention ces derniers jours. J'ai fait de la lutte contre le trafic des biens culturels une priorité personnelle, et je tiens à assurer le représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire de notre détermination totale à soutenir le Musée des civilisations d'Abidjan dans sa lutte pour récupérer les objets volés. Interpol a été alerté et nous allons nous rendre sur place. J'ai entendu aussi les Seychelles, le Cambodge, le Kenya, mais aussi le Brésil et les Émirats arabes unis, parmi d'autres, souligner le potentiel du patrimoine et des industries culturelles pour le développement national. La valorisation de la diversité culturelle est aussi une source de développement, et je remercie le Malawi d'avoir très clairement rappelé cette réalité. Nous allons donc poursuivre nos efforts dans ce domaine et je veux appuyer les interventions de la Bulgarie et de la Slovénie sur la nécessité d'une éducation des jeunes à la diversité culturelle et à la protection du patrimoine.

10.24 La version pour les jeunes de la Déclaration universelle sur la diversité culturelle mais aussi le programme « Le patrimoine mondial aux mains des jeunes » sont un début, mais nous pouvons faire beaucoup plus, surtout en ces temps de « dissémination culturelle » comme l'a souligné le Président des Palaos. Ce lien entre culture et éducation est effectivement capital et détermine la citoyenneté mondiale de demain. Je remercie d'ailleurs le Zimbabwe de ses commentaires positifs concernant notre travail pour l'utilisation pédagogique de l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique de l'UNESCO. Tout ce travail en faveur de la préservation, de la mise en valeur et du partage des cultures et des langues ne fait que souligner le rôle essentiel des nouvelles technologies et l'immense potentiel qu'elles représentent. Plusieurs pays ont noté l'importance du Programme Mémoire du monde, qui fêtera l'an prochain son 20<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, et je tiens à remercier la Pologne et le Cambodge de leur appui à ce programme. En réponse aux remarques de la France, sur l'importance de la numérisation des contenus culturels, je suis heureuse d'annoncer l'organisation, au mois de septembre 2012, d'une conférence internationale spécialement consacrée à cette question, dont le principal objectif sera de dégager des lignes directrices pour une numérisation durable.

10.25 Associées au respect de la liberté d'expression et au pluralisme des médias, qui permet le partage des points de vue, les nouvelles technologies sont effectivement un moteur de croissance et d'innovation sociale stratégiques. L'UNESCO met tout en œuvre pour que les individus puissent les utiliser au mieux. L'UNESCO a un rôle à jouer pour

résorber la fracture numérique et mettre le potentiel de ces outils au service de l'éducation et de la réalisation des individus. Je vais lancer tout à l'heure la deuxième édition du Référentiel de compétences pour les enseignants en technologies de l'information et de la communication, dont l'objectif est de mettre le potentiel des nouvelles technologies au service de l'éducation, en partenariat avec Microsoft, CISCO, Intel, et d'autres sociétés privées. Le lancement de la plate-forme de l'UNESCO sur les ressources éducatives libres est aussi une première, et en réponse à l'intervention du Mali, je voudrais souligner notre accord avec l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine pour la création de bibliothèques virtuelles en Afrique. Notre projet vise à relier entre elles les universités de huit pays de la région. C'est une forme d'intégration régionale en laquelle je crois beaucoup, et les commentaires positifs de la Lituanie sur des projets similaires de bibliothèques connectées en Europe m'encouragent dans ce sens.

10.26 Mesdames, Messieurs, pour conclure, je dirais que plusieurs idées transversales se dégagent. La nécessité de jouer sur tous les leviers de la « durabilité » en est une. La notion de pleine réalisation de l'individu en est une autre. Cette confiance – et cette exigence – placée dans la réalisation du potentiel des individus, des hommes et des femmes, cela porte un nom. Cela s'appelle l'humanisme. C'est en allant puiser dans les ressources de l'intelligence humaine, par l'éducation, les sciences, la culture – en cherchant à réaliser pleinement ce qui lui revient en propre – que l'humanité, qui a déjà été confrontée à des impasses et mise en demeure de trouver de nouveaux modèles de développement, a toujours réussi à se réinventer et à repenser sa façon d'être au monde. Nous sommes à l'un de ces tournants de l'histoire qui nous appelle, comme l'a souligné Singapour, à un supplément de pensée critique, et à davantage de pensée créative. Les bouleversements nous poussent à refonder le projet humaniste de pleine réalisation des individus comme clé de voûte d'un nouveau modèle de développement. Nous avons tous intérêt à le faire. C'est un enjeu qui concerne tous les pays, les moins avancés, les émergents, les développés, du Nord comme du Sud.

10.27 J'ai entendu, clairement, les attentes, immenses, des pays qui s'en remettent à l'UNESCO. Cette confiance nous honore et nous oblige – et l'UNESCO doit avoir tous les moyens humains et matériels d'y répondre. J'ai entendu, avec émotion, la délégation de la République de Corée nous rappeler le souvenir des convois de l'UNESCO qui distribuaient dans les années 1950 des manuels gratuits pour assurer l'éducation des enfants d'un pays dévasté par la guerre. Qui aurait pu croire, à cette époque, que ce pays deviendrait si vite l'une des démocraties les plus prospères, en misant sur l'éducation comme principal moteur de son développement ? Aujourd'hui, comme il y a 60 ans, nous avons besoin, pour accompagner tous ces hommes et toutes ces femmes qui croient en l'UNESCO, d'un engagement sans faille, nous avons besoin de ressources, et je dirais même que nous avons besoin d'un surcroît d'humanisme – un nouvel humanisme qui nous paraît peut-être inaccessible comme un rêve aujourd'hui, mais qui est justement d'autant plus nécessaire si, à en croire André Malraux, l'homme est effectivement un être qui se construit en poursuivant ce qui le dépasse ». Je vous remercie de votre attention.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Thank you very much.

**Report of the Legal Committee on item 4.2 “Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012/2013 (36 C/5)” – Appeals for admissibility of draft resolutions relating to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) (36 C/78)**

**Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 4.2 «Examen et adoption du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013 (36 C/5)” – Recours concernant la recevabilité des projets de résolution relatifs au Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013 (36 C/5) (36 C/78)**

**Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 4.2 “Examen y aprobación del Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2012-2013 (36 C/5)” – Peticiones sobre la admisibilidad de los proyectos de resolución relacionados con el Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2012-2013 (36 C/5) (36 C/78)**

**Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 4.2 «Рассмотрение и утверждение Проекта программы и бюджета на 2012/2013 гг. (36 C/5)» – Апелляции по вопросу о приемлемости проектов резолюций, имеющих отношение к Проекту программы и бюджета на 2012-2013 гг. (36 C/5) (36 C/78)**

تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٤,٢ “دراسة واعتماد مشروع البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠١٢-٢٠١٣ (٥/م٣٦) – الطلبات الخاصة بقبول مشروعات القرارات المتعلقة بمشروع البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠١٢-٢٠١٣ (٥/م٣٦) (٧٨/م٣٦)

**法律委员会关于项目 4.2 的报告：“审议和通过《2012-2013 年计划与预算草案》(36 C/5)”-有关《2012—2013 年计划与预算草案》(36 C/5) 的决议草案可否受理问题的申诉(36 C/78)**

12. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, we will now listen to the reports by the Legal Committee. In this regard, I am pleased to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Legal Committee, Ms Victoria Hallum, who will present six reports of the Committee. The first report is on item 4.2 concerning the appeals for admissibility of draft resolutions relating to the draft programme and budget. The report is contained in document 36 C/78. Madam Chairperson, you have the floor.

13.1 **Ms Hallum (New Zealand) (Chairperson of the Legal Committee):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to present the first report of the Legal Committee contained in document 36 C/78. This report concerns the examination of communications of draft resolutions proposing the adoption of amendments to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013.

13.2 As you already know, at its 29th session the General Conference adopted a procedure for processing draft resolutions that, at first sight, appear inadmissible in the opinion of the Director-General. This procedure foresees the

possibility of appealing to the General Conference to rule at last instance on their admissibility. It is for the Legal Committee to examine the appeals submitted by Member States concerning draft resolutions rejected by the Director-General. The Legal Committee examined only one draft resolution, MS/DR.47, deemed inadmissible by the Director-General. In this respect, the Committee decided that this draft resolution be declared inadmissible because it did not concern one of the operative paragraphs of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013.

13.3 Nevertheless, the Legal Committee invited the representative of the country that sponsored that draft resolution, which proposed an improvement to the wording of the narrative part of document 36 C/5, to continue the dialogue with the Director-General in order to achieve that result by means other than the submission of a draft resolution. Thank you, Madam President.

14. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, may I consider that the plenary wishes to take note of the report of the Committee contained in document 36 C/78? I see no objections, *it is so decided*. Thank you.

**Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.3 "Summary of the reports received by Member States on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property" (36 C/79)**

**Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.3 "Résumé des rapports reçus des États membres sur les mesures prises en vue de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1970 concernant les mesures à prendre pour interdire et empêcher l'importation, l'exportation et le transfert de propriété illicites des biens culturels" (36 C/79)**

**Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.3 "Resumen de los informes recibidos de los Estados Miembros sobre las medidas adoptadas para la aplicación de la Convención de 1970 sobre las Medidas que deben adoptarse para Prohibir e Impedir la Importación, la Exportación y la Transferencia de Propiedad Ilícitas de Bienes Culturales" (36 C/79)**

**Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.3 «Резюме полученных от государств-членов докладов о мерах, принятых с целью осуществления Конвенции 1970 г. о мерах, направленных на запрещение и предупреждение незаконного ввоза, вывоза и передачи права собственности на культурные ценности» (36 C/79)**

تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٣ "ملخص التقارير الواردة من الدول الأعضاء عن التدابير المتخذة لتطبيق اتفاقية عام ١٩٧٠ الخاصة بالتدابير الواجب اتخاذها لحظر ومنع استيراد وتصدير ونقل ملكية الممتلكات الثقافية بطرق غير مشروعة" (٧٩/م٣٦)

法律委员会关于项目 8.3 的报告：“会员国提交的关于为落实《关于采取措施禁止并防止文化财产非法进出口和所有权非法转让公约》（1970 年）所采取措施的报告的汇总摘要”（36 C/79）

15. **The President:**

I now invite Ms Hallum to present to us the second report pertaining to item 8.3, contained in document 36 C/79. Madam Chairperson, you have the floor.

16.1 **Ms Hallum** (New Zealand) (Chairperson of the Legal Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. This second report, contained in document 36 C/79, is related to item 8.3, that is to say the summary of the reports received from Member States on the measures taken to implement the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

16.2 The Legal Committee made some amendments to the draft resolution proposed in the working document in order to improve the legal accuracy of the wording. You will find in paragraph 4 of document 36 C/79 the draft resolution as amended by the Legal Committee, for adoption by the plenary. Thank you, Madam President.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, may I consider that the General Conference wishes to take note of the report in document 36 C/79 and adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 4 therein, as amended? I see no objections. *It is so decided*.

**Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.6 "Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist" (36 C/80)**

**Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.6 "Rapport de synthèse sur l'application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1980 relative à la condition de l'artiste" (36 C/80)**

**Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.6 "Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 1980 relativa a la Condición del Artista" (36 C/80)**

**Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.6 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 1980 г. о положении творческих работников» (36 C/80)**

تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٦ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ١٩٨٠ الخاصة بأوضاع الفنان" (٨٠/م٣٦)

法律委员会关于项目 8.6 的报告“关于会员国实施《关于艺术家地位的建议书》（1980 年）的情况的综合报告”（36 C/80）

18. **The President:**

And now, Ms Hallum will present her third report.

19.1 **Ms Hallum** (New Zealand) (Chairperson of the Legal Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. The third report of the Legal Committee, reproduced in document 36 C/80, concerns item 8.6 on the consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist.

19.2 After having taken note of this report, supplemented by the comments made on this subject by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board at its 187th session, the Legal Committee decided to recommend that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in the working document. This draft resolution is reproduced in paragraph 2 of the report of the Committee, that is to say, document 36 C/80. Thank you, Madam President.

20. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Ms Hallum. Ladies and gentlemen, may I request that the plenary take note of the third report of the Legal Committee contained in document 36 C/80 and adopt the draft resolution contained therein? I see no objections. *It is so decided.*

**Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.4 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace” (36 C/LEG/4)**

**Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.4 “Rapport de synthèse sur l’application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 2003 sur la promotion et l’usage du multilinguisme et l’accès universel au cyberspace” (36 C/LEG/4)**

**Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.4 “Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 2003 sobre la promoción y el uso del plurilingüismo y el acceso universal al ciberespacio” (36 C/LEG/4)**

**Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.4 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 2003 г. о развитии и использовании многоязычия и всеобщем доступе к киберпространству» (36 C/LEG/4)**

تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٤, ٨ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ٢٠٠٣ الخاصة بتعزيز التعدد اللغوي واستخدامه وتعميم الانتفاع بالمجال السيبراني" (٣٦ م/اللجنة القانونية/٤)

**法律委员会关于项目 8.4 的报告：“关于会员国实施《普及网络空间及促进并使用多种语言的建议书》（2003 年）情况的综合报告” (36 C/LEG/4)**

21. **The President:**

And could I now ask Ms Hallum to present to the plenary the fifth and sixth reports.

22.1 **Ms Hallum** (New Zealand) (Chairperson of the Legal Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. I think we are up to the fourth report of the Legal Committee, reproduced in document 36 C/LEG/4, which concerns item 8.4 on the Consolidated Report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace.

22.2 After recalling the importance of the 2003 Recommendation, the Legal Committee considered that the Secretariat should demonstrate flexibility and make reference in the working document to the reports received after the deadline, especially since several months had passed between the examination of the consolidated report by the Executive Board and its transmission to the General Conference. The Legal Committee made only one amendment to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 10 of document 36 C/26, with a view to mentioning that three further reports were submitted shortly after the second consultation.

22.3 As requested by the plenary upon recommendation of the General Committee, this fourth report containing the draft resolution as amended by the Legal Committee has been transmitted to the Communication and Information (CI) Commission which will recommend the final draft resolution for adoption by the plenary, in the framework of its report to be submitted in the next few days. Thank you, Madam President.

23. **The President:**

Thank you very much. May I ask the General Conference to take note of this report? I see no objections. *It is so decided.*

**Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.5 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education” (36 C/LEG/5)**

**Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.5 “Rapport de synthèse sur l’application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1993 sur la reconnaissance des études et des titres de l’enseignement supérieur” (36 C/LEG/5)**

**Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.5 “Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 1993 sobre la Convalidación de los Estudios, Títulos y Diplomas de Enseñanza Superior” (36 C/LEG/5)**

**Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.5 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 1993 г. о признании учебных курсов и свидетельств о высшем образовании» (36 C/LEG/5)**

تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٥ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ١٩٩٣ الخاصة بالاعتراف بدراسات التعليم العالي ومؤهلاته" (٣٦ م/اللجنة القانونية/٥)

法律委员会关于 项目 8.5 的报告：“关于会员国实施《关于承认高等教育学历与资格的建议书》（1993 年）情况的综合报告” (36 C/LEG/5)

Report of the Legal Committee on item 8.7 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education” (36 C/LEG/6)

Rapport du Comité juridique sur le point 8.7 “Rapport de synthèse sur l’application par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1976 sur le développement de l’éducation des adultes” (36 C/LEG/6)

Informe del Comité Jurídico sobre el punto 8.7 “Informe de síntesis sobre la aplicación por los Estados Miembros de la Recomendación de 1976 relativa al Desarrollo de la Educación de Adultos” (36 C/LEG/6)

Доклад Юридического комитета по пункту 8.7 «Сводный доклад об осуществлении государствами-членами Рекомендации 1976 г. о развитии образования взрослых» (36 C/LEG/6)

تقرير اللجنة القانونية بشأن البند ٨,٧ "التقرير الجامع عن تطبيق الدول الأعضاء لتوصية عام ١٩٧٦ الخاصة بتسمية تعليم الكبار" (٣٦ م/اللجنة القانونية/٦)

法律委员会关于 项目 8.7 的报告：“关于会员国实施《关于发展成人教育的建议书》（1976 年）情况的综合报告” (36 C/LEG/6)

24. **The President:**

Ms Hallum, the floor is yours.

25.1 **Ms Hallum** (New Zealand) (Chairperson of the Legal Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. The fifth and sixth reports of the Legal Committee, reproduced in documents 36 C/LEG/5 and 36 C/LEG/6, are respectively related to item 8.5 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education” and 8.7 “Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education”. After having taken note of this report, supplemented by the comments made on this subject by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board at its 187th session, as well as the further information provided by the representative of the Director-General, the Legal Committee made only minor amendments to each draft resolution contained in the working documents, to correct errors in the various language texts and to include a reference to the decision taken by the Executive Board at its last session.

25.2 As requested by the plenary upon recommendation of the General Committee, these reports containing the draft resolutions as amended by the Legal Committee have been transmitted to the Education Commission, which will recommend the final draft resolutions for adoption by the plenary, in the framework of its report. Thank you, Madam President.

26. **The President:**

Thank you, Ms Hallum. Ladies and gentlemen, may I request that the plenary take note of the fifth and sixth reports of the Legal Committee contained in documents 36 C/LEG/5 and 36 C/LEG/6? I see no objections, *it is so decided*.

**Second report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee**

**Deuxième rapport du Président du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs**

**Segundo informe del Presidente del Comité de Verificación de Poderes**

**Второй доклад Председателя Комитета по проверке полномочий**

التقرير الثاني لرئيس لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد

全权证书委员会主席的第二次报告

27. **The President:**

And now, ladies and gentlemen, we will listen to the second report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, Ambassador Uffe Andreassen. You have the floor, Sir.

28. **M. Andreassen** (Denemark) (Président du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, depuis la lecture de mon premier rapport, en séance plénière, le 29 octobre 2011, le Comité a reçu les pouvoirs en bonne et due forme de la délégation de l'État membre dont le nom s'affiche à l'écran. Le Comité a également reçu les pouvoirs en bonne et due forme des délégations des États membres dont la liste s'affiche à l'écran et qui avaient auparavant présenté des pouvoirs provisoires. Conformément à l'autorisation qui m'a été donnée par le Comité de vérification des pouvoirs, je propose que la Conférence générale accepte ces pouvoirs. Les délégations des États membres dont la liste s'affiche à l'écran n'ont pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. Les délégations des membres associés dont la liste s'affiche à l'écran n'ont pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. La délégation d'observateurs dont le nom s'affiche à l'écran n'a pas encore présenté de pouvoirs. Merci, Madame la Présidente.



29.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Ambassador Andreasen. Are there any comments on this report? May I consider that the General Conference wishes to take note of the second report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee? I see no objections. *It is so **decided**.*

29.2 Ladies and gentlemen, we have finished our work for today. The plenary will reconvene on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary, who will make some announcements. Thank you.

**Announcements****Annonces****Anuncios****Сообщения**

إعلانات

**通知**30. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Madam President. This is to announce that, following the special plenary meeting on Wednesday morning, in the afternoon of Wednesday 2 November there will be a special plenary meeting to announce the results of the election of Members of the Executive Board. On this occasion, Madam President, you will also report on the third meeting of the General Committee, which will take place tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in Room X. There is a second announcement. The launch of the publication *UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers*, version 2.0, is being held under the auspices of the Director-General this evening from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. in Room X. You are all cordially invited to attend. Thank you, Madam President.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much. So, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, I am going to meet the members of the General Committee in Room X and the next plenary will be the day after, at 10 o'clock. I wish you a pleasant evening. *The meeting is now **adjourned**.*

*The meeting rose at 6.00 p.m.*  
*La séance est levée à 18 h 00*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00*  
*Заседание закрывается в 18.00*  
*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦,٠ مساء*  
*会议于 18 时结束*

# Thirteenth plenary meeting

Wednesday 2 November 2011 at 10.15 a.m.  
President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)  
later: **Ms Wazir Ali** (Pakistan)

# Treizième séance plénière

Mercredi 2 novembre 2011 à 10 h 15  
Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)  
puis : **Mme Wazir Ali** (Pakistan)

# Decimotercera sesión plenaria

Miércoles 2 de noviembre de 2011 a las 10.15  
Presidente: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)  
después: **Sra. Wazir Ali** (Pakistán)

# Тринадцатое пленарное заседание

Среда 2 ноября 2011 г. в 10.15  
Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)  
затем: г-жа **Вазир Али** (Пакистан)

# الجلسة العامة الثالثة عشرة

الأربعاء ٢ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً  
الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)  
ثم: السيدة **وزير علي** (باكستان)

# 第十三次全体会议

2011年11月2日星期三 10时15分  
主席：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）  
随后：Wazir Ali女士（巴基斯坦）

Special plenary meeting  
Réunion plénière spéciale  
Sesión plenaria especial  
Специальное пленарное заседание  
الجلسة العامة الاستثنائية

特别全体会议

Item 5: GENERAL POLICY AND PROGRAMME QUESTIONS  
Point 5: QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE ET DE PROGRAMME

Punto 5: ASUNTOS DE POLÍTICA GENERAL Y DE PROGRAMA

Пункт 5 : ВОПРОСЫ ОБЩЕЙ ПОЛИТИКИ И ПРОГРАММЫ

البند ٥ : مسائل تتعلق بالسياسة العامة والبرنامج

项目 5 : 总政策和计划问题

Item 5.10: Marking of the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

Point 5.10: Célébration du 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle

Punto 5.10 "Celebración del 10<sup>o</sup> aniversario de la Declaración Universal de la UNESCO sobre la Diversidad Cultural

Пункт 5.10: Празднование 10-й годовщины Всеобщей декларации ЮНЕСКО о культурном разнообразии

البند ٥, ١٠ : الاحتفال بالذكرى العاشرة لإعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي

项目 5.10 : 教科文组织《世界文化多样性宣言》十周年纪念

1. **The President:**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I would like to declare the special plenary meeting open, and I would like to apologize as I have lost my voice and therefore would like to ask one of the Vice-Presidents of the General Conference, Ms Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Cabinet Minister of Pakistan, to preside over this morning's meeting. Thank you.

*Ms Wazir Ali (Pakistan) takes the Chair.*

2.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam President. It is indeed an honour for me to chair this very special meeting. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Today we will examine item **5.10** "Marking of the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity", document 36 C/51. The special plenary meeting will be divided into two parts. First we will have the great pleasure and honour of listening to eminent personalities and will reflect on the challenges and the opportunities of cultural diversity for social cohesion and peace in today's globalized world. In the second stage we will examine the related draft resolution.

2.2 It is now a great honour for me to read the statement of the President of the General Conference of UNESCO to welcome our distinguished guests, Heads of State and Ministers, to this special meeting dedicated to the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

2.3 Your Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Your Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Madam Chair of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I take your presence as reaffirming your commitment to UNESCO's core principles and aims and especially your commitment to our efforts to preserve and strengthen cultural diversity. For me, culture represents perpetual motion, like a river seen from a very long distance, from atop a mountain or through an aeroplane window as it carves out a distinctive shape in the land below. From a distance it looks like a static, non-dynamic structure; but once you step into it you feel the dynamic flow of the water as it rushes around your legs with force and power, changing like the essence of water itself to get around the obstacles in its way. Just like a river, culture is dynamic, adaptive and changing while at the same time forming a structure that defines who we are – our common values and shared identities at any moment in time and space.

2.4 Akin to a crystal that breaks a single ray of light into a full spectrum of colours, culture reflects our common experience as one human race split into a plurality of languages, traditions, belief systems and historical pathways. It is through the acknowledgment of and respect for the diversity of the world's cultures that we, as human beings, come to understand and appreciate the core values and aspirations that make humanity one. To respect cultural diversity, therefore, means to respect life, for, as the renowned Mexican writer, poet and diplomat Octavio Paz warned us, "Every view of the world that becomes extinct, every culture that disappears, diminishes a possibility of life." To respect cultural diversity means to celebrate pluralism as an essential element for averting the negative societal trends of prejudice, stereotyping, xenophobia, discrimination and exclusion in an ever more globalized world. To respect cultural diversity means to uphold the universal norms and principles of human rights as the guiding framework for preserving the plurality of identities and ideas and as a safeguard against the use of cultural diversity for policies and practices contrary to human rights and dignity.

2.5 This year, the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity – the first wide-ranging international instrument that raised cultural diversity to the level of "the common heritage of humanity" – turns ten years old. For me, the real power of the Declaration lies in fostering the unity of humanity around the principles contained therein. The

Declaration manifests its truly unifying force as it puts to rest the false dichotomy between the view of culture as an intrinsically valuable attribute of human experience that defines our identities, and culture as a vector of development that contributes to the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and provides income-generating potential through cultural and creative industries. These two aspects of culture are not mutually exclusive, but, rather, complementary. The Declaration, while recognizing culture as the basis of creativity, imagination and innovation that fuels economic as well as social and political development, makes it clear that cultural goods and services are bearers of identity, values and meaning, and must not therefore be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods. The Declaration demonstrates its unifying force as it galvanizes partnerships among the key stakeholders representing international governmental and non-governmental organizations, public institutions, the private sector and civil society. Following this force, and in close cooperation with our partners worldwide, most importantly the Member States, UNESCO will continue to translate the principles contained in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity into domestic realities as an essential investment in humanity's future.

2.6 The Declaration makes the connection between cultural diversity and human dignity explicit and inseparable. There is another, perhaps more implicit but equally meaningful and intimate, link between the notions of cultural diversity and culture of peace. It is my deeply held belief that a person who is secure in his or her own identity within a larger social context will be more open and respectful towards persons belonging to different cultural traditions. Those who are culturally well-grounded will be less receptive to ideas of hate, intolerance, discrimination and violence. It is through culture that we acquire awareness of who we are, become conscious of the diversity of identities and value systems shared by others, and find a satisfactory intellectual, emotional, ethical and spiritual existence. Promoting cultural diversity, therefore, is tantamount to empowering people to be secure within their own identities and to seek dialogue and interaction with others. In this sense, promoting cultural diversity, with its potential to channel human energy away from conflict and towards cooperation, is part and parcel of our struggle for a "culture of peace". So let us, my dear friends and colleagues, cherish cultural diversity as a vibrant music made by a polyphonic orchestra of the peoples of the world, and use UNESCO's multicultural platform to reflect on ways of transforming the principles of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity into reality. Our peaceful tomorrow depends on it. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

2.7 I shall now give the floor to Her Excellency Madam Eleonora Mitrofanova, Chair of the Executive Board. Please, Madam, you have the floor.

3.1 **Ms Mitrofanova** (Russian Federation) (Chair of the Executive Board):

Your Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Your Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Madam President of the General Conference of UNESCO, Madam Director-General, dear friends and colleagues, it is a great honour and pleasure for me as the Chair of the Executive Board to celebrate with you the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. This Declaration is a landmark in the Organization's history because it sets out the prospect of a more open world fighting intolerance while underscoring that our creative diversity is a collective force for sustainable development and peace. UNESCO is the very place where the "fruitful diversity of cultures" meets and flourishes thanks to the "free flow of ideas" and their endless encounters. As Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation to UNESCO, I would like to highlight the active role my country has played, alongside other partners, in making a substantive contribution to the elaboration and implementation of the principles of the Declaration.

3.2 An anniversary is a time to celebrate and to reflect on what has been accomplished in order to move forward with sound orientations. Allow me first to recall some landmarks in the work of the Executive Board which has paved the way to achieving such a wonderful consensus on such a complex declaration. In 2000, the Board engaged in reflection on cultural diversity to face the challenges raised by the ever-increasing pace of globalization and UNESCO's role in this regard. Let me recall the key points of convergence: there was a firm consensus in favour of the principle of a declaration bearing a new message of cultural diversity – considered a major challenge for our societies in the twenty-first century. In this regard, it was acknowledged that UNESCO should play the lead role in this field by virtue of its undisputable competence and experience. There was also a consensus on the form that the declaration should take in order to become a powerful international moral frame of reference: the text, followed by a number of main lines of action, ought to be short, dense, synthetic, constructive and positive if it was to be widely recognized by the international community. During the intensive deliberations and consultations, two main trends emerged. The first consisted in urging UNESCO to tackle the question of cultural diversity in the context of respect for human rights in order to ensure the peaceful and harmonious coexistence of the various cultures to be found in a single country. The second trend consisted in making the difference of cultural goods and services the focus of reflection in the context of rapid globalization without overlooking the ethical importance of the declaration and the links between human rights and cultural rights. This huge endeavour made it possible to identify a number of principles, themes and ideas which should be given a central place in the declaration. Two major concerns became apparent: inclusiveness and empowerment. The former reflected the need to ensure respect for all cultural identities and the participation of all in democratic States, and the latter the need to promote the emergence of a climate conducive to the full realization of the creative capacities inherent in each individual, in order to render culture a real driver of development. To meet these two requirements, we had to base ourselves on the fundamental principles that give meaning to all action in support of cultural diversity: the need to respect and ensure respect for human rights and democracy, the principle of free circulation of ideas and pluralistic media, and the link between cultural diversity and development. In other words, the three-dimensional concept of Diversity, Dialogue and Development had emerged.

*(The speaker continues in Russian)*

3.3 Дамы и господа, я буду говорить по-русски. Несмотря на то, что спустя десятилетие Декларация остается по-прежнему актуальной и является одним из основополагающих международно-правовых регуляторов отно-

шений в сфере культурного разнообразия, мы можем констатировать, что наступил новый этап развития этого вопроса, который требует разработки новых подходов, стратегий и политики, отвечающих вызовам сегодняшнего дня. В наше время в мире изменилась парадигма многих процессов, которые еще не нашли своего четкого определения. Возникло множество вопросов, на которые очень сложно найти достойные и приемлемые для всех ответы.

3.4 В течение последних двух десятилетий ЮНЕСКО была свидетелем различных масштабных преобразований в мире. Произошли изменения не только на геополитическом уровне, но и на технологическом. Мы живем в глобализованном информационном обществе, в «мире без границ». Это облегчает и ускоряет коммуникацию и распространение информации, и в то же время более ярко подчеркивает напряженность в обществе, усиливает конфликты, кризисные явления, превращая локальные проблемы в региональные и даже в глобальные. Об этом свидетельствует волна масштабных изменений, охвативших совсем недавно арабский мир.

3.5 Кроме того, можно сказать, что глобализация, оказывая свое колоссальное влияние на культуру, зачастую не способствует сохранению культурного наследия, а подчас, напротив, ставит мир перед угрозой культурной, в том числе лингвистической стандартизации. Существенное и тенденциозно усугубляющееся неравенство между регионами, сообществами, людьми; возрастающие нетерпимость, ненависть и экстремизм; локальные конфликты и войны – это каждодневный и серьезный вызов всему мировому сообществу.

3.6 Наряду с этим мир переживает глубокий финансовый, экономический и экологический кризис. Кроме того, определенный импульс приобрели миграционные тенденции мирового масштаба. Международная миграция стала одним из главных факторов напряженности как в странах, из которых эмигрируют люди – фактор «утечки мозгов», – так и в принимающих странах, где «управление иммиграцией», как правило, неэффективно. Движение больших групп людей началось на всех континентах и между ними. Это вызывает определенные трудности в проведении государствами своей внутренней, в первую очередь, и внешней политики. В этих условиях две параллельно существующие проблемы – сохранение культурного многообразия и культурной самобытности, с одной стороны, и развитие межкультурного диалога, с другой, – приобретают невиданные ранее важность и остроту. Сегодня страны мира, по сути, представляют собой новый Большой Вавилон. Ни одно общество в мире нельзя назвать единой этнической группой. В этом факторе есть как положительные, так и отрицательные стороны.

3.7 В свете этих процессов многие государства в последние годы начали искать новые подходы и методы решения проблем, связанных с межкультурным взаимодействием. Этот процесс проходил в разных странах с различной долей успеха. В некоторых государствах все чаще стали заявлять о крахе концепции мультикультурализма, что относительно недавно подтвердили лидеры таких западноевропейских стран, как Германия, Великобритания и Франция. Мультикультурализм, межкультурный диалог, культура мира – это те самые идеи, с которыми связаны конкретная политика отдельных стран. Так можем ли мы говорить о крахе самой идеи или, скорее, о крахе политики, которая зачастую подменяет толерантность безразличием, а интеграцию – автономным сосуществованием, что, как мы знаем, в итоге ведет к межэтнической и межконфессиональной напряженности?

3.8 Вместе эти тенденции являются серьезным препятствием для достижения согласованных на международном уровне целей в области развития и для создания прочного мира и безопасности. Никакая стратегия устойчивого развития не может быть нейтральной в культурном отношении. Каким образом мы можем добиться успеха на нашем пути от диалога к миру? Каким образом мы можем переосмыслить нынешнюю политику и какую новую политику мы должны принять? Как мы можем определить новые подходы, направленные на содействие миру, диалогу и взаимному уважению, или лучше использовать опыт, накопленный в этой области?

3.9 Очевидно, что в условиях нынешнего переосмысления и пересмотра концепции «глобальной приверженности диалогу», если мы, страны-члены ЮНЕСКО, не активизируем наши усилия, направленные на сохранение разнообразия посредством установления открытого диалога и обмена мнениями, как внутри наших стран, так и на региональном и международном уровнях, то это в конечном итоге может привести к социальной разобщенности и разрыву глубинных связей в обществе и между сообществами.

(3.3) (*translation from the Russian*) Ladies and gentlemen, I shall now speak in Russian. Although one decade on, the Declaration is as relevant as ever and one of the fundamental regulators in international law governing relations in the sphere of cultural diversity, we can see that a new phase has begun in its evolution, which requires the development of new approaches, strategies and policies, responding the challenges of the day. In our time there has been a paradigm shift in many global processes, which have still not been clearly defined. A multitude of questions has arisen to which it is very difficult to find worthy and universally acceptable answers.

(3.4) In the course of the past 20 years, UNESCO has witnessed various large-scale changes in the world. Changes have taken place not only on the geopolitical level but on the technological level. We are living in a globalized, computerized society, in a “world without borders”. This makes communication and the dissemination of information easier and faster, and at the same time brings tension in society into clearer focus, exacerbating conflict and the emergence of crises, and turning local problems into regional and even global ones. This is evidenced by the wave of sweeping changes that have taken hold very recently in the Arab world.

(3.5) Furthermore, it may be said that globalization, with its powerful impact on culture, is not really helping to preserve the cultural heritage but on occasion, on the contrary, is confronting the world with cultural threats, including that of linguistic standardization. Inequality between regions, societies and people is deepening, in a fundamental, tendentious way. Growing intolerance, hatred and extremism, local conflicts and wars – these are all daily and serious challenges to the international community as a whole.

(3.6) At the same time, the world is experiencing a far-reaching financial, economic and ecological crisis. Furthermore, migration on a global scale has gained impetus. International migration has become one of the main factors in tension both in countries from which people are emigrating (the “brain drain” factor) and in the host countries where, as a rule, the

“management of immigration” is not effective. The movement of large groups of people has begun within every continent and also between continents. This engenders certain problems for governments in the conduct first of domestic and then foreign policy. In these circumstances, the two parallel, essential problems – the preservation of cultural diversity and cultural originality on the one hand, and the development of intercultural dialogue on the other – have taken on unprecedented importance and relevance. Today, the world’s countries essentially see themselves as the new Babylon the Great. No one society in the world can be described as a single ethnic group. There are positive and negative aspects to this.

(3.7) In the light of these processes, many States in recent years have started to seek new approaches and methods to resolve the problems arising from intercultural interaction. This process is under way in various countries, with varying degrees of success. In some States there are increasingly frequent reports of the collapse of the concept of multiculturalism, which, relatively recently, was upheld by the leaders of such western European countries as Germany, the United Kingdom and France. Multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, culture of peace – these are the very ideas underlying the specific policy of individual countries. So can we talk about the failure of these ideas, or rather of the policy, which in part replaces tolerance with indifference and integration with the separate existence which, as we know, eventually leads to interethnic and interdenominational tension?

(3.8) Together, these trends constitute a serious impediment to the achievement of internationally-agreed development goals and to the establishment of lasting peace and security. No sustainable development strategy can be neutral in cultural terms. How can we achieve success on the road from dialogue to peace? How can we rethink the present policy, and what new policy should we adopt? How can we determine new approaches aimed at contributing to peace, dialogue and mutual respect, or make better use of the experience acquired in this field?

(3.9) Clearly, with this rethinking and review of the concept of “global attachment to dialogue”, if we, the Members States of UNESCO, do not step up our efforts to preserve diversity by means of establishing open dialogue and exchange of opinions, both within our countries and at the regional and international levels, the end result could be social alienation and a breakdown in the deep bonds within society and between communities.

*(The speaker continues in English)*

3.10 Ladies and gentlemen, as I have already had the opportunity to emphasize on the occasion of my election as Chair of the Executive Board, in this difficult period the world has the right to expect from us reasonable and weighted solutions in the spheres of UNESCO’s competence, directed towards the creation of confidence, tolerance and mutual understanding, in other words, what our Organization was created for. Since the world we live in is ever more homogeneous on a global level and ever more heterogeneous on a local level, in order to thrive, every human group must have confidence in its cultural identity while adopting open and tolerant attitudes to cultural diversity, in other words, to everything unusual which is in conformity with human dignity. It is perfectly possible for cultures to exist side by side and yet to remain ignorant of one another. So “rapprochement of cultures” is less about this coexistence of cultures than about an interaction which leads them to break out of their mutual ignorance and misperception in order to become part of a wider polyphonic concert.

3.11 The thematic discussion of the Executive Board held during its 185th session in October last year on the theme of intercultural dialogue in the 2010s: revisiting policies within the context of a culture of peace, could be considered one of the practical examples of UNESCO’s efforts in rethinking multiculturalism practices. In the twenty-first century, UNESCO’s mission and positive practices remain more relevant than ever: to promote respect for the “fruitful diversity of cultures”; in other words, to share a positive vision of diversity that goes beyond its simple recognition and celebration as it weaves a web of links among nations, communities, groups and individuals. In this context, the fruitful diversity of cultures is considered to be a unique renewable resource for the provision of meaningful responses to our uncertain future by identifying the dividends of diversity and dialogue in order to build confident intercultural relations for a lasting global peace. I wish a happy birthday to our Declaration and I renew our collective hope that one day it may acquire the same force as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thank you for your attention.

#### 4. **The President:**

Thank you very much indeed, Madam Chair. I now have the pleasure to give the floor to the Director-General, Madam Irina Bokova.

#### 5.1 **The Director-General:**

Your Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Your Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Your Excellency Dr Nassif Hitti, representative of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Your Excellency Mr Henri Lopes, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo in France and former Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture and External Relations, Your Excellency Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Argentina to UNESCO, Goodwill Ambassador to UNESCO, Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, before I start, I have the pleasure of reading the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon:

5.2 “Ten years ago, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, UNESCO Member States adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. In an ever more interconnected world, and in our ever more mixed societies, ignorance of each other’s ways can be a cause of mistrust, tension and conflict. This landmark declaration sets out the principles for embracing the “fruitful diversity of cultures” and tackling the related challenges. Cultural diversity is our common heritage. Its protection is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. But making the most of cultural diversity calls for new policies of inclusion and participation. Over the past decade, thanks in large part to the action and advocacy of UNESCO, the United Nations family has increasingly recognized cultural diversity as an invaluable ally in the service of sustainable development and our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We are keenly aware that there can be no “one-size-fits-all” development model, and that to deliver better results, projects must reflect the needs, aspirations, priorities and cultures of their beneficiaries. On this tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, let us reaffirm our

conviction that cultural diversity is a strength, not a weakness. We must never tire in making this case. Let us all commit to strengthening our cultural literacy.”

5.3 This was the message, ladies and gentlemen, of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon. So, *maintenant je passe au français.*

*(The Director-General continues in French)*

5.4 La Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle est un texte qui a, je dirais, cette puissance des idées qui mûrissent longtemps dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes, et qui émergent un jour avec la clarté, la sincérité et l'autorité de ceux qui reviennent d'un long voyage à travers l'histoire et la géographie. Depuis 10 ans, cette autorité n'a fait que croître. La reconnaissance de la diversité des expressions culturelles a permis une approche plus fine, plus ouverte et plus égalitaire de la culture et des moyens de préserver celle-ci, dans toutes ses composantes. La prise en compte de la diversité des manières de vivre et de penser la culture a ouvert un champ considérable à la promotion des droits de l'homme. Elle permet de promouvoir plus efficacement certains droits universels, comme le droit de chacun à participer à la vie culturelle, le droit de parler sa langue maternelle, le droit d'accéder aux technologies de l'information, aux progrès de la science. L'esprit de cette déclaration irrigue depuis 10 ans la réflexion de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies sur le développement, sur les moyens de construire la paix – et les Conventions de l'UNESCO pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel ou sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, s'en inspirent directement.

5.5 La diversité culturelle est une réalité dans nos villes et dans nos pays. C'est une ressource inestimable pour le renouvellement des idées et des sociétés. La diversité des expressions culturelles pose également des questions sur la façon de construire la paix entre les nations, sur les moyens d'assurer la cohésion de sociétés de plus en plus hétérogènes. Nous savons ce qu'il advient lorsque les préjugés, le fanatisme ou le repli sur soi l'emportent sur l'envie de vivre ensemble. Nous l'avons vu dernièrement à Abuja et en Norvège, et nous avons encore tous le souvenir du 11 septembre 2001. La diversité culturelle est une réalité : cette réalité appelle à développer des politiques publiques fortes, inclusives, capables d'en tirer le meilleur, sans naïveté, sans complaisance. La protection de la diversité est inséparable du respect de la personne, et nul ne saurait s'en servir comme excuse pour porter atteinte aux droits de l'homme. La diversité est bien le « milieu ambiant » de l'humanité – aussi importante pour le genre humain que la biodiversité pour la nature. Je garde en mémoire les mots du philosophe Edgar Morin, invité l'an dernier à l'UNESCO pour la Journée mondiale de la philosophie – je le cite : « Nous n'avons jamais accès à la « Culture » avec un C majuscule, mais seulement à la diversité des cultures. Nous n'avons jamais accès à la « Langue » avec un L majuscule, mais à la diversité des langues ». Et c'est pourquoi, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est nécessairement à partir de la diversité du réel, et à travers le dialogue interculturel, que nous faisons émerger l'universel – un universel authentique d'autant plus robuste qu'il s'est forgé au contact de la pluralité du monde comme avec notre programme « Tagore, Neruda, Césaire » ici à l'UNESCO.

5.6 La réalité de la diversité culturelle commande de donner aux jeunes, notamment, des compétences inter-culturelles beaucoup plus fortes, en histoire, en langues, en sociologie, qui les aident à appréhender la diversité culturelle, à surmonter leurs différences et à construire des valeurs communes. Je sais que c'est un combat qui vous tient particulièrement à cœur, Monsieur Henri Lopez, et je voudrais saluer votre engagement d'intellectuel, de poète. Vous avez dit de l'écrivain qu'il est « un artisan, qui s'évertue à jeter de la lumière sur l'impalpable » et c'est bien, je crois, ce dont il est question ici. Cela commence par le partage de l'histoire, même parfois le partage de l'histoire récente, et je sais comment vous, Monsieur Miguel Estrella, vous êtes investi pour trouver la vérité dans votre pays, l'Argentine, après la chute du régime militaire. Et cela commence par le partage, aussi, de l'histoire commune. Le 1er février, j'étais au camp d'Auschwitz-Birkenau, à la tête d'une délégation de plus de 150 dirigeants politiques et religieux, parmi lesquels de nombreux représentants des pays arabes et musulmans. Je garde en mémoire les mots du Dr Mustafa Ceric, Grand Mufti de Bosnie, qui a dit à cette occasion : « Nous devons enseigner à tous nos jeunes ce qui s'est passé ici, qu'ils soient dans les mosquées, dans les églises ou dans les synagogues ». J'ai vu, en Europe du Sud-Est, le pouvoir de la culture de surmonter les différences, et la manière dont d'anciens belligérants, en Bosnie-Herzégovine, ont travaillé ensemble à la reconstruction du pont de Mostar. Et je voudrais saluer le Président Parvanov pour son action exemplaire dans la région, son engagement à faire de la culture une passerelle entre les peuples, et à créer des « corridors culturels », pour dépasser les nationalismes.

5.7 Il y a quelques semaines j'étais à Belgrade, au Sommet des chefs d'État de l'Europe du Sud-Est, pour lancer l'initiative « La culture : un pont vers le développement – utiliser les réseaux d'artistes comme vecteurs de dialogue et de réconciliation, mobiliser les autorités locales et les professionnels de la culture ». Le partage de l'histoire, le dialogue interculturel, cela ne s'improvise pas : cela s'apprend. Il faut beaucoup de temps, beaucoup de patience, la raison d'être de l'UNESCO est d'accélérer ce mouvement, d'aider au partage des expériences, et je me réjouis de la présence parmi nous du Président de la République d'Indonésie, cet archipel de la diversité qui compte plus de 17 000 îles, plusieurs centaines de groupes ethniques et plus de 600 langues parlées. Votre présence est un cadeau, Monsieur le Président.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

5.8 Ladies and gentlemen, promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue is a most powerful way to build bridges and lay the ground for peace. It is also a force for development and the condition for better development policies – by local communities and governments and by the international community. We know too many examples of well-intended development measures that did not integrate culture. These were doomed to fail. There can be no sustainable development that ignores local cultural circumstances, that puts aside the wealth of cultural diversity. Strong steps are being taken to recognize the value of cultural diversity for development. The World Bank acknowledges that cultural industries are accelerators of economic growth and human development.

5.9 There is similar thinking today in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Our case is being heard – more importantly, it is being acted on. Our case that cultural context, local medicine and traditional forms of solidarity should be accepted today as preconditions for the sustainability of health and vaccination campaigns is being heard. Agricultural policies are reaping better harvests by integrating local perceptions of land and seeds. Cultural diversity is increasingly taken on board to support media pluralism and the promotion of multilingualism. Last December, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution on culture and development. This shows a historic shift is under way in how we perceive the role of culture for development. We have come a long way in ten years, but we have still far to go. As the Secretary-General stated, the bold contrasts in the world today show there is no “one-size-fits-all development model.” Recognizing the power of cultural diversity for development can open the door to ever greater opportunities, to new ways of thinking. This is not a goal in itself – it is the way to achieve all of our goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. This idea guides UNESCO as we prepare for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio.

5.10 So, ladies and gentlemen, societies are ever more complex. The ‘local’ has never been so close to the “global.” At such a time of change and uncertainty, cultural diversity has perhaps never been so vital – as a source of identity for every woman and man, as a source of resilience and renewal for our societies, as a source of innovation and creativity for development. These are the promises held out by the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. The promises that no society should retreat into fear, that cultures of exclusion should not be allowed to arise, and that the responsibilities of leaders and governments have never been so great. Peace is built every day through individual, even small acts that recognize and draw on the wealth of diversity to open our societies. This starts with dialogue and debate.

5.11 I am extremely honoured this morning by the presence of so many distinguished and longstanding partners of UNESCO in the promotion of cultural diversity. I see such high-level, rich participation as a sign of strong commitment and engagement. At this very moment, you may rest assured that mine has never been so strong. Thank you very much for your attention.

#### 6. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Ladies and gentlemen, I now have the special pleasure of introducing His Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia. His Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, popularly known as “SBY”, was elected as the sixth President of the Republic of Indonesia in 2004. President Yudhoyono is an accomplished scholar, having authored a number of books and articles. He was educated both in the United States and in Indonesia and has numerous degrees in a variety of fields including law, political science, agricultural economics and management. During his 27-year distinguished military service, President Yudhoyono held numerous important posts. For his outstanding service, he has been decorated with 24 medals and awards, including the Bintang Republik Indonesia Adipurna, the highest national medal for excellent service beyond the call of duty. Prior to being elected, President Yudhoyono held various important government positions, including Minister of Mining and Energy and Coordinating Minister for Political, Social, and Security Affairs in the National Unity Cabinet under both President Abdurrahman Wahid and under President Megawati Soekarnoputri. It was in his capacity as Coordinating Minister that he became internationally recognized for leading Indonesia’s international counter-terrorism efforts. We are indeed honoured by your presence, Your Excellency. The floor is yours.

#### 7.1 **Mr Yudhyono (President of Indonesia):**

Thank You. *Bismillah ir-rahman ir-rahim. As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmatu llahi wa-barakatuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). May peace be upon us.

7.2 Your Excellency Madam Katalin Bogyay, President of the 36th session of the General Conference, Your Excellency Madam Eleonora Mitrofanova, Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellency Madam Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of Bulgaria, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to be here to address the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I stand here before you representing a nation that proudly considers itself a bastion of multiculturalism. Indonesia, with over 300 ethnic groups, is arguably the world’s most ethnically diverse nation. Since independence, successive generations have passionately lived by the motto *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* – “unity in diversity”. Whether one comes from the largest Javanese ethnic group or the smaller Buginese or Acehnese ethnicity, everyone has equal rights, an equal stake and equal ownership in the grand Indonesian family tree. Multiculturalism therefore is very much part of our national DNA, a formula for national survival and a necessary pathway for future generations.

7.3 Indonesia today is an archipelago of peace and tolerance. But this is not something that we take for granted. History is littered with examples of harmonious communities turned into sworn enemies overnight. As we step into the twenty-first century, managing diversity in the midst of rapid modernization and globalization remains for us a critical challenge today and for the future. And I believe this is also true for the rest of the community of nations. It is therefore timely that we gather today to mark the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. This declaration signifies our conviction that multiculturalism will be a driving force in the twenty-first century, a benevolent creative force that will change and shape the international system. But this, too, is not a given. When I refer to culture, I refer not just to traditional customs and folklore, but also to a whole system and sub-system of values and norms and mindsets, wisdom, technologies, ways of being and doing. And because culture is something that belongs to the soul, when peoples and cultures interact - especially on such scale and at such speed - not everything will be smooth and happy. Sensitivities abound. Frictions can erupt; sometimes, even conflict. So the question that looms large before us is this: how do we harness our rich cultural diversity to be a constructive force to foster a world of peace, justice and progress that we all yearn for? How do we ensure that the promotion of cultural diversity leads to greater democracy and better protection of human rights, and to a better balance between freedom and tolerance? It is a daunting task, but it is



all the more relevant because the cultures of the world contain many powers: the power of life and love, the power to heal, the power to build and nurture, the power of survival and the power of posterity. With the wrong approach, culture can divide; with the right approach, it can unite. And there are always surprising ways in which cultural factors can hold the key to the solution, be they in conflict resolution, in climate change, in democracy or in economic development. In climate change, for example, we in Indonesia found it prudent to go back to basics by "going green" and to intensify the protection of our rain forests, because our ancestors' way of life has always revolved around love for mother earth. In conflict resolution, we have promoted various forms of peaceful resolution by strongly factoring in local cultural considerations; for example in Aceh and Papua, and in Poso.

7.4 And in democracy, we have embarked on what some have called "the quiet revolution", the most ambitious decentralization and local elections programme that has transferred substantial political, economic and socio-cultural autonomy to the provinces and regions. Indeed, as Indonesia transforms into a vibrant democracy and an emerging economy, we have increasingly found that our rich culture is an indispensable asset. That is why my fellow Indonesians are very proud of the fact that in recent years, UNESCO has officially recognized several of Indonesia's cultural icons in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the world, namely *keris*, *wayang*, *batik* and *angklung*, after also designating the great Borobudur Temple Compounds, the Prambanan Temple Compounds and the Sangiran Early Man Site as world cultural heritage. Through me, Indonesians would like to convey to UNESCO, "Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts."

7.5 Ladies and gentlemen, we mark the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in a time of change and anxiety in the international system. Outside the walls of this building, we see the onset of a new world, a world in an uneasy process of rebirth. And in that new world, we see a rapid mental and political shift taking place – changing markets, changing nations and a changing international system. As the world unravels, one critical phenomenon stands out, one which is of relevance to both the developed and developing countries. It is called "confidence". Many have observed that in much of Europe, and in other parts of the western world, there is a trend of declining confidence - some even call it a "crisis of confidence". Governments are under severe pressure. Businesses are holding back. The youth are getting restless. Societies are gripped with anxiety and self-doubt about their future. People are bracing for short-term shocks, and shying away from long-term plans. Much of this problem of confidence stems from economic difficulties. When growth slows down, joblessness rises and costs go up, people naturally become wary. They begin to tighten their belt, spend less and worry more. I raise this issue because - as empirical evidence suggests – declining confidence could potentially impact on the issue of identity. When people become insecure, there is a temptation to raise barriers and to increasingly ask "who are we?" and "who are we becoming?" – questions that have been raised by all societies for thousands of years, with different answers. In uneasy times, in the defence of such identity, there is greater potential for societies to become more exclusive and less tolerant in cultural terms.

7.6 My humble advice, for whatever it is worth, is this: do not give in to such temptation. In fact, go the other way. In the face of difficult times, embrace openness and cultural diversity with greater determination. In the wake of growing pressures, find solutions by reaching out to one another. And in times of misfortune, be more kind and compassionate. This is what we did in Indonesia during the economic and political crisis in the late 1990s. During that transition, we thoroughly reviewed our regional and ethnic policies with all our stakeholders and made the necessary reforms to suit the new reality. And we made sure that our new-found democracy was responsive to the aspirations of our very diverse citizens. And in time, we in Indonesia overcame our crisis and our self-doubt and emerged to become the strong vibrant democracy that we are today. And not just in Indonesia, in many parts of the developing world, we see a different kind of phenomenon: a surge of confidence. To some degree, that surge of confidence stems from economic performance: high growth, a rising middle-class, less poverty, corporate success, capital gains and expanding prosperity. This new-found confidence is a healthy trend, one which we should all try to nurture. But just as we ask the developed world not to succumb to restive nationalism, the developing world must also be careful that its new-found confidence does not spark ultra-nationalism or arrogant nationalism. Just as in economics we expect the G20 to deal with financial crisis by avoiding protectionism, in the cultural sphere we also expect nations to avoid cultural exclusivism. There is always a risk when things are going too well; people tend to believe they are invincible, which can lead to inflated judgments. There is no need to exchange an inferiority complex for a superiority complex - neither of which does us any good. Indeed, in addressing economic as well as cultural challenges, the remedy is the same: greater openness and more collaboration. Indeed, in the spirit of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the challenge of our time is how best to promote and protect healthy multiculturalism worldwide. As we look across the world today, we are so delighted that in east and west, north and south, multiculturalism is fast becoming the new global "PC", the new "politically correct". All over the world, people are wearing their ethnic identity on their sleeves with pride. Being open to other cultures, and learning from them, is now generally seen as a formula for progress and success. Diversity is increasingly seen as a real asset, in politics and markets, in our schools and communities. Unfortunately, the rise of multiculturalism globally is also met with growing signs of intolerance – in both the West and the East. There are new pockets of ethnic, racial and religious tensions. And this is not necessarily confined to the poor. Intolerance also emanates from parts of the middle class and the rich. I am realistic enough to admit that in our lifetime we will not totally rid the world of bigotry, prejudice, hatred and conflict. But I am also pragmatic enough to believe that in our lifetime we can make the forces of multiculturalism, moderation and pluralism the mainstream of the world community. This is why multiculturalism should not stand alone, but should be coupled with a spirit of unity. It is not enough for cultures to occupy their rightful spaces in the socio-political stadium. When a sense of unity among cultures is lacking or missing, there will be an unhealthy disconnect among them, and multiculturalism becomes artificial or worse: conflict-bound. Thus, there must be cross-cultural efforts to respect and embrace one another as part of one big family of humanity. There must be genuine interest and sincere goodwill in cultural interactions - which form the basis of a culture of peace that is sorely needed in the international system. And this positive, united multiculturalism must be part of the new globalism that is now emerging. And as we all know, this new twenty-first century globalism will need plenty of new thinking, new ideas and new

approaches, and even new courage, to tackle the momentous issues of our time - from climate change to extremism, from globalization to food security, from infectious diseases to growing inequity. With all these challenges, I believe that to fulfil its promise, multiculturalism must also be coupled with meritocracy.

7.7 Multiculturalism is about creating a world which thrives on diversity. Meritocracy is about ensuring a world driven by equal opportunity for all. This is critically important because we are likely to see an explosion of the middle class around the world. In Asia alone, for example, it is predicted that there will be three billion additional people joining the middle class by 2050. They will be educated, they will pay taxes and have skills. They will have email accounts, bank accounts and modern digital tools. And most importantly, they will be more – not less – proud of their heritage. If we combine multiculturalism with meritocracy, we can unleash enormous creative powers that will cure many of our troubles. This is true for both the developed and the developing world. For we now have a window of opportunity to forge a new perspective on the state of the world. I say this because in the twentieth century, during the Cold War, we all lived under the dark cloud of what was called “peaceful coexistence”. Honestly, as a young military officer back then, I never liked that term. It was a passive, gloomy term driven by fear of one another. The human race should aim for far more than just the lowest common denominator of aiming to coexist. In the twenty-first century, with the bipolar world behind us and a multipolar world in the making, we have the opportunity to create a world marked by “synergized progress”. This means nations will do more than just “peacefully coexist” but we shall actually work together in synergy to achieve common progress. This world of “synergized progress” will be much more durable and dynamic than the fragile world of peaceful coexistence. And it would afford ample space for all cultures of the world to flourish, because every nation will have the opportunity to bring their cultures, along with their ideas and products, to the international arena. This is actually what we are trying to do by working towards the ASEAN Community. We are intensifying efforts to attain the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, which is a vision of a healthy regionalism which draws strength from the region's enormous diversity, in terms of religion, race and ethnicity. We are convinced that in the South-East Asia region, characterized by immense cultural and religious diversity, the best vehicle for regional cooperation and for durable peace would be an open and inclusive approach towards cultural connections. We understand full well that there can be no durable ASEAN family without mutual respect for our cultural diversity. So, as we mark the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, we must look forward with renewed purpose.

7.8 Ladies and gentlemen, let me close with this final thought. Societies have lived for too long under the divisive notion of “us and them”. It is time for us to evolve a different approach. It is time for us to evolve that “new we”. That “new we” directs us to see bridges instead of divides; to prize our common future rather than lament our troubled past. That “new we” compels us to look at those who are different from us in a profoundly new way. That “new we” shall make all of us united in diversity. Let us work together to advance that “new we” and thus remake the world anew. Thank you. *Assalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatu Illahi wa-barakatuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

## 8. The President:

Thank you, Your Excellency, for a very inspiring and thought-provoking address. We now have the pleasure of hearing His Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria. His Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of Bulgaria, aside from a long and distinguished political career, is also a scholar in his own right, as the Director of the Centre for History and Policy Studies with the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party. President Parvanov has worked actively for Bulgaria's European and Euro-Atlantic prospects, helping to lead Bulgaria into the European Union in 2007. In domestic policy, President Parvanov balances a social sensitivity with political dialogue in order to rally parties and institutions around Bulgaria's nationally strategic goals. President Parvanov is a fervent proponent of the concept of “cultural corridors” in South-Eastern Europe in the framework of the annual meetings of heads of States of the region. He graduated from the Faculty of History of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia and is married with two sons. President Parvanov, it is a pleasure to have you with us today. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

### 9.1 Mr Parvanov (President of Bulgaria)

*(Statement delivered in Bulgarian; interpretation into English):*

Madam President, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure and an honour for me to be present here to collectively celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Today we clearly see that its adoption provided the impetus for the efforts to achieve humanity's age-old dream of a world without war, without poverty, free from the fear of tomorrow. In fact, it is a platform whose vision is to create conditions for the elaboration of international and national instruments aimed at ensuring peaceful coexistence of different cultures, traditions and historic heritage. For the first time in history, commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms is seen as a guarantee of cultural diversity. The Declaration considers culture and efforts to protect cultural diversity to be an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for freedom and human dignity.

9.2 Today, as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, it is important to point out that this Declaration is not something unchanging, given once and for all. Against the background of the ongoing dynamic discussion and deepening globalization, in less than two years UNESCO prepared the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in October 2005, to which Bulgaria became a party in 2007. The objective of this new Convention is to give recognition to the distinctive nature of cultural activities as vehicles of identity and values, different from other goods and services. Under the provisions of the Convention, the Parties assume responsibility to maintain, adopt and implement policies and measures to safeguard and promote the diversity of cultural expressions, to develop and promote the free exchange and circulation of ideas and artistic achievements. However, the most important message of the Convention is the idea of reinforcing international cooperation in this area. This new stage in the activities aimed at protecting cultural diversity has brought to the forefront the link between culture and development, as well as the link between culture and international solidarity, on

the one hand, and between culture and mutual understanding, on the other hand. The Parties have assumed the responsibility not only to formally accept the ideas of the Convention and the Declaration, but also to translate them into measures and policies best suited for specific contexts, and Bulgaria has made a serious contribution in this respect. That is why I view my presence here as a recognition of Bulgaria's role as a factor of peace and stability in the Balkans, as a recognition of our concrete policies and actions in compliance with the principles of equal dignity of and respect for all cultures in the spirit of building bridges among peoples and countries until quite recently divided by conflicts and confrontations.

9.3 Ladies and gentlemen, Bulgaria is a small country. However, South-East Europe, our homeland, is the cradle of the European civilization. Three empires have left their mark on the Balkans; down the centuries, mysterious and non-literate ancient Thracians, Hellenes, Romans, Ottoman Turks, Proto-Bulgars and Slavs have created a colourful amalgamation of ideas, beliefs, languages and cultures. Time has preserved this rich cultural heritage despite the conflicts of modern times and the borders of nation-States. I can say without hesitation that cultural diversity is an indelible part of today's life and political tradition in Bulgaria. Our society is a multicultural one. For centuries we Bulgarians have lived in towns and villages side by side with Greeks, Turks, Armenians, Jews, Vlachs and Roma, people of heterogeneous traditions and cultures speaking different languages. Bulgarian people know a lot about respect and tolerance; they know how to respect others and their diversity. And not only this; we have put in place operating mechanisms for interaction among these heterogeneous population groups, mechanisms to accommodate their diversity by means of the free expression of their personal and communal identities.

9.4 Internationally, inspired by the conviction that culture is the vehicle of consent, Bulgaria has initiated and actively participated in a series of Balkan thematic summits organized with the support of UNESCO and dedicated to issues of the dialogue of civilizations, the cultural corridors in South-East Europe, cultural diversity as a bridge between the cultural heritage and the culture of the future, intercultural encounters on marine, river and lake routes in South-East Europe, management of heritage diversity and its promotion for tourism, music as a metaphor of cultural dialogue, contemporary art and reconciliation.

9.5 The message by the presidents and heads of State from South-East Europe is of special importance today with globalization endangering the diversity of languages and cultures, imposing a specific cultural model and endeavouring to dilute our values and principles by leading us back to 'thinking inside the box'. Looking back at the long way we have come from Ohrid to Belgrade, we see that the development of general political, cultural and personal relations greatly helps to overcome common difficulties and qualitatively new challenges. At the same time, the support rendered us by our friends from UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the European Commission has provided opportunities for real achievements in the efforts to further strengthen communication among artists and build a new culture, a culture of peace, using the benefits of education, media and technology. This year the Cultural Corridors in South-East Europe Project has entered a new phase. Speaking at the opening of the 9th Regional Summit of Heads of State of South-East Europe in Belgrade, the Director-General of UNESCO launched a new initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development". The initiative has received strong support from all participating States. Its objective is to unite the creative artistic forces of the region as distinct drivers of sustainable social and economic development and I am confident that we will join our efforts to contribute to its successful implementation.

9.6 Ladies and gentlemen, today we witness certain processes in some regions of the world and especially in urban areas that cause growing concern, in other words, processes of impeded communication and coexistence among different cultures, peoples and religions. However, it is not cultural differences that are usually at the core of such crises but rather underestimation or marginalization of minority cultures. These developments, should not, however, be perceived as a failure of the attempts to build multicultural societies. These phenomena can be attributed to wrong government and corporate policies, unsolved social problems, bad education as well as mental and spiritual gridlock degenerating into radical mottos and absurd political projects. Here, I hasten to point out that the world does not need any new political short-sightedness but a meaningful discussion to focus on achievements and boost economic development taking advantage of the capacities of creative industries. We should not underestimate culture as a factor of development and peace and, in my opinion, that is what our session today is really about. We are called upon to respond to those public groups and political messages that neglect the potential of coexistence of different cultures. Protection of cultural diversity is a major instrument to help us achieve balance in complicated relations among peoples and cultures. Because I am confident that when other approaches fail, culture can heal, culture can support public attitudes and political processes that help overcome wounds of the past.

9.7 Ladies and gentlemen, yes, we are different. Yes, we speak, write, think, sing and create in different languages, using various colours and techniques. Yes, the world is full of mysteries, of memory's secret places related to our forefathers and predecessors. However, in today's rich palette of cultural differences we should be able to see the most important thing about them, in other words, that these differences are the most powerful engine of modern humankind, its spirit, its heart, its driving force. Culture is not an abstract notion or an artefact created by an elitist artist. Culture creates wealth, culture helps us better understand the people around us and the world as a whole. The process will become irreversible, should we perceive cultural diversity as a precondition to preserving our identity and our civilization as such. My actions all along as a leader have always been and will always be based on tolerance, consideration of others and trust in the power of this approach. This is the only way we could make the world of the future a fairer, more peaceful and more humane place; but to make this happen, each one of us needs somebody else by their side. This is the only way for the prophetic words ascribed to Orpheus, a mythical singer, poet and musician, who lived in ancient Bulgarian lands, to come true: "The world may be conquered with a lyre, not with a sword". Thank you for your kind attention.

## 10. The President:

Thank you, Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Bulgaria. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) was unfortunately not available to join us today but wanted to deliver a message about OIF's commitment to cultural diversity. We can now watch and listen to the video statement of Mr Abdou Diouf.

*A video message from Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), is screened.*

### 11.1. M. Abdou Diouf (Organisation internationale de la francophonie – OIF)

Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, chers amis. Il y a 10 ans, aujourd'hui même, le 2 novembre 2001, la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO adoptait à l'unanimité la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle. Ce geste d'une très grande portée constituait tout à la fois un aboutissement et une étape. Un aboutissement parce que, dès 1950, à travers l'Accord de Florence pour l'importation d'objets de caractère éducatif, scientifique ou culturel, on commençait à se préoccuper de la préservation de la diversité culturelle. L'expression n'était pas encore connue, mais c'est bien de cela qu'il était question. Depuis 1950, à travers des centaines de conférences, de séminaires, et de rapports, il a été permis de développer une pensée articulée autour de cette notion. L'adoption de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle est l'aboutissement d'un long processus de structuration de la pensée que l'UNESCO a mené au fil des ans. L'adoption de cette Déclaration marque aussi une étape décisive car cet instrument énonce les principes juridiques sur lesquels l'UNESCO et la communauté internationale ont pu s'appuyer pour élaborer d'autres textes majeurs comme la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine immatériel de 2003 ou la Convention de l'UNESCO sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles de 2005. La Déclaration porte en elle toutes les valeurs humaines associées au concept de diversité culturelle. Elle affirme haut et fort que les différences, loin de nous séparer, doivent nous unir. Elle nous rappelle qu'il y a différents manières d'appréhender le monde et surtout que l'une n'est pas supérieure aux autres. Alors que la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme protège les individus et leur permet de s'épanouir dans la société qui les abrite, la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle s'intéresse à la relation entre les cultures et les peuples. Les deux concepts sont dans les faits indissociables. La Déclaration nous invite à aller à la découverte de l'autre et à le respecter pour ce qu'il est. La francophonie a toujours été sensible au dossier de la diversité culturelle et les débats au sein même de ces instances ont été très fructueux avant d'être portés à l'attention de l'UNESCO. Le soutien au multilinguisme, la reconnaissance de la notion des langues partenaires, l'appui à l'élaboration de politiques culturelles nationales sont quelques exemples qui témoignent de l'action de la francophonie.

11.2 Œuvrer à la reconnaissance et au respect de la diversité culturelle, c'est aussi travailler pour la paix, la solidarité et le développement. Justice, paix, liberté, solidarité, identité, cohésion sociale, dialogue des cultures, égalité des chances et équité : voilà des valeurs que nous inspire la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle. Beaucoup reste encore à faire, en particulier pour développer les outils de mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de 2001 et des conventions qu'elle a inspirée. C'est ce à quoi la francophonie, souvent en collaboration avec l'UNESCO, s'applique. Chaque année, des cultures disparaissent, des langues cessent d'être parlées, et chaque fois ce sont des trésors, souvent millénaires, qui sont engloutis à tout jamais dans l'océan de l'oubli. Il est de notre devoir de préserver cette diversité qui constitue une richesse pour l'humanité, tout aussi vitale et essentielle à son avenir que l'est la biodiversité. Je vous remercie.

## 12. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now introduce His Excellency Dr Nassif Hitti, Representative of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. From 1991 to 2000, Dr Hitti was the diplomatic and political Counsellor of the Secretary-General Dr Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Meguid. Since 2000, he has been the Ambassador and Representative of the Arab League in France and Permanent Observer to UNESCO. Your Excellency, it is a pleasure to welcome you today. You have the floor.

١٣,١ السيد حتيّ (جامعة الدول العربية):

أصحاب الفخامة، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، السيدات والسادة، أود بداية أن أنقل لكم تحيات الأمين العام لجامعة الدول العربية، الأستاذ نبيل العربي، الذي كان يود أن يشارك شخصياً في هذا الاحتفال بالذكرى العاشرة لإعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي لولا ظروف استدعت بقاءه في القاهرة. كما أود أيضاً في البداية أن أهنئ اليونسكو بانضمام دولة فلسطين إليها، لأن هذا الانضمام يعزز التنوع الثقافي في المنظمة، ويعبر بقوة عما تمثله اليونسكو من أهداف نبيلة تتبناها دولة فلسطين ومن مسؤوليات كبرى في هذا المجال، إذ تتطلع فلسطين إلى الانخراط في أسرة اليونسكو الدولية خدمة للأهداف المشتركة فيما يتعلق بتعزيز ودعم ونشر أهداف إعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي.

١٣,٢ السيدات والسادة، إن مسألة التنوع الثقافي واحترامه وتعزيزه تمثل تحدياً أساسياً في مطلع الألفية الثالثة، تحدياً على كافة المستويات في قريتنا الكونية. وأفضل تعبير القرية الكونية لما ينسب منها من دفة على المدينة الكونية، هذه القرية التي تشهد من جهة مسارات متسارعة ومتسابقة للعبة الحاملة للاندماج، لكافة أشكال الاندماج، بعضها محلاً أحياناً وفي حالات معينة بالتوازنات البيئية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية. كما تشهد قريتنا من جهة أخرى عملية "إحياء هوياتي" ("un réveil identitaire") على كافة مستويات الهوية في أرجاء العالم. ويعزز هذا الإحياء في بعض الحالات الخوف من المجهول والقلق على المستقبل. وهي عملية إحياء حاملة أيضاً للتمايز من خلال التأكيد على الذات حيناً، وحاملة أو مؤدية للتفكك والانطواء والتوتر أحياناً. إنني أرى، في إعلان اليونسكو العالمي بشأن التنوع الثقافي المبادئ والمقترحات الأساسية، والأهم الرؤية الشاملة لكيفية إدارة العلاقة وإحداث الانسجام المطلوب والضروري بين جدلية الاندماج والتمايز، بين جدلية المشترك والخاص، في عالم يشهد مزيداً من المشاكل المتنوعة الأسباب، التي هي وراء المحررات الداخلية قبل الخارجية والتحويلات والتغييرات المتراطة والمتداخلة أساساً، كما يشهد مزيداً من التفاعلات الدينامية على كافة الأصعدة.

١٣,٣ السيدات والسادة، صارت الهوية في عالمنا اليوم، بعد أن قلّصت العولمة بقوة، والبعض يقول إنها ألغت، عنصرَي الزمان والمكان الجغرافي، صارت الهوية بمثابة مفهوم مركب وذات مستويات متعددة هي مصدر إغناء للفرد وللجماعة. ففي هذه الهوية الخاص جداً المحلي والجامع الوطني والمشارك العالمي أو ما دون العالمي. إن مختلف الفضاءات الحضارية والثقافية والوطنية، والعالم العربي منها وفيها، تحمل فسيفساء التنوع حسب هذا المفهوم بدرجات وأشكال مختلفة، وتواجه هذا التحدي في كيفية الحفاظ على جمال هذه الفسيفساء وتعزيز هذا التنوع الذي هو مصدر غنى إذا ما أحسنت إدارته، ومصدر توتر إذا ما تم تجاهله.

١٣,٤ السيدات والسادة، يتحدث الكثيرون، أو تحدث الكثيرون بالأمس القريب عن صدام الحضارات كحتمية تاريخية متشائمة. وتحدث البعض الآخر عن نهاية التاريخ، وقد شهدنا نهاية التاريخ كحتمية متفائلة وكان تصور لفضاء حضاري أو تفوق لهذا الفضاء على الآخر. ولكن التطورات أثبتت فشل هذه النظريات. فالحضارات والهويات لا تتصارع بذاتها، بل يتصارع الناس أو يتعاونون باسمها. ولكن لا بد من التذكير والتأكيد أن التعصب والانغلاق مصدرهما دائماً الجهل والجهل بالآخر، وأن القطيعة مصدرها الانقطاع عن الآخر، وأن الجهل يدفع عادة إلى ثلاثية مخزية هي ثلاثية التعميم والاختزال والإسقاط السهل في النظرة إلى الآخر، فيؤدي ويؤسس لما يسميه البعض بصدام الجهالات أو صدام المخاوف، أو دعويي أقول صدام "الفوبيات". وبذلك يتحول بعض مشاكل التهميش الاقتصادي والإقصاء الاجتماعي، التي قد تأخذ تعبيراً هوياتياً في حالات معينة، إلى حتمية صراعية. ويُخرج هذا المنطق كل ظاهرة سلبية من خصوصيات إطارها المجتمعي والتاريخي ليعطيها طابعاً حتمياً جامداً مطلقاً وثقافياً ("culturaliste") بالتحديد. إننا اليوم، سيداتي، سادتي، أمام خيارين لا ثالث لهما، إما أن نبنى الجدران ونعمق الهوة مع الآخر من خلال تجاهله أو الخوف منه أو التخويف به، أيّاً كان هذا الآخر، أو أن نقيم الجسور، جسور التواصل والحوار للتعرف على الآخر، لمعرفة، للتأكيد على أن الاختلاف لا يعني بالضرورة الخلاف، وعلى أن التميز عن الآخر لا يعني غياب المشترك كما لا يعني التفوق الأخلاقي أو الحضاري على ذلك الآخر.

١٣,٥ سيداتي سادتي، إن الحوار مع الآخر لا يهدف إلى جعله على صورتنا أو إلى تغييره كلياً، وتجريده من خصوصياته وذاتيته، بل يهدف أساساً إلى تغيير نظرة ذلك الآخر إلينا، وفي الوقت ذاته وفي اللحظة ذاتها إلى تغيير نظرتنا أيضاً إلى الآخر من أجل هذا العمل المشترك، للتأكيد على المشترك في التنوع. إن اليونسكو اليوم تعيش تحديات ثلاث في هذا المجال، وتحديات اليونسكو كثيرة، تحديات في مجال التربية والإعلام والثقافة. كيف نساهم في المدرسة، قبل الجامعة، في التعريف وفي تعزيز ما هو مشترك إنساني، في التعرف على الآخر، في احترام التنوع والاختلاف. فالإنسان عدو ما يجهل. وهنا نتطلع إلى أهمية دور البرامج والمناهج التربوية بشكل خاص، وما يمكن لليونسكو، معنا جميعاً، أن تقدم. ولكن المطلوب توفر القرار عندنا، قبل اليونسكو، وتوفير الدعم في إطار الرؤية الواضحة لمواجهة هذا التحدي. إن تعزيز التبادل العلمي والبرامج المشتركة، وإنشاء مراكز تميز على مستويات مختلفة، يساهم بشكل أساسي في هذا المجال. وفي الإعلام وعلم الاتصال، المطلوب منا جميعاً الإسهام ضمن آليات وبرامج وصيغ مختلفة في تدريب وتمكين الإعلاميين من التعاطي مع التدفق المعلوماتي الكبير، مع المادة الإعلامية، في تطوير الخبرة للتواصل المعلوماتي والتحليلي والنقدي. وفي الثقافة، وسمحوا لي أن أتحدث بصراحة، علينا أن نقيم الحوار حول المعيش، وليس على المستوى النظري. وعلينا ديمقراطية الحوار لكيلا يظل عملاً موسميًا مغلقاً في أندية نخوية لمفكرين ومثقفين ومسؤولين. وعلينا أن نذهب إلى الآخر. وعلينا أن نُشرك ونُحَرِّط نمثلي القطاعات الحية والهياكل غير الحكومية لبناء التجربة المشتركة والتعرف على المشاكل الحقيقية.

١٣,٦ وختاماً سيداتي سادتي، إن العالم العربي الذي يعيش اليوم في خصم تحولات أساسية وتحديات جد هامة، يتطلع للمشاركة بقوة، عن طريق اليونسكو، في تعزيز مبادئ وأهداف هذا الإعلان عبر الحوار الخلاق والتفاعل البناء في كافة المجالات لتدعيم مسيرة التنمية الإنسانية. فالثقافة هي رافعة وجزء أساسي في عملية التنمية الإنسانية، بغية تأسيس السلم والعدالة والازدهار في قريتنا الكونية. وشكراً لكم.

(13.1) **Dr Hitti (League of Arab States) (translation from the Arabic):**

Excellencies, Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I should like, first of all, to convey to you greetings from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Professor Nabil El-Arabi, who wished to participate in person in this gathering on the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, but who was unfortunately detained by unforeseen circumstances in Cairo. I should also like to congratulate UNESCO on the accession to it of the State of Palestine; this accession will strengthen cultural diversity in the Organization and will give forceful expression to the noble objectives of the Organization, which the State of Palestine endorses, and to its great responsibilities in this field, for Palestine looks forward to joining the international UNESCO family in the service of its joint objectives relating to the strengthening, support and dissemination of the objectives of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

(13.2) Ladies and gentlemen, the question of cultural diversity, together with the need to respect and strengthen it, constitutes a fundamental challenge at the outset of the third millennium, a challenge at all levels in our global village. I prefer the expression "the global village" for the warmth that flows from it to the global city, this village that is seeing, on the one hand, ever more rapid marches in the direction of globalization, which entails assimilation, various forms of assimilation, some of which are sometimes and in certain cases detrimental to the environmental, social and economic equilibrium. At the same time, on the other hand, our village is undergoing a process of "awakening of identities" at all levels of identity worldwide. This awakening, at times, strengthens the fear of the unknown and anxiety about the future; it also tends to promote distinctiveness, now by stressing the self, now by encouraging or ensuring fragmentation, withdrawal into one's shell, and tension. I believe that the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity contains the basic principles and proposals we need, and most importantly, a comprehensive vision of how to manage this relationship and ensure the necessary and desired harmony in the opposition between assimilation and distinctiveness, the opposition between the common and the particular in a world which is experiencing ever greater problems having a variety of causes which underlie first internal migrations and then external migrations and the fundamentally interlinked and interlocking transformations and changes, and is also experiencing further dynamic interactions at all levels.

(13.3) Ladies and gentlemen, identity in today's world, after having strongly reduced globalization, and some say having even abrogated the twin factors of time and geographical place, has become a complex sort of concept with numerous levels which are a source of enrichment for individuals and groups. In this very special identity we find at once the local, the national-federative, and the common-global or the sub-global. Various civilizational and cultural and national spaces, and the Arab world is both of them and among them, convey a mosaic of diversity in varying degrees and shapes according to this concept, and meet the challenge of how to preserve the beauty of this mosaic and strengthen this diversity, which can be a source of wealth if properly managed, but a source of tension if ignored.

(13.4) Ladies and gentlemen, many speak, or rather until recently have spoken of the clash of civilizations as a pessimistic historical inevitability, and others have spoken of the end of history. We have seen the end of history as an optimistic inevitability and as the victory of a civilizational space or the superiority of that space over the other. But developments have demonstrated the failure of such theories have failed. Civilizations and identities do not struggle against one another in and of themselves. Rather, it is people that either struggle against each other or cooperate with each other in their own names. But, it

should be recalled and stressed that fanaticism and closed-mindedness are always rooted in ignorance and ignorance of the Other, that the origin of estrangement is being cut off from the Other, and that ignorance usually pushes people towards a terrible trilogy, the trilogy of generalizations, hasty conclusions, and facile projections of one's view of the Other, which leads or paves the way to what some call the clash of ignorances or the clash of fears, or let me say the "clash of phobias". In this way, some of the problems of economic marginalization and social banishment, which may take an identity-based form in certain cases, become a conflictual inevitability. This logic produces every possible negative phenomenon of specificities within a societal and historic framework, endowing them with an absolutely frozen and inevitable "culturalist" nature. We find ourselves today, ladies and gentlemen, faced with only two, not three, choices: either we build walls and we widen the gap between us and the Other by ignoring them or fearing them or spreading fear about them, whoever they may be, or we build bridges, bridges of communication and dialogue in order to become acquainted with the Other, to get to know them, to stress that the difference does not automatically mean conflict, and that being distinct from the Other does not mean the absence of what is common to us; nor does it mean moral or civilizational superiority over that Other.

(13.5) Ladies and gentlemen, dialogue with the Other is not aimed at remaking the Other in our own image or at completely refashioning them, stripping them of their characteristics and specificities. Rather, it is basically aimed at changing the way in which that Other sees us, and at the same time, at changing the way in which we view the Other for the sake of this joint work, and in order to stress what is common in our diversity. UNESCO is today facing three challenges in this field – and UNESCO has many challenges – in the field of education, information and culture. How should we contribute to pre-university education regarding the definition and strengthening of what is common to all humanity, regarding getting acquainted with the Other, and respect for diversity and differences? Human beings are the enemy of what they do not know. Here we see the importance of the role of the educational programmes and curricula in particular, and what UNESCO can provide, together with all of us. But what is really needed is for us to decide, rather than UNESCO, and to provide support within the framework of a clear vision for meeting this challenge. Strengthening scientific exchanges and joint programmes and establishing centres of excellence at various levels, this all helps in a fundamental manner in this field. And in information and communication, what is needed from us all is to contribute by means of various mechanisms, programmes and formulas to the training and empowerment of journalists to enable them to handle the tremendous flow of information, with media materials, in order to develop expertise in critical analytical media communication. With respect to culture, allow me to speak frankly: we need to engage in dialogue on people's everyday experience rather than at the theoretical level. We need to democratize dialogue so that it does not remain an occasional, closed action in élite clubs of thinkers, intellectuals and officials. We need to reach out to the Other. We need to actively involve representatives of the living sectors and NGOs in the building of a common experience and in familiarizing themselves with the real problems.

(13.6) In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, the Arab world, which is today undergoing a raft of fundamental transformations and challenges, looks forward to participating actively, through UNESCO, in strengthening the principles and objectives of this declaration by means of creative dialogue and constructive interaction in all fields in order to support the march of human development. Culture is a bearer and fundamental part of the human development process in order to usher in peace, justice and prosperity to our global village. Thank you.

#### 14. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your address. Ladies and gentlemen, let me now introduce our next speaker, His Excellency Mr Henri Lopes, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to France. Mr Lopes is more than a very good friend of UNESCO, as he served the Organization for many years. *Monsieur* Henri Lopes was the Secretary General of the World Conference on Cultural Policies (MONDIACULT held in Mexico in 1982 which was a landmark conference in the recognition of the role of culture in development. A senior official at UNESCO from 1981 to 1998, he served as Deputy Director-General for Culture, then Deputy Director-General of the Priority Africa Programme. Co-author of *Learning to Be* (UNESCO/Fayard), he has published seven novels and an essay. In 1993 he received the *Grand Prix de la Francophonie* of the French Academy for all his work and is currently Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to France. Your Excellency, welcome home. You have the floor, Sir.

#### 15.1. **M. Lopes (Congo)**

Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale. Votre Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République d'Indonésie, Votre Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République de Bulgarie, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, chers amis, il y a 45 ans, dans cette salle prestigieuse – à moins que ce ne soit, le temps m'a manqué pour le vérifier, dans celle du Conseil exécutif, voire de la Commission 4, qui à l'époque s'occupait des problèmes culturels — un homme prend la parole. Au début, sa voix peine à s'élever au-dessus du brouhaha qui suit l'intervention de l'orateur précédent, puis peu à peu, l'attention des auditeurs se fait plus grande, le silence est total. La barbiche tremblotante, l'homme est vêtu d'une djellaba et coiffé d'un bonnet façon tarbouche. C'est Amadou Hampaté Bâ, le sage de Bandiagara. Dans son intervention, une formule fait mouche : « En Afrique, chaque fois qu'un vieillard meurt, c'est une bibliothèque qui brûle ».

15.2 À l'époque, c'est par la presse que m'est parvenue, dans mon petit Congo, cette formule percutante, qui allait faire florès, avant d'être gravée dans l'airain. J'étais jeune et je m'apprétais à venir participer à la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. L'Organisation venait de célébrer l'adhésion de son 120<sup>e</sup> membres – aujourd'hui ils sont 195, c'est dire qu'elle a gagné en universalité et en diversité. Depuis, le temps a passé. Immodeste, il m'arrive de penser que je suis d'une certaine manière un de ces porteurs d'archives auxquels faisait allusion Amadou Hampaté Bâ. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que les lueurs de l'incendie qui me consumera rougeoient de plus en plus fortement à l'horizon. Et je pense à Amadou Hampaté Bâ et à ces vieillards devenus archives vivantes. Érudit, sage, sans doute un saint homme, Amadou Hampaté Bâ était l'exemple vivant de l'enracinement dans des valeurs traditionnelles séculaires héritées de son Mali natal, mais il était aussi le prototype de la multi-appartenance, de l'ouverture d'esprit, de la curiosité et de la tolérance. Né dans l'animisme, il était de religion musulmane et épousa une Européenne de culture chrétienne. Chaque nouvel acquis, qu'il fût d'ordre religieux ou philosophique, n'était pas pour lui prétexte à se délester de son héritage originel, mais constituait une greffe qui enrichissait le tronc fondamental. Amadou Hampaté Bâ a célébré et pratiqué le mariage des cultures.

15.3 Le texte d'Amadou Hampaté Bâ ne parle pas de diversité culturelle. Pourtant c'est de ce dont il s'agit avant la lettre. Son adresse à la communauté internationale est en réalité plus qu'un appel au secours. C'est la proposition d'une nouvelle vision de la recherche historique. Car, souvenons-nous, jusque dans les années 1960, les historiens n'accordaient crédit qu'à deux sources d'information : les documents écrits et les documents archéologiques, oubliant peut-être que les grands livres du judaïsme, du christianisme et de l'islam avaient été à l'origine des transcriptions de témoignages oraux. Les aèdes de la Grèce antique chez qui Homère puisa l'inspiration de l'Illiade et de l'Odyssée n'étaient-ils pas les ancêtres des griots africains ? La Chanson de Roland n'est-elle pas la transcription des récits du passé que trouvères et troubadours chantaient dans les cours royales et seigneuriales ? À l'époque, la déclaration d'Amadou Hampaté Bâ trouva un écho dans la communauté internationale et convainquit l'UNESCO de se lancer dans un de ses projets les plus prestigieux : *l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique*. Un ouvrage de valeur scientifique qui a servi d'appui et de référence pour l'établissement des programmes scolaires et des manuels d'histoire dans notre continent.

15.4 Cet ouvrage est une des pièces fondamentales qui a permis de modifier le regard du monde sur les civilisations africaines et a changé la perception que les Africains avaient d'eux-mêmes. Car, ne l'oublions pas, la traite négrière, tout comme la colonisation, reposent sur des postulats désobligeants pour l'Afrique et ses habitants. Un continent porteur de monstres, peuplé d'hommes et de femmes sauvages, sans histoire ni civilisation. Nous avons vécu dans notre chair, pendant des siècles, les conséquences de ces préjugés. Dans nos luttes de libération et en faveur de notre rédemption, dans notre grand projet de renaissance, nous avons invoqué les valeurs qui se trouvent maintenant contenues dans la Déclaration sur la diversité culturelle. Ce rappel n'a pas pour objet de régler des comptes ou d'ouvrir des procès hors de saison. Aujourd'hui que nous avons recouvré notre place au sein de la communauté internationale, nous portons un regard serein sur la manière dont l'Europe a pris contact avec l'Afrique. Nous sommes d'autant moins vindicatifs que nos sociétés, comme toutes les sociétés de l'histoire humaine, ont engendré à côté de nos héros, à côté des figures exemplaires et de nos sages, des tyrans, des bourreaux et des tortionnaires. Parvenus au pouvoir, des individus issus de sociétés hier asservies et exploitées sont devenus les tyrans de certains groupes appartenant à leurs propres nations. Que ce soit dans sa définition de la culture ou dans le recensement des valeurs sacrées et des droits culturels des individus, des sociétés, des communautés et des minorités, il n'y a à mon sens rien à ajouter à la Déclaration sur la diversité culturelle. Cette proclamation, et les engagements qu'elle induit, amèneront certainement à faire évoluer la sensibilité humaine. Des vexations, des blessures, des dénis des droits de la personne que nous ne percevons pas aujourd'hui paraîtront évidents aux générations futures.

15.5 La Déclaration sur la diversité culturelle est la clé de voûte de cette imposante et complexe architecture que constituent toutes les valeurs dont se réclament les projets et actions de l'UNESCO. Pour l'heure donc, plutôt que de répéter ce qui a déjà été exprimé, et bien exprimé, je voudrais me contenter d'une remarque qui est implicite dans le texte de la Déclaration, mais mérite à mon gré d'être explicitée et soulignée. J'ai personnellement apprécié la métaphore de Mme la Présidente de la Conférence générale qui a comparé la culture à un fleuve. La culture est l'assise de tout projet humain et non le dernier maillon d'un chaînon. La culture n'est pas non plus un luxe dont on n'aurait le droit de goûter les fruits qu'une fois résolus les autres problèmes de la société. La culture n'est pas un épiphénomène de la vie. La culture est le point de départ, la culture est le fondement de la paix ; la culture est le fondement d'une meilleure appréciation réciproque des individus, des groupes sociaux, des communautés et des nations ; la culture est le fondement de la tolérance. La culture est le fondement de la loi, de la justice et du respect mutuel ; la culture est le fondement de la vie politique, dans son projet comme dans son exercice. La culture est la base de notre attitude vis-à-vis de notre environnement, la base d'une organisation économique, saine, équilibrée et juste. La mondialisation devrait avoir pour règle d'or les principes de la Déclaration sur la diversité culturelle.

15.6 Or, combien d'hommes politiques, combien d'entrepreneurs, combien de syndicalistes, combien de dirigeants d'association ont le courage de mettre cette évidence en tête de leurs déclarations, de leurs programmes, de leurs actions ? Quiconque ose le mentionner est accueilli par un sourire de pitié et un haussement d'épaules. J'ai écrit mon texte avant d'avoir entendu l'intervention de M. le Président de la République d'Indonésie qui, elle, est au contraire l'illustration de ce que je souhaite.

15.7 Comment donc transformer notre humanité, si bien représentée dans cette enceinte, non plus en délégations cloisonnées et soucieuses de défendre leurs intérêts propres, mais en partenaires disposés à dialoguer entre eux et à se transformer ? Car tout dialogue, toute négociation suppose non seulement la volonté de convaincre et de faire bouger l'autre pour le rapprocher de moi, mais aussi la capacité de bouger moi-même et de faire un, plusieurs pas, vers l'autre. En d'autres termes, l'un des plus grands défis qui se pose maintenant à l'UNESCO, et plus encore à la communauté internationale, n'est pas d'amender le texte, mais de traduire les principes de la Déclaration sur la diversité culturelle en méthodes, en projets, en actes concrets. Comment rendre visible, tangible et sensible ce qui, bien que d'une efficacité indéniable, demeure encore du domaine de l'impalpable ? Et quand cela sera, il s'agira de se doter des moyens de notre action. Ne nous le cachons pas, il s'agit bien de déplacer les montagnes. Car comment obtenir que les sommes colossales consacrées à financer les instruments de destruction et les guerres, ou mobilisées pour la publicité et des loisirs frivoles, pour les jeux du cirque et les dieux du stade, comment faire pour que ces sommes puissent être réorientées, sinon dans leur totalité, du moins dans une proportion significative, vers ce que nous nous accordons tous à considérer comme la source du développement harmonieux et humain de notre planète ?

15.8 La tâche est titanique, peut-être surhumaine. Ma grand-mère, qui ne savait ni lire ni écrire était polyglotte. Quand nous parlions dans sa langue – ma langue –, l'étudiant que j'étais se sentait emprunté ; elle devenait Socrate et moi l'analphabète. La culture de ma grand-mère puisait sa source dans l'oralité. Moi, c'est par la lecture que j'ai pris conscience de mes multiples appartenances : mon identité originelle, mon identité internationale, mon identité personnelle. Mon travail culturel a consisté à assumer et à approfondir ce trésor. Ma personnalité s'est modelée, s'est affinée, en lisant Platon, Montaigne et Shakespeare, en écoutant Mozart et Beethoven, en restant des heures devant La Joconde ou Guernica, autant que devant les masques batékés ou des sculptures dogons. Les créateurs de ces œuvres

ne me connaissent pas et pourtant j'avais l'impression qu'ils les avaient produites pour moi : pour me dessiller les yeux, pour soigner mon âme, pour me sculpter, pour me rendre polyglotte. Pour ne plus me sentir perdu à l'étranger, pour me reconnaître dans l'étranger qui frappe à ma porte et demande à prendre ma fille en mariage.

15.9 Aujourd'hui, je crains que mes petits-enfants ne tournent le dos à la lecture. Ils sont séduits par l'électronique, sont sous l'emprise de la communication, du monde de l'immédiat et sont démunis de la connaissance qui donne le sentiment de l'histoire, de l'altérité, de l'humanisme, de la profondeur de la culture telle que nous la connaissons. Que faire ? Que pouvons-nous faire ? Que peut faire l'UNESCO ? Non pour nous opposer au tsunami culturel qui porte en lui les nouvelles technologies de la communication, mais, pour utiliser cette nouvelle donne afin d'ensemencer et de féconder notre rêve commun. L'individu isolé n'apportera pas de réponse. L'UNESCO, en revanche, dans sa diversité, le peut. Et l'UNESCO, c'est plus que le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, c'est vous tous, Mesdames et Messieurs.

15.20. Je veux dire par là que, comme le dit la fable de La Fontaine, un trésor est caché dans la Déclaration universelle sur la diversité culturelle. Il s'agit de ne pas laisser cette matière en friche mais de la labourer, de la cultiver, de l'ensemencer. Car un texte normatif constitue un cadre ; il n'est pas un acte. Les plus belles déclarations, les conventions les plus complètes, les lois les plus justes, représentent davantage les vœux de leurs auteurs que la réalité. Or, c'est la réalité qu'il s'agit d'amender et de transformer. Pardonnez mon impertinence.

#### 16. **The President:**

Thank you very much indeed, Your Excellency *Monsieur* Henri Lopes. It has been a great honour and privilege to listen to you. Ladies and gentlemen, let me now introduce our final speaker, His Excellency Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Argentina to UNESCO. Miguel Angel Estrella, one of Argentina's most prestigious classical pianists, has led a lifelong campaign for the popularization of music among the poorest groups in society. Miguel Angel Estrella was designated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador in 1989. He is the founder of *Musique Espérance*, a foundation that aims at improving access to music for all people, defending human dignity and inspiring communities. The Orchestra for Peace, composed of young Arab and Israeli musicians, was created by Mr Estrella and has given concerts in France and Luxembourg to promote UNESCO's ideals and objectives. In 2000 Miguel Angel Estrella received the Nansen Prize, the United Nations Prize for the Three Americas. It is an honour to have you here, Your Excellency, and you have the floor.

#### 17.1 **Sr. Estrella** (Argentina):

Muchas gracias. Ya saben que no soy muy protocolar, soy un hombre que toca el piano, y estoy feliz de este momento de memoria que tenemos con respecto a la diversidad cultural. Para mí, además de todas las cosas que dijiste, Henri López, que es la cultura, para mí es la cosa más íntima que tenemos los seres humanos, ¿no? Y esa intimidad es la que nos puede llevar a buen puerto, siempre que reconozcamos lo mejor que tiene esa intimidad. Bueno, mujeres y hombres que han hablado esta mañana han expresado lo mejor que tiene el alma, pero sabe Dios lo difícil que es poner en práctica eso, ¿no? Es decir, que todo el mundo tenga derecho a su identidad, que todo el mundo tenga derecho a la educación, que todo el mundo tenga derecho al trabajo. Los que tenemos una posición privilegiada en esta sociedad a veces no nos damos cuenta de la humillación que significa no tener trabajo. Tú Eleonora, como tú Irina, evocaban hace un rato la cultura y el desarrollo, pero ¿para quiénes? Para todo el mundo, digo yo. Y eso es lo difícil, porque a mí me tocó de muy joven, adolescente, empezar a ocuparme de los pobres de Argentina, más tarde de Paraguay, de Bolivia, y me era muy difícil, porque yo les decía: "Pero tienen que crear cooperativas, no se dejen engañar por los que ganan dinero con el trabajo de ustedes". Y un gran líder político de Argentina me dijo: "Con tanto fuego no vas a conseguir nada, tienes que bajarte del caballo, ponerte a la altura de los campesinos, de los indígenas y hablando horizontalmente vas a conseguir movilizarlos".

17.2 Yo creo que ese fue un gran consejo que recibí en mi juventud, y lo que les voy a contar ahora tiene que ver con las cosas que Eleonora, Irina, también tú Presidente de Indonesia, han evocado. Me gustó mucho la expresión del "nuevo nosotros" que tenemos que buscar, ese "nuevo nosotros" yo lo he buscado en las poblaciones originarias de América Latina. He aprendido muchísimo con los indígenas y un día, por pedido de Jorge Semprún, un gran escritor y un gran pensador también, que me pidió: "Escríbeme algo sobre América Latina para los festejos del V Centenario", y escribí "La voz de los sin voz". Y dividí toda América Latina y el Caribe no en el mapa político sino en el mapa cultural, en todo lo que nos une a los pueblos latinoamericanos. Y bueno eso, ese programa fue elegido y, cuando me tocó representar a mi país en esta casa que quiero tanto, presenté a la UNESCO a principios del 2004 "La voz de los sin voz", pero como un programa cultural del MERCOSUR, es decir, empezar por poco para llegar después a abarcar toda América Latina. Bueno, en América del Sur, una región cultural, por ejemplo, que nace en el sur, en Chile, en Argentina, sigue por Bolivia, Perú, Colombia, Ecuador y llega hasta Venezuela, fíjense, es la misma cultura. Y así he ido organizando ir a con algunos expertos a escucharlos, a hablar, a hacer música, bailar y ofrecernos los rituales que tienen para cada cosa, porque en los pueblos indígenas hay una sabiduría antiquísima milenaria, entonces te dicen: "No, pero esa canción sobre las flores, no te la puedo cantar ahora porque hay que esperar que sea la primavera". Hay rituales de una cultura muy íntima y que está ligada a la tierra, que está ligada al respeto de la tierra, a la gratitud hacia la tierra que nos da de comer.

17.3 Bueno, la UNESCO adoptó este programa inmediatamente en el 2004 y se reunió a todos los embajadores de Sudamérica y echó a andar. Entonces elegimos de cada cultura los emergentes más talentosos de ese mundo riquísimo en cultura y pobrísimo materialmente. Son los pobres de Sudamérica, los que no tienen voz. Y el entonces Director de la UNESCO viajó a Argentina para presentarlo internacionalmente y presentamos unos 150 emergentes sudamericanos en el teatro más sofisticado de Argentina, que es el teatro Colón en Buenos Aires —nuestra Scala de Milán en Buenos Aires— y ese público muy selecto estaba hechizado por lo que veía en ese escenario. Toda la sabiduría con que transmitían los payadores uruguayos o argentinos la sensualidad de las danzas paraguayas, los cantores venezolanos, los bailes brasileños. Recuerdo que cuando terminó este acto, todos esos 150 artistas populares fueron saliendo por



medio del público y todo el público los siguió hasta una plaza, afuera del teatro y se pusieron a bailar y a cantar con estos músicos ignotos, desconocidos. Y hemos hecho ya unas 18 muestras, de seleccionar emergentes talentosos y mostrarlos, no solamente de las comunidades originarias, sino también de otras culturas populares pero que no son milenarias, son más actuales, el tango, por ejemplo, que nació a fines del siglo XIX.

17.4 Y hemos incorporado también la negritud, porque los africanos que llegaban a Sudamérica, o a toda América Latina, llegaban como esclavos, y ellos participaron en las luchas por la independencia hace dos siglos y se volvieron libres en América Latina. Y hay cosas maravillosas: en Bolivia, por ejemplo, me encontré con una comunidad negra que hablan y se visten como indígenas aimaras o quechuas, pero todo lo que es su música, su danza, sus rituales, tienen que ver con sus pueblos originarios, y ellos quieren guardar esa memoria antiquísima que los une a esa identidad, a esa parte de su identidad, que es la raza. Bueno, decirles lo que pasa en los ocho días que esa cantidad de personas que nunca han viajado, que nunca han visto un avión de cerca... Los encuentros son maravillosos, porque se entienden y quieren saber cómo haces para que la guitarra suene de tal modo, cómo haces con tal aerófono, cómo haces con estos pasos de baile, es decir, viven en nosotros, viven en plural, como decía mi madre que era maestra, una maestra campesina. Bueno, no los quiero cansar más. Estoy feliz de haber participado, muy honrado, he aprendido muchas cosas de todos ustedes y sigamos construyendo esa diversidad cultural que tiene que ver con que estemos juntos siempre. Se los digo por experiencia, no soy un niño y me doy cuenta que los proyectos más ambiciosos socialmente no son tan fáciles de ponernos de acuerdo y en cosas fundamentales como la paz. Bueno acá en esta misma sala, hace dos días vivimos un hecho que considero histórico y que hemos dejado... Hay una expresión en francés para eso. Bueno, hemos perdido algunas cosas que espero que no sean definitivas, porque como decía Irina ese día: "En la UNESCO tenemos que estar todos, todos, todos, remando para un mundo mejor". Gracias.

(17.1) **Mr Estrella** (Argentina) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you. As you already know, I am not a man of protocol, I am a pianist, and I am delighted to be here with you to share this memorable occasion dedicated to cultural diversity. In addition to everything that you have said, Mr Henri Lopes, about culture, for me, it is the most intimate part of human beings. We can bring this intimacy to fruition - as long as we recognize the very best it has to offer. The women and men who have spoken this morning have expressed the very best of that which emanates from the soul, but God knows how difficult it is to make this happen. That is to say, everyone has the right to his or her identity, everyone has the right to education and everyone has the right to work. Sometimes, the more privileged of us in society do not realize the humiliation that comes with being out of work. You Eleonora, and you too Irina, spoke a short while ago of culture and development, but for whom? Well I say for everybody. And this is the difficult thing. I began at a young age, as an adolescent, helping the poor of Argentina, and later of Paraguay and of Bolivia, and it was extremely difficult for me because I would say to them: "You must organize yourselves into cooperatives and not allow yourselves to be duped by those who are making money from your work". A great political leader in Argentina once said to me, "With so much fire you will not achieve anything; you must get down off your high horse and talk to the farmers and the indigenous people at their level. That is how you will mobilize them".

(17.2) I believe this was great advice that I received when I was young, and what I am about to tell you now is related to what Eleonora, Irina and the President of Indonesia have spoken about. I am very fond of the expression "*neuvo nosotros*", a "new we" that we must go out and search for. I went looking for this "new we" in the indigenous populations of Latin America. I learned a great deal with these populations. One day, Jorge Semprún, a great writer and thinker, said to me, "Write something for me on Latin America for the 500th Anniversary Celebrations", and I wrote "The voice of the voiceless" (*La voz de los sin voz*). I divided the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean - not by political borders, but by cultural ones - into everything that unites the Latin American peoples. The programme was selected, and when I began representing my country in this Organization that I cherish so dearly, I presented "The voice of the voiceless" to UNESCO. That was at the beginning of 2004. I presented it as a Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) cultural programme. In other words, it started as something very small and went on to cover the whole of Latin America, well, South America, a cultural region, for example, something which originates in the South, in Chile, in Argentina, spreads to Bolivia, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador and reaches right up to Venezuela, as I said, it is the same culture. So, I arranged to travel with a few experts and listen to the indigenous people, and talk, and make music, and dance and savour the rituals that they have for every occasion, because the indigenous populations have wisdom that has been passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years. They will say, for example, "No, we cannot sing you this song about flowers now - we have to wait until the spring". There are rituals from a very intimate culture that are linked to the earth, to the respect and gratitude for this earth, the provider of our food.

(17.3) UNESCO adopted the programme immediately in 2004 and all the ambassadors from South America met and we set off. For each culture we selected the best undiscovered talent from a world that is so rich in culture but so poor materially. These are South America's poor, South America's voiceless. The former Director-General of UNESCO travelled to Argentina to present it internationally and 150 of South America's newly discovered artists performed at Argentina's most sophisticated theatre, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, our "Teatro alla Scala" - and the very select public was enchanted by what they saw on the stage. All the wisdom with which Uruguayan or Argentinian *payadores* (gaucho minstrels) conveyed the sensuality of Paraguayan dances, Venezuelan songs, Brazilian dances. I remember that when the event concluded, all 150 artists paraded out of the theatre through the public, and the public followed them out into a square outside the theatre, and started dancing and singing together with these entirely unknown, undiscovered musicians. We put on another 18 performances, selecting and giving a voice to talented emerging musicians and dancers, not only from indigenous communities but also from other, more modern, popular cultures - the tango, for example, which emerged at the end of the nineteenth century.

(17.4) The Afro-descendant community was also included in the programme, because Africans that had arrived in South America, all across Latin America in fact, had arrived as slaves and had taken part in the struggle for independence two centuries ago, to become free in Latin America. We discovered amazing things: in Bolivia, for example, I met an Afro-descendant community that talked and dressed like the indigenous Aymara or Quechua people, but their music, their dance and their rituals all stemmed back to their original African roots, and they wanted to preserve this age-old memory that unites them with this identity, with this part of their identity, their race. Well, I cannot tell you what happened in those eight days with so many people who had never travelled, who had never seen a plane close up. Encounters like these are amazing, because everyone gets along, and everyone wants to know how to make a guitar play in a particular way, or what to do with a particular wind instrument, or how to do a particular dance step. In other words, people are living together, embracing their pluralism, as my mother, who was a rural teacher, used to say. Right, I do not wish to tire you any further. I am delighted to be participating,

and very honoured. I have learned a great deal from all of you and we must continue to construct this cultural diversity in order to remain united. I tell you this through experience, I am not a child and I am aware that it is not easy to agree on projects with great social ambition and such fundamental matters as peace. Here, in this very room, only two days ago, we witnessed an incident that I consider to be historical. We have lost some things, which I hope will not be definitive, because as Irina said earlier today, "at UNESCO we must all, all, all work together for a better world". Thank you.

18. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Ambassador Estrella. We have indeed had a remarkable session here this morning. The esteemed and honourable guests have taken us through a remarkable journey, a profound and revealing dialogue indicating that in just ten years the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity has had a significant impact on the global discourse on the role of culture in promoting peace, fostering sustainable development and attaining various developmental objectives, and certainly cultural diversity continues to shape cultural policies around the world. In the face of unrelenting globalization, this Declaration has indeed elevated us to a new level of relevance and significance. It has the potential to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between different peoples and cultures that are coming into contact with increasing frequency and intensity. We all thank you. You are truly the most eloquent ambassadors of cultural diversity and of our common heritage. Ladies and gentlemen, our guests will now leave us and we will continue with the examination and adoption of the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/51. I would like to thank Your Excellencies once again for the remarkable morning meeting that we have all had the pleasure of attending.

*The meeting is suspended briefly while the Director-General and her guests withdraw from Room I.*

19. **The President:**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, before we turn to the consideration of the resolution contained in document 36 C/51 Add. & Corr., I would like to acknowledge the presence of the former Ambassador of the Russian Federation and one of the authors of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Mr Sidorov was the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation. He is a writer, a member of the Russian Union of Writers, and was Ambassador of the Russian Federation to UNESCO in the year 2000. Mr Sidorov, we would request you to take the floor and make some brief comments. You have the floor, Sir.

20.1 **г-н Сидоров (Российская Федерация):**

Госпожа Председатель, Ваши Превосходительства, коллеги, конечно, это замечательный праздник, но одновременно существует очень много проблем, о которых нельзя забывать даже в самые праздничные дни. Я очень рад, что Декларация существует, и что ЮНЕСКО – именно та Организация, где надо говорить о тех проблемах культуры, которые беспокоят весь многоязычный разнообразный мир.

20.2 Мне кажется, что сегодня мало кто из ученых, социологов, культурологов, историков сомневается в том, что культура переживает серьезный кризис, связанный с изменением парадигмы мирового общественного развития. Не все знают, что глобализация требует унификации, но для культуры унификация чревата нередко уничижением, или, по крайней мере, резким снижением уровня в сторону массовидности, стандартизации, упрощения смысла. Эти процессы характерны и для России, и для других стран, и для Европы, а для Европы особенно наглядны как раз в силу того, что этим процессам предшествовала многовековая динамичная, богатая, цветущая культура, имеющая источником древнегреческую и христиано-иудейскую традицию. Россия при всех восточных вкраплениях, безусловно, принадлежит к этой ветви интеллектуально-духовного развития человечества.

20.3 Широко известная дихотомия Шленгера «культура цивилизаций» сегодня уже не работает и является чисто историческим переживанием. Цивилизация давно поглощает культуру, а вместе с ней и человека – носителя культурно-национального кода, передаваемого из поколения в поколение. Разве не видно, что экономический прагматизм, вытеснение гуманитарного начала из общественной жизни стали повседневной практикой и политикой? Я уже не говорю о военных конфликтах, терроризме, религиозной нетерпимости, криминализации жизни. Большая опасность также исходит от спекулятивного коммерческого приспособления культуры для огромных масс с помощью новых информационных технологий.

20.4 Борьбаться против этого процесса так же бессмысленно, как раньше было следовать луддитам в их борьбе с позднесредневековой модернизацией производства. Как показывает мировая практика, культурная политика может быть направлена лишь на оптимизацию и смягчение возможных негативных последствий, которые влекут за собой стандартизацию, разрушение наследия, сокращение удельного веса классики художественной жизни общества, угрозу инновационным процессам, рассчитанным на дальнюю перспективу, и т.д.

20.5 Эпоха постмодерна, в которую вступило человеческое сообщество, вызвала невиданную прежде атаку визуальной культуры, которая занимает все большее место и вытесняет традиционные институты. Но культура – не спортивное соревнование, не отмена, а сложное сосуществование пластов, модернизация традиций, я подчеркиваю – модернизация традиций прежде всего.

20.6 У нас в ЮНЕСКО любят поговорить, как ликвидировать нищету и неграмотность с помощью новых информационных цифровых технологий, но ведь только чуть более 10% от общего населения Земли имеет доступ к сетям, а неграмотных в процентном отношении стало даже больше. Почти каждый шестой сегодня не умеет читать и писать. Так вот, кино не отменяет театр, а ведь были пророчества о гибели театра в эпоху кинематографа. Телевизор не отменил книгу. «Глобальная деревня» Маклюэна, о которой здесь вспоминали, такой же миф, как и всемирное коммунистическое братство. Я вспоминаю, как крупнейший представитель постмодернистской культуры Умберто Эко, с которым я беседовал не так давно на эту тему, замечательно говорит: «Совершенно незачем вытеснять старое новым. Это всеобщий закон. У нас есть и то, и другое, слава Богу... Не надо противопоставлять визуальную и виртуальную коммуникацию, надо совершенствовать и ту, и эту».

20.7 Точно так же мультикультурализм совершенно не виноват как идея в том, что он неправильно живет. Тут важна не сама идея, а важно применение идеи в том или ином обществе. И поэтому неотменимость слова, буквы (буквально по «Евангелию от Иоанна») есть мощный аргумент в защиту культурной визуальности, которая претендует на глобальное первенство. Сегодня общество и его отдельные члены, граждане остаются во власти чисто техницизма и глобального рынка без воздействия со стороны культуры. А и рынок, и техника начинают функционировать только в своих интересах, а не в интересах человека. Это тоже надо признать со всей определенностью. И примеры есть повсюду – и в Азии, и в Европе, и в Африке, и в Соединенных Штатах.

20.8 Отсутствие внятности – вот еще одна проблема (я сейчас заканчиваю); отсутствие внятных стратегических стимулов и критериев искажает правильную оценку культуры прошлого наследия. Современный человек загнан в глобальное технологическое гетто, где культура, в лучшем случае – это музей подарков прошлого, почти не стимулирующий развитие, современность. Но подобный процесс не может продолжаться до бесконечности. Душа будет проситься на свободу в самых неожиданных местах и проявлениях, протестуя, создавая новую подпольную реальность, готовя культурный взрыв невиданной силы, объединяя людей в некое новое гуманитарное единство.

20.9 Боюсь, к несчастью, через войны и техногенные катастрофы, но сначала надо пройти до конца национальную стадию возрождения культуры в условиях постмодерна, ибо без сохранения и утверждения идентичности никакой дальнейшей культурно-цивилизационный синтез невозможен, как невозможно и подлинное культурное разнообразие. Ведь цель культурного разнообразия – единство, человеческое единство на более высоком уровне. Спасибо вам. Желаю всем добра и счастья.

(20.1) **Mr Sidorov** (Russian Federation) (*translation from the Russian*):

Madam President, Excellencies, colleagues, of course this is a wonderful celebration, but at the same time there are a great many problems which we must not forget even on a day like this. I am delighted that the Declaration exists and that UNESCO is precisely the Organization where we should talk about the cultural problems that are of concern to the whole multilingual, diverse world.

(20.2) It seems to me that not many academics, sociologists, culture experts and historians are in any doubt that culture is undergoing a serious crisis, connected with the shifting paradigms of global social development. Now everybody knows that globalization requires unification, but for culture, unification is fraught with frequent perils or, at the least, a sharp fall in the levels of mass-media output, with standardization and simplification of meaning. These processes are typical of Russia, of other countries and of Europe. In Europe they are particularly obvious because what existed before was a centuries-old dynamic, rich, flourishing culture with roots in the Ancient Greek and Judeo-Christian traditions. Russia, of course with various Eastern elements, belongs to this branch of mankind's intellectual and spiritual development.

(20.3) Schlesinger's widely-known dichotomy between culture and civilization no longer works and is a purely historical legacy. Civilization has been absorbing culture for a long time now, along with individuals who convey the cultural and national codes handed down from generation to generation. Is it not clear that economic pragmatism, and the ousting of the humanitarian basis from the life of society, have become everyday practice and policy? This is not to mention armed conflict, terrorism, religious intolerance and the increase in criminality. Great danger, too, stems from the speculative, commercial adaptation of culture for the masses at large with the help of the new information technologies.

(20.4) Fighting against this process is as mindless as it was to follow the Luddites in the fight against the nineteenth-century modernization of industry. As world practice shows, cultural policy can seek only to optimize and mitigate the possible negative effects that bring with them standardization, the destruction of heritage, the lessening influence of the classics in society's artistic life, the threat to innovative processes with a long-term perspective, and so on.

(20.5) The postmodern era in human society has engendered an unprecedented attack on visual culture, which occupies an ever-growing place and is replacing traditional institutions. Culture, though, is not a sports competition. It is not the abolition but the complex coexistence of layers, the modernization of traditions: I repeat, it is above all the modernization of traditions.

(20.6) At UNESCO, we like to talk about how to eradicate poverty and illiteracy with help from new information technologies, but in reality only slightly more than 10% of the total world population has access to the Internet, and of the illiterate population the proportion is even lower. Almost every sixth person today cannot read or write. So, cinema did not replace the theatre despite the predictions about the dire fate of the theatre in the era of film. Television has not replaced the cinema. Marshall McLuhan's "global village", which has been mentioned here, is the same myth as the myth of the worldwide communist brotherhood. I remember that great representative of postmodern culture, Umberto Eco, with whom I discussed the matter recently, saying, quite rightly, that "there is no point at all in replacing the old with the new. This is a general law. We have both, thank God ... There is no need for opposition between visual and virtual communication, they must both be perfected".

(20.7) So multiculturalism itself is in no way guilty as an idea, but it is not experienced in the right way. What is important here is not the idea itself, but rather the application of the idea in a given society. Therefore, the irreplaceable nature of the word, the letter (literally according to the Gospel according to John) is a powerful argument against a visual culture which aims for global primacy. Today society and its individual citizen members are often in thrall to technology and the global market, with culture having no impact. Both the market and technology are starting to operate only in their own interests, and not in the interests of humanity. This, too, must be very clearly acknowledged. There are examples of it everywhere – in Asia, Europe, Africa and the United States.

(20.8) The absence of distinctiveness is another problem (and I am now reaching my conclusion); the absence of distinctive strategic stimuli and criteria distorts the correct assessment of the culture of past heritage. People today have been herded into a global technological ghetto where culture, in the best of cases, is a museum of gifts from the past which barely stimulates development or modernity. This kind of process, though, cannot continue indefinitely. Our souls will cry freedom in the most unexpected places and ways, protesting, forging a new underground reality, preparing a cultural explosion of unprecedented force, joining people in some sort of new humanitarian unity.

(20.9) I fear, unfortunately, that through war and human disasters, we must first pursue the national stage of cultural reawakening in postmodern conditions to its end. However, without safeguarding and upholding the identity of remote cultural

and civilizational systems that is impossible, as impossible as original cultural diversity. After all, the purpose of cultural diversity is unity, humanity's unity at the highest level. Thank you. I wish you all well, and wish you all happiness.

21. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Sidorov. Distinguished delegates, let us now proceed with our business. Allow me to remind you that voting for elections to the Executive Board is taking place in Room X until 1 p.m.

*Draft resolution contained in document 36 C/51 Add. and Corr.*

*Projet de résolution figurant dans le document 36 C/51 Add. et Corr.*

*Proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento 36 C/51 Add. y Corr.*

*Проект резолюции, содержащейся в документе 36 C/51 Add. и Corr.*

*مشروع القرار الوارد في الوثيقة ٥١/م٣٦ هـ ضميمه وتصويب*

*第 36 C/51 Add. & Corr. 号文件所载决议草案*

22. **The President:**

We will now turn to the consideration of the resolution contained in document 36 C/51 Add. & Corr. As you know, this resolution replaces the one contained in paragraph 8 of document 36 C/51. May I request that the Secretary to the General Conference read out the amendments that have been proposed?

23.1 **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Madam President. Yes, in addition to the modified text that was circulated as a new consensus text under reference 36 C/51 Add. & Corr., dated 1 November, which has been distributed, we have received amendments from France and Denmark supported by Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Grenada, Italy, Malta and Saint Lucia; they are minor amendments, which I shall read out slowly so that you can note them.

23.2 First of all, in the fourth preambular paragraph beginning "*Reaffirming* UNESCO's global commitment", add two words before "cultural diversity" and the two words are "human rights"; followed, of course, by a comma. The second amendment, in the second operative paragraph beginning "*Invites* the Director-General", subparagraph (a), we have a deletion after the words "normative level". Delete: "through the standard-setting tools relating to culture and cultural diversity." Thank you, Madam President.

24. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Distinguished delegates, I now present to you for adoption the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/51 Add. & Corr. as verbally amended. I see no objections and no amendments being proposed. *It is so decided.* Thank you. I would like to thank you all for a very interesting and enriching meeting here this morning and for the adoption of the draft resolution marking the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

**Announcements**

**Annonces**

**Anuncios**

**Сообщения**

**إعلانات**

**通知**

25. **The President:**

As you know, distinguished delegates, the vote for the election of the Members of the Executive Board has taken place this morning and will be finishing in about 15 minutes; the ballots should be cast by 1 p.m. The plenary meeting will be called for this afternoon as soon as the vote counting is done in order to inform the General Conference of the results of the vote. Please be attentive to the screens and the loudspeakers; the time of the plenary will be widely announced. Mr Secretary, you have an announcement to make.

26. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci Madame la Présidente. Dans le prolongement de la séance plénière spéciale de ce matin, vous aurez le plaisir ce soir, à 20 h 30, dans cette même Salle I, d'assister à un spectacle organisé, comme cette séance qui s'achève, dans le cadre de la commémoration du 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle. Mis sur pied en partenariat avec la Fondation culture et diversité de l'Ambassadeur de bonne volonté Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, le programme de ce spectacle prévoit une quinzaine de prestations artistiques diverses, issues de toutes les régions du monde. Toutes les délégations y sont bien entendu cordialement invitées. Je vous remercie.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much, and with that I would like to announce that *the meeting is adjourned.* Thank you very much and enjoy your lunch.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 45*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45*

*Заседание закрывается в 12.45*

*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٢,٤٥ بعد الظهر*

*会议于 12 时 45 分结束*

# Fourteenth plenary meeting

Wednesday 2 November 2011 at 5.35 p.m.

President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

later: **Ms Sol de Pool** (El Salvador)

# Quatorzième séance plénière

Mercredi 2 novembre 2011 à 17 h 35

Présidente: **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

puis : **Mme Sol de Pool** (El Salvador)

# Decimocuarta sesión plenaria

Miércoles 2 de noviembre de 2011 a las 17.35

Presidente: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

después: **Sra. Sol de Pool** (El Salvador)

# Четырнадцатое пленарное заседание

среда 2 ноября 2011 г. в 17.35

Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

затем: г-жа **Соль де Поль** (Сальвадор)

# الجلسة العامة الرابعة عشرة

الأربعاء ٢ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٥,٣٥ بعد الظهر

الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

ثم: السيدة **سول دو بول** (السلفادور)

# 第十四次全体会议

2011年11月2日星期三 17时35分

主席： **Bogyay** 女士(匈牙利)

随后： **Sol de Pool** 女士(萨尔瓦多)

**Report of the General Committee**  
**Rapport du Bureau de la Conférence**  
**Informe de la Mesa de la Conferencia**  
**Доклад Президиума**  
**تقرير مكتب المؤتمر العام**  
**总务委员会的报告**

**1. The President:**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the fourteenth plenary meeting. I am afraid my voice has still not recovered, but I hope it will have by the end of next week. Meanwhile, I am honoured to announce that a very good friend and Vice-President will chair this crucial meeting. I am very happy to give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Lorena Sol de Pool, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of El Salvador to UNESCO.

*Ms Sol de Pool (El Salvador) takes the Chair.*

**2.1 The President:**

Thank you, Madam President. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am indeed honoured to preside over this special meeting, at which we will announce the results of the Executive Board elections. Before we do that, I would like to inform you that the General Committee held its third meeting yesterday. The Committee heard progress reports on the work of the commissions and committees, and I am pleased to inform you that their work is fully on schedule. The Committee also discussed the inclusion of two new items in the agenda of the General Conference, under the provisions of Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure. The first item is entitled "Request for authorization to be provided to the UNESCO Executive Board, at its 189th session (Spring 2012), for approval of the proposed South Asian Centre for Teacher Development as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to be set up in Sri Lanka".

2.2 The second item is entitled "Revision of the 1981 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States". Although some members sought clarification regarding the urgent character of these items, there was strong consensus in the Committee that both items should be included in the agenda of this session, respectively becoming agenda items **5.30** and **5.31**, and placed on the agenda of the Education Commission. May I take it that the Conference agrees to add these two items to the agenda of the session? I see no objections, *it is so decided*.

2.3 Finally, let me also inform you that after hearing a report by the Chairperson of the Legal Committee on item **7.1** relating to the accession of Palestine to UNESCO conventions in the field of culture – the Committee agreed that this item had been superseded by the resolution which the General Conference adopted on Monday regarding the request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO. The Committee therefore agreed that it was unnecessary for the Legal Committee to consider this item.

**Election of Members of the Executive Board**  
**Élection des membres du Conseil exécutif**  
**Elección de miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo**  
**Выборы членов Исполнительного совета**  
**انتخاب أعضاء في المجلس التنفيذي**  
**选举执行局委员**

**3.1 The President:**

And now ladies and gentlemen, we have thus come to the highlight of today's meeting. As you all know, the election of Members of the Executive Board took place this morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room X under my supervision.

3.2 We will now proceed to communicate the results of the Executive Board elections. I invite His Excellency Mr David Hamadziripi, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, to present the results of today's ballot. We shall announce the results by electoral group, beginning with Group I. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**4.1 Mr Hamadziripi (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, Madam President of the General Conference, Director-General, I would first of all like to thank you for entrusting me with the task of reporting to the plenary of the General Conference the detailed results of the election of Members of the Executive Board. The elections took place today in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and with a considerable turn-out. Before I read out these results by electoral group, I would like to express my appreciation to the Vice-President of the General Conference, Her Excellency Ms Lorena Sol de Pool, Ambassador of El Salvador, who supervised these elections and who happens to be chairing our session this afternoon. I would also like to express my appreciation to the six tellers: Ms Teresa Salado from Portugal, Mr Eldar Bayramov from Azerbaijan, Ms Gloria Henriquez from Nicaragua, Mr Ali Hajilari from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Ronald Kaulule from Zambia and Ms Cheryl Ghostine from Lebanon for the time and effort they devoted to the electoral process. Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the Secretariat for their support and their professional conduct during the vote-counting process. Among others, I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Nominations Committee, Ms Patricia Denoyelle, Ms Rosanna Karam, Ms Marimar Marcos, Ms Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Mr Michee Detinho, Mr Ieng Srong, the Secretary of the Committee and Mr Jean-Christophe

Badaroux-Mendieta, the Legal Councillor. Ladies and gentlemen, I shall now read out, by electoral group, the detailed results of today's ballot in the election of Members of the Executive Board.

4.2 The number of Members entitled to vote at the present session was 186. Absent: 5; Abstentions: 0. Total of invalid ballot papers: 25. Group I, in which there are six seats to be filled; invalid ballot papers: 0. Names of the Member States candidates and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Austria: 170; France: 167; Spain: 165; Italy: 159; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 155; United States of America: 149. Thank you, Madam President.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. I therefore declare the following six Member States elected Members of the Executive Board: Austria, France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. We shall now turn to Group II. Please, Mr Hamadziripi. You have the floor, Excellency.

6. **Mr Hamadziripi** (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Group II, in which there are four seats to be filled; invalid ballot papers: 4. Names of the Member States candidates and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Russian Federation: 162; Czech Republic: 153; Montenegro: 150; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 142. Thank you.

7. **The President:**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I therefore declare the following four Member States elected Members of the Executive Board: Czech Republic, Montenegro, Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We shall now turn to Group III. Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

8. **Mr Hamadziripi** (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. Group III, in which there are four seats to be filled; invalid ballot papers: 5. Names of the Member States candidates and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Brazil: 160; Cuba: 159; Ecuador: 157; Mexico: 152. Thank you.

9. **The President:**

Thank you, Sir. I therefore declare the following four Member States elected Members of the Executive Board: Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico. We shall now turn to Group IV, which had six seats to be filled. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

10. **Mr Hamadziripi** (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. Group IV, in which there are six seats to be filled; invalid ballot papers: 3. Names of the Member States candidates and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Republic of Korea: 163; Thailand: 163; Indonesia: 160; Pakistan: 156; Papua New Guinea: 152; Afghanistan: 146. Thank you.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following six Member States elected to the Executive Board: Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea and Thailand. We shall now turn to Group V (a). Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12. **Mr Hamadziripi** (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. Group V (a), in which there are eight seats to be filled; invalid ballot papers: 3. Names of the Member States candidates and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Nigeria: 148; Namibia: 127; Ethiopia: 126; Mali: 125; Gabon: 119; Malawi: 114; Angola: 104; Gambia: 100; Benin: 95; Guinea: 86; Equatorial Guinea: 64; Togo: 50. Thank you.

13. **The President:**

Thank you, Mr Chairman. I therefore declare the following eight Member States elected to the Executive Board: Angola, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, and Nigeria. We shall now go to Group V (b). Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

14. **Mr Hamadziripi** (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Madam President. Group V (b), in which there are three seats to be filled; invalid ballot papers: 10. Names of the Member States candidates and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: United Arab Emirates: 144; Tunisia: 107; Saudi Arabia: 106; Jordan: 103; Libya: 36. Thank you, Madam President.

15. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following three Member States elected to the Executive Board: Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to warmly congratulate all the Member States that have been elected to the Executive Board. On behalf of the General Conference, I thank His Excellency, the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, for the good work of the Committee. It was indeed a great pleasure to work with you. Your Excellency, you have the floor. Can we have some silence, please? Thank you. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

16. **Mr Hamadziripi** (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I merely wish to offer my very warm congratulations to all the Member States that have been elected to the Executive Board and wish the others the best of luck in future elections. Thank you.

17. **The President:**

Thank you, Mr President. As I said, I wanted to thank His Excellency, the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, for the good work of the Committee. It was indeed a great pleasure to work with you. I also wish to express my appreciation to the six tellers. I think that we should have a little silence, please, so that we can thank the tellers. Please, thank you very much. The tellers: Ms Teresa Salado (Portugal), Mr Eldar Bayramov (Azerbaijan), Ms Gloria Henríquez (Nicaragua), Mr Ali Hajilari (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr Ronald Kaulule (Zambia), Ms Cheryl Ghostine (Lebanon). We appreciate all the effort they devoted to the electoral process and thank them. I will now give the floor to the Secretary for an announcement.

18. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci Madame. Madame la Présidente, suite à l'annonce faite à la neuvième séance plénière sur le droit de vote, j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que la Sierra Leone s'est acquittée du montant minimum requis pour participer aux scrutins pendant la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Merci.

19. **The President**

Thank you, Sir. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our work for today. The plenary will reconvene in one week's time to examine the reports of the commissions and committees. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9 November at 3 p.m. I wish you all a pleasant and celebratory evening. *This meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.  
La séance est levée à 17 h 55  
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55  
Заседание закрывается в 17.55  
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٥,٥٥ بعد الظهر  
会议于 17 时 55 分结束*



# Fifteenth plenary meeting

Wednesday 9 November 2011 at 3.25 p.m.  
President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Quinzième séance plénière

Mercredi 9 novembre 2011 à 15 h 25  
Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Decimoquinta sesión plenaria

Miércoles 9 de noviembre de 2011 a las 15.25  
Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Пятнадцатое пленарное заседание

среда 9 ноября 2011 г. в 15.25  
Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة الخامسة عشرة

الأربعاء ٩ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣,٢٥ بعد الظهر  
الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第十五次全体会议

2011年11月9日星期三 15时25分  
主席：**Bogyay**女士（匈牙利）

## Announcements

Annonces

Anuncios

Сообщения

إعلانات

## 通知

### 1.1 The President:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends. We have a quorum, so we will continue our plenary session. I declare open the fifteenth plenary meeting of the General Conference. We have come to the final stages of the 36th session of the General Conference. With exception of the joint meeting of commissions, all committees and commissions have concluded their work. Today and tomorrow, we will examine and adopt the reports according to the schedule adopted by the General Committee upon my proposal which has slightly changed. Indeed, there have been some last-minute changes to the agenda of the plenary. Due to the commitments of Her Excellency, Ms Alissandra Cummins, related to the preparation of the joint meeting of commissions, the report of the Administrative Commission will be examined tomorrow afternoon instead of today. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

1.2 This afternoon, we will therefore examine the reports of the Nominations Committee and the PRX Commission. Tomorrow morning, we will examine the reports by the Education, Communication and Information, Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Commissions. Finally, tomorrow afternoon, we will examine the reports of the Culture and ADM Commissions as well as of the joint meeting of commissions.

**Report of the Nominations Committee (36 C/82)**

**Rapport du Comité des candidatures (36 C/82)**

**Informe del Comité de Candidaturas (36 C/82)**

**Доклад Комитета по кандидатурам (36 C/82)**

تقرير لجنة الترشيحات (٨٢/م٣٦)

**提名委员会的报告 (36 C/82)**

### 2. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, we therefore start with the examination of the report of the Nominations Committee. I am pleased to give the floor to His Excellency, Mr David Hamadziripi, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, who will introduce the report contained in document 36 C/82. Mr Chairperson, the floor is yours.

#### 3.1 Mr Hamadziripi (Zimbabwe) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the report you have before you, document 36 C/82 reflects the proposals of the Nominations Committee concerning the nomination of an External Auditor and the composition of committees, commissions and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference, following the results of the elections held on Friday 4 November.

3.2 Madam President, once the report has been adopted by the plenary, I shall, if you wish, make my comments before the adoption of the report. *[President agrees]*. Thank you very much; I will proceed to make my comments before the adoption of the report.

3.3 At the outset, I should like to thank you for the confidence you placed in me, by assigning me this responsibility, and for your cooperation over the last three weeks in participating in the work of the Nominations Committee. This has enabled the Committee to carry out its main activities effectively, namely to organize the election of the Members of the Executive Board for the period 2011-2015, as per item 13.1, the elections of members of the various commissions, committees and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference pursuant to item 13.2 to 13.15 and the appointment of the External Auditor pursuant to item 13.16 of the agenda.

3.4 Before moving to the electoral process, I would like to inform you that South Sudan has officially informed the Director-General of its wish to belong to Group V (a) concerning the grouping of Member States for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board, what we usually call electoral groups. Electoral Group V (a), through its President, has also informed the Nominations Committee that it is in agreement with this proposal. The Nominations Committee would therefore like the plenary of the General Conference to take note of the membership of South Sudan to Group V (a) for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board.

3.5 The first item on the Committee's agenda of work right at the beginning of the session of the General Conference consisted of the submission to the General Conference of the list of nominations for the post of President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and Chairpersons of the programme commissions, the Administrative Commission and committees in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Executive Board in 187 EX/Decision 26 and 186 EX/Decision 22. The Committee then undertook to determine the nominations for consideration of the Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs who would constitute the bureaux of the General Conference.

3.6 In this regard, I would like to note the difficulty we experienced in constituting the bureaux of the various and respective commissions and committees. The Education Commission, for instance, completed its work without a Rapporteur. In the early days of our Committee's work, I felt quite lonely for lack of other members of its Bureau. On one occasion, I had to request one commission to delay the opening of its meetings as I had responsibilities to fulfil in other

commissions. Positions on the bureaux of the commissions and committees remained unfilled for a long time in spite of my appeals even prior to the opening of the session to the heads of the electoral groups to canvass their members for candidates to fill these posts. I cannot overemphasize that the efficiency and the effective working of the commissions and the committees is not solely dependent on the Chairpersons. It demands the involvement of all Member States. Perhaps we could consider asking electoral groups to propose members of the bureaux of the commissions and committees at the same time with those concerning the chairpersons of those bodies to avoid the situation we experienced at this session.

3.7 I am pleased to report that we had a very impressive turnout during the elections both for the members of the Executive Board on 2 November and for the subsidiary organs and the External Auditor on 4 November. For the Executive Board, 181 Member States out of the 186 entitled to vote in that election, participated. For the other election on 4 November, we had a lower figure of 171 Member States out of 186 entitled to vote, turning up at the polls. These figures are impressive, nevertheless, and give legitimacy to our electoral processes and their outcomes.

3.8 Nevertheless, considering that we are dealing with a literate and sophisticated electorate, I was struck by the high number of invalid ballots. In the Executive Board elections, a total of 25 invalid ballots were recorded while in the 10 elections conducted for members of the subsidiary bodies, 58 ballots were declared invalid. I have not carried out a deeper analysis to state with any certainty the cause of this phenomenon, but I would like to suggest that the Committee consider undertaking more concerted deliberate and clearer voter education exercises in future sessions.

3.9 Presently, only one voting simulation exercise is carried out for both sets of elections. Separating the simulation exercises could also be considered. In my view, no additional meetings would be necessary to accommodate extra simulation exercises should this be considered necessary or agreeable. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Committee serves as an important and essential forum for the provision and dissemination of accurate, harmonized and consistent information on the items on its agenda. Both the Member States and the Secretariat have a critical complementary role to play in this regard. The Secretariat needs timely information from Member States to include in the documents for the Committee's meetings. The Secretariat does not generate this information itself. It comes from you, the Member States. I have observed at very close quarters the hard work and long hours that the Secretariat put into the preparation of the Committee's documents. The Secretariat, for its part, must reflect the information provided by the Member States accurately and consistently in all documents.

3.10 Madam President, I would like to emphasize that due to intensive and fruitful consultations among the electoral groups, only 10 secret ballots were held out of a possible total of 74 for the elections of the subsidiary organs. This illustrates the tendency of Member States to reach an agreement in advance within the electoral groups so as to ensure that the number of candidates matches the number of seats to be filled. It enables the Committee to save on time and on other resources when considering those items when there is a clean slate. It is nevertheless regrettable that not enough candidates were received from some electoral groups for positions on two subsidiary organs, namely the Legal Committee and the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission Responsible for Seeking the Settlement of any Dispute that may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education. It is my hope that, in future, all electoral groups will fill their quota of allocated seats on each subsidiary organ.

3.11 Finally, I would like to make the following observations. First, I would like to bring to your attention the issue of seat-sharing. As you are aware, seat-sharing is an arrangement internal to an electoral group and is not recognized or provided for in the statutes of the concerned subsidiary organs. Therefore, seat-sharing arrangements cannot be reflected in the official documents of the General Conference. It should be noted that seat-sharing is not an automatic process involving one State resigning and designating another to take its place for the remainder of the term. Seat-sharing can only concretely take place when the General Conference elects - as per its Rules of Procedure, either by voting or by the clean slate procedure - a State to fill the vacant seat for a four-year term of office. The elected State is elected for a four-year term and the official records reflect that position. The elected State remains a member of the body or organ until such time as it submits its resignation therefrom.

3.12 Second, the Committee's attention was drawn to some documents authored by the Secretariat and bearing UNESCO emblems but containing a disclaimer that "this is an unofficial document". There was also a document that was circulated with all the hallmarks of an official document but bearing a footnote that it was an unofficial document. The Committee did not obtain a satisfactory answer as to what was unofficial about that document. One of those so-called unofficial documents caused avoidable confusion and misunderstanding in the Committee. I recommend that, in future, the Secretariat avoid circulating documents with such disclaimers and that more effort be made to ensure that one part of the Secretariat knows what the other is circulating on a subject of common concern to both of them.

3.13 Third, there are deadlines for the submission of candidatures but none for their withdrawal. The absence of a deadline for the withdrawal of candidates for election to the Executive Board and to the subsidiary organs of the General Conference poses a logistical challenge for the Secretariat. The challenge is to reflect all changes and withdrawals at the time of election in real time, in the official documents and in all languages. Therefore, I suggest that the issue be taken up by the Member States with a view to agreeing on possible measures to improve on this aspect of the electoral process.

3.14 Finally, I should like to raise the issue of the ballot paper for the elections of members from GRULAC (Electoral Group III) to the Executive Board. The ballot paper concerning Electoral Group III that was distributed at this session of the General Conference is similar to that used in the previous General Conference sessions which reflects the seat distribution as agreed within that group. Should the members of Electoral Group III wish to change the presentation of the ballot, I should advise that this be done transparently and in good time, not on the eve of the elections.

3.15 Madam President, my statement would not be complete without expressing my personal thanks to you for your interest and your continued support for the work of our Committee and the electoral process. We were deeply touched that you even honoured us with your presence at one of our meetings. I would like to deeply thank my dear colleague, Her Excellency, Ms Lorena Sol de Pool, the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of El Salvador to UNESCO, and Vice-President of the General Conference, for her able leadership and supervision of the elections of the Members of the Executive Board. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the tellers for the time and effort they devoted to the electoral process. These are Ms Tamila Aliyeva of Azerbaijan, Mr José Antonio Blanco of Spain, Mr Eldar Bayramov of Azerbaijan, Ms Cheryl Ghostine of Lebanon, Mr Ali Hajilari of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ms Gloria Henriquez of Nicaragua, Mr Ronald Kaulule of Zambia, Ms Rosa Ester Moreira de Lemoine of El Salvador, Ms Teresa Salado of Portugal and Mr Shah Ahmed Shafi of Bangladesh. I also want to express the same thanks to the Legal Counsellor, Mr Christophe Badaroux-Mendieta. I equally extend my thanks to the Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the Nominations Committee for their support and wise counsel. My thanks also go to the interpreters, technical and support staff and the Secretariat of the General Conference for their invaluable contributions to the Committee's work. Finally, but not least, let me express my deep appreciation to the secretariat of the Nominations Committee, to Ms María del Mar Marcos, Ms Patricia Denoyelle, Ms Rosanna Karam, Ms Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Mr Michee Detinho, and Mr Ieng Srong, the Secretary of the Committee, for their professionalism, devotion and conscientious dedication to their work. I thank them for their cheerfulness, and friendliness which helped to make our task lighter. It was a joy to work with each and every one of them. Madam President, I submit the report of the Nominations Committee in document 36 C/82 for your consideration. Thank you.

4. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson, for a clear report and for chairing the Committee efficiently throughout the General Conference. I also wish to thank all Committee Members for their work. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 36 C/82? I see none. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Nominations Committee and adopts the recommendations contained therein? I see no objections. *It is so decided.*

**Report of the PRX Commission (General questions, programme support and external relations) (36 C/70)**

**Rapport de la Commission PRX (Questions générales, soutien du programme et relations extérieures) (36 C/70)**

**Informe de la Comisión PRX (Asuntos generales, apoyo del programa y relaciones exteriores) (36 C/70)**

**Доклад Комиссии PRX (Общие вопросы, поддержка выполнения программы и внешние связи) (36 C/70)**

تقرير لجنة المسائل العامة ومساندة البرنامج والعلاقات الخارجية (PRX) (٧٠/٣٦)

计划与对外关系委员会（一般性问题、计划支助及对外关系）的报告（36 C/70）

5. **The President:**

Your Excellencies, the next item on our agenda for this afternoon is the report of the PRX Commission. I would therefore like to give the floor to Mr Amadou Maïlele, who will introduce the report contained in document 36 C/70. Sir, you have the floor.

6.1 **M. Maïlé (Niger) (Président de la Commission PRX) :**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint, Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un grand honneur et un immense privilège pour moi de m'adresser à cette honorable Assemblée pour lui livrer la substance des débats de la Commission PRX, relatifs aux questions générales, au soutien du programme et aux relations extérieures, de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Je tiens à exprimer ma sincère gratitude aux membres de la Commission pour m'avoir soutenu dans l'exercice de mes fonctions en tant que Président et pour avoir réellement travaillé dans un esprit de consensus et de dialogue. Permettez-moi aussi de rendre un hommage appuyé aux membres du Bureau de la Commission qui ont accompagné celle-ci tout au long de ses travaux.

6.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, la Commission s'est réunie du 27 au 31 octobre 2011, examinant, en six séances, les neuf points inscrits à son ordre du jour. Je m'efforcerai de rendre compte de manière exhaustive de l'intensité de nos débats. Même si le temps ne me permet pas de souligner une à une les présentations détaillées des représentants de la Directrice générale, je tiens à préciser que le travail de notre Commission a été grandement facilité par leurs contributions et je les en remercie vivement. La Commission ayant adopté, sans amendement, la plupart des projets de résolution afférents à son ordre du jour, je ne mentionnerai, dans mon rapport oral, que ceux auxquels nous avons cru devoir apporter des changements. Je vous invite donc à vous référer au rapport écrit de la Commission (document 36 C/70 Prov.).

6.3 La Commission a commencé ses travaux par l'examen de deux points ayant des incidences majeures sur l'ensemble des méthodes de travail de l'Organisation, dans le droit fil du grand chantier de réforme qui la mobilise depuis deux ans. Il s'agit du point 6.2 relatif à l'Évaluation externe indépendante de l'UNESCO (EEI) et du point 6.3 relatif à la synchronisation des cycles de planification avec l'examen quadriennal complet du système des Nations Unies.

6.4 Concernant l'EEI, la Commission PRX a été appelée à considérer ses recommandations sous l'angle des orientations stratégiques 4, « Renforcer la gouvernance », et 5, « Élaborer une stratégie de partenariat ». Les autres orientations stratégiques liées aux aspects programmatiques de l'Organisation ont été examinées dans le cadre de la Commission conjointe.

6.5 De très nombreux États membres ont salué les recommandations de l'EEI, persuadés que le Rapport d'évaluation externe et son suivi seraient décisifs pour accroître la pertinence de l'Organisation et sa visibilité, et que cela mènerait nécessairement à une amélioration de la mise en œuvre du programme et de son aspect. De nombreux

orateurs ont félicité le Groupe de travail *ad hoc* et le Secrétariat pour le travail accompli dans la formulation d'actions opérationnelles concrètes pour réformer l'Organisation et pour la synergie qu'ils ont su créer à cette fin. Ils ont également salué les initiatives déjà entreprises par la Directrice générale afin de mettre en œuvre certaines recommandations. Les États membres ont accueilli positivement l'appel lancé en faveur d'une stratégie globale de partenariat tournée vers l'extérieur et ont souligné la nécessité de définir en même temps des stratégies de sortie de ces partenariats.

6.6 Un nombre considérable d'orateurs ont mis l'accent sur le rôle important des commissions nationales dans les réformes, notamment lorsqu'il s'agit d'accroître la visibilité et l'impact de l'Organisation au niveau national. Ce vaste réseau doit être considéré comme une interface vitale avec les pays, un soutien essentiel à la stratégie de décentralisation de l'Organisation et à sa stratégie en matière de partenariat. À ce titre, compte tenu de la diversité de leurs rôles et de leurs capacités dans leurs pays respectifs, la nécessité de les renforcer et d'échanger les informations a été fortement soulignée. Permettez-moi de conclure ce point en soulignant le consensus des États membres quant à l'importance de la mise en œuvre des recommandations de l'EEI, et la convergence de ce consensus avec l'engagement pris par la Directrice générale en matière de réforme.

6.7 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, honorables délégués, en ce qui concerne le point 6.3, de nombreux États membres ont appuyé la proposition de modification des cycles de programmation des documents C/4 et C/5. Ces changements offriront, sans aucun doute, des possibilités accrues de coordination et de coopération interinstitutions, notamment sur le terrain.

6.8 La Commission a estimé que des cycles de programmation plus longs permettraient à l'Organisation de mieux s'acquitter de son mandat dans ses domaines de compétence. Le cycle quadriennal du C/5 donnera plus de temps pour la planification stratégique et de meilleures opportunités de suivi et d'évaluation efficace de la mise en œuvre du programme de l'Organisation, y compris en ce qui concerne l'identification de résultats et d'indicateurs de performance à long terme. À cet égard, certains orateurs ont insisté sur la nécessité de s'assurer que les ajustements programmatiques s'effectueraient réellement à travers la nature évolutive du C/4 et du C/5. Plusieurs orateurs ont souligné le rôle crucial joué par les commissions nationales dans le processus de consultation menant à la formulation du C/4 et du C/5 et l'importance de s'assurer que les consultations ne soient pas réduites par le nouveau cycle de programmation. Enfin, tout en étant favorables au maintien du cycle biennal pour les ouvertures de crédits du C/5, certains intervenants se sont dits disposés à examiner d'autres propositions qui pourraient être faites par le Conseil exécutif afin d'assurer un lien clair avec la programmation quadriennale.

6.9 Chers collègues, avant de commencer son examen du projet de C/5, la Commission a abordé le point 5.7 et prêté une attention particulière aux représentants élus du 7<sup>e</sup> Forum des jeunes qui ont présenté les recommandations du Forum en relation avec les thèmes couverts par la Commission PRX. Pour faire court mais juste, nous dirons que les États membres ont fait chorus et que l'initiative du Forum a fait florès pour ces multiples enjeux. Certains orateurs ont exprimé leur souhait d'intégrer davantage le Forum des jeunes à la Conférence générale afin d'encourager la participation des jeunes aux délégations nationales. D'autres ont soulevé la question de la définition des thèmes du Forum et ont, en revanche, considéré qu'il pourrait avoir lieu plus tôt au cours de l'exercice biennal afin de permettre une meilleure préparation des jeunes délégués.

6.10 J'en viens maintenant au point 4.2 concernant le Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013, qui a occupé une grande partie de nos travaux et qui a été examiné en huit points distincts, chacun consacré à l'une des sous-parties du projet de 36 C/5 relevant de la Commission PRX. La Commission a d'abord examiné la partie consacrée aux relations extérieures et à l'information du public, un point qui a battu un record en termes d'intervenants ayant félicité la Directrice générale pour les changements entrepris en vue de fusionner les relations extérieures et les services de communication en un seul secteur. Une fois de plus, l'accent a été mis sur les commissions nationales et leur capacité à entrer en contact avec la société civile et à accroître ainsi la visibilité de l'Organisation. Certains orateurs ont d'ailleurs appelé à une meilleure communication par le Secrétariat des événements et des publications de l'UNESCO de manière à permettre aux commissions nationales d'apporter leur contribution en termes d'information du public au niveau national. Plusieurs États membres ont fait référence à l'examen récent de la coopération du Secrétariat avec les commissions nationales mené par le Service d'évaluation et d'audit (IOS) et ont soutenu la proposition de mettre en place un groupe de travail tripartite, composé de délégations permanentes, de commissions nationales et du Secrétariat. Plusieurs délégués ont souligné qu'à la lumière des résultats de cet examen et au regard de la réforme en cours du dispositif hors Siège, le rôle des commissions nationales devrait être clarifié et revitalisé afin qu'elles puissent davantage participer à la mise en œuvre des programmes. À cet égard, les petits États insulaires en développement du Pacifique ont demandé un soutien accru de leurs commissions nationales compte tenu de leur isolement au sein de la région.

6.11 Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, chers collègues, parmi les points sensibles l'on citera le Programme de participation et le Programme de bourses, qui ont tous deux été reconnus comme d'importants outils pour le renforcement des capacités des commissions nationales, en particulier dans les pays en développement, et pour que l'UNESCO atteigne ses objectifs et accroisse sa pertinence et sa visibilité sur le terrain. En ce qui concerne le Programme de participation, d'une manière générale, les intervenants ont reconnu les efforts déployés par le Secrétariat pour améliorer le fonctionnement du Programme grâce à l'élaboration de critères clairs et l'approbation accélérée des demandes. Certains orateurs ont néanmoins estimé que des améliorations supplémentaires devraient être apportées, en particulier dans la sélection des projets, en simplifiant les procédures et en accélérant l'ensemble des processus. La responsabilité redditionnelle, le mécanisme des rapports et des frais de transaction ont également été évoqués. Plusieurs délégués de la région Asie-Pacifique ont proposé d'augmenter le nombre de projets régionaux pour mieux répondre aux besoins spécifiques de cette région et ont demandé qu'au moins un de ces projets soit réservé à la sous-région Pacifique étant donné le nombre de pays concernés. De même, il a été suggéré de mettre en place un moratoire

afin que les commissions nationales des PEID du Pacifique puissent bénéficier à nouveau du Programme de participation.

6.12 Chers collègues, la Commission a été rassurée par le représentant de la Directrice générale sur le fait que la priorité donnée à l'Afrique, aux PEID et aux PMA serait maintenue dans le prochain exercice biennal. Toutefois, une préoccupation majeure a été exprimée par plusieurs délégués quant à l'allocation budgétaire du Programme de participation, qui est réduite dans le projet de 36 C/5. La Commission a donc considéré les options possibles pour répondre à cette préoccupation et formulé un éventuel amendement au projet de résolution, visant à demander à la Directrice générale d'utiliser les fonds restants après la clôture des comptes du 35 C/5 de manière à maintenir l'allocation budgétaire du Programme de participation à un niveau qui ne serait pas inférieur à celui qui figurait dans le 35 C/5, conformément, du reste, à la recommandation du Conseil exécutif à cet égard. La Commission PRX n'étant pas l'instance appropriée de la Conférence générale pour se prononcer sur cet aspect de la question, le projet de résolution concernant le Programme de participation a finalement été approuvé sans ses dispositions budgétaires et l'amendement a été proposé à la réunion conjointe des commissions pour qu'il soit étudié dans le cadre de ses délibérations. En ce qui concerne le Programme de bourses, la Commission a réaffirmé son rôle majeur pour les pays les moins avancés, et souligné combien il était important de renforcer les capacités des commissions nationales afin qu'elles diffusent l'information concernant ce programme.

6.13 Éminents délégués, j'en viens maintenant au débat portant sur l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO (ISU). Tous les orateurs qui se sont exprimés sur ce point ont félicité l'Institut pour ses résultats et accueilli positivement, au-delà de l'éducation, l'ouverture de l'Institut aux domaines de la culture et des sciences. Ils ont également encouragé l'Institut à multiplier ses échanges avec les autres secteurs de programme. Les modules régionaux introduits récemment, ainsi que les statistiques sur l'emploi dans le domaine de la culture et sur l'alphabétisation, ont été appréciés. En outre, il a été souligné que les données qualitatives devraient être intégrées dans l'évaluation des objectifs pédagogiques et que les expressions culturelles devraient être davantage prises en compte dans l'évaluation des statistiques culturelles. Plusieurs États membres ont insisté sur l'importance de coopérer avec les bureaux nationaux de statistique et ont vivement encouragé l'Institut à continuer de former le personnel de ces bureaux, notamment ceux d'Afrique. En ce qui concerne la partie du projet de C/5 consacrée à la mise en œuvre des programmes décentralisés, les États membres qui ont pris la parole ont encouragé la Directrice générale à poursuivre le processus de décentralisation et d'alignement de l'Organisation sur la réforme des Nations Unies, en particulier l'Initiative « Unis dans l'action ». Plusieurs orateurs ont souligné le rôle essentiel de l'Organisation dans le processus de réforme du système des Nations Unies et ont appelé à impliquer davantage les commissions nationales dans le Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement. Un certain nombre de délégués ont appelé à ce que des indicateurs de performance spécifiques soient élaborés pour mesurer l'efficacité et l'efficience des bureaux hors Siège et la mise en œuvre des programmes décentralisés, permettant ainsi aux organes directeurs de faire des choix appropriés dans le cadre de la réforme en cours. À cet égard, les États membres ont sollicité des éclaircissements concernant la hiérarchie entre les différents bureaux hors Siège et avec le Siège, les rapports hiérarchiques étant perçus comme particulièrement complexes. En outre, les États membres ont, dans le cadre de ce processus de réforme, souligné le besoin d'améliorer la communication, la coordination et la coopération entre les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales.

6.14 Madame la Présidente, distingués délégués, permettez-moi à présent de rendre compte du débat de la Commission PRX sur la partie du projet de C/5 relative à la coordination et au suivi de l'action en faveur de l'Afrique. Les États membres qui ont pris la parole ont réaffirmé l'importance de la priorité accordée à l'Afrique par l'Organisation et se sont félicités du renforcement du Département Afrique dans le but de consolider les acquis et d'entamer un nouveau processus de dynamisation programmatique. Ils ont par ailleurs insisté sur la nécessité de renforcer les liens entre le Département, les bureaux hors Siège sur le continent et les commissions nationales. En relation avec l'évaluation interne de la Priorité Afrique, certains orateurs ont proposé que le Secrétariat s'attèle d'ores et déjà à clarifier les rôles dans la gestion de cette priorité afin d'éviter toute duplication d'efforts entre le Département Afrique, les secteurs de programme, les bureaux hors Siège et la plate-forme intersectorielle, pour laquelle les États membres demandent la mobilisation de ressources extrabudgétaires et la formulation de projets concrets. S'agissant de la coordination et du suivi de l'action en faveur de l'égalité entre les sexes, les orateurs ont félicité la Directrice générale pour les progrès accomplis et les résultats obtenus, notamment en termes de plaidoyer de l'Organisation, de coopération avec d'autres institutions des Nations Unies, de mise en œuvre du programme et de gestion interne. Certains orateurs ont souligné la nécessité de mener des interventions concrètes et à long terme, de poursuivre les partenariats avec ONU-Femmes et les chaires UNESCO et de prendre des mesures tangibles pour assurer la participation des femmes dans les sciences et dans d'autres secteurs où elles sont sous-représentées. L'examen de la partie du C/5 consacrée à la gestion des connaissances à l'échelle de l'Organisation n'a suscité que peu d'interventions, si ce n'est pour demander des éclaircissements, notamment sur le calendrier d'élaboration et de mise en œuvre de la stratégie et sur les informations fournies aux États membres en ce qui concerne les progrès de celle-ci, ainsi que sur la coordination avec d'autres institutions au sein du système des Nations Unies.

6.15 Honorables délégués, le dernier débat de notre Commission concernant le C/5 portait sur la planification stratégique, le suivi de l'exécution du programme et l'élaboration du budget. Tous les États membres qui se sont exprimés ont reconnu l'intérêt pour l'Organisation d'avoir unifié sous un même service la planification stratégique, la mobilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires et la planification du budget. En matière de planification, la Commission a une fois de plus insisté sur le rôle essentiel des commissions nationales à cet égard et a tenu à l'explicitier davantage dans le projet de résolution. En matière d'élaboration du budget, quelques orateurs ont évoqué la possibilité que l'UNESCO puisse aussi à l'avenir passer à une budgétisation axée sur les résultats (RBB). Quelques États membres ont exprimé le souhait que la mobilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires soit plus transparente et cohérente, au-delà des efforts déjà entrepris en ce sens par le biais du Programme additionnel complémentaire (CAP) et de SISTER. Ils ont également

suggéré que des formations spécifiques soient organisées pour les commissions nationales dans le domaine de la mobilisation des ressources. Enfin, plusieurs orateurs ont souligné l'importance de la prospective, notamment dans l'approche intersectorielle, et ont demandé plus de précisions quant aux activités prévues en ce qui concerne la formulation des Objectifs de développement convenus au niveau international au-delà des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et leur date butoir de 2015.

6.16 Mesdames et Messieurs, après mon rapport sur le C/5, qui a été, je le reconnais, particulièrement long, j'entends à présent rendre compte brièvement de nos débats concernant les cinq points restants qui ont été examinés par la Commission. Le point 9.2, « Nouvelles Directives », concernant le partenariat de l'UNESCO avec les organisations non gouvernementales a été traité sans débat compte tenu de l'examen approfondi dont il a été l'objet tant au sein du Comité sur les ONG qu'au sein du Conseil exécutif. Certains orateurs ont exprimé leurs réserves quant à la possibilité que les ONG aient accès au Programme de participation, ainsi qu'aux modalités de leur participation. Cependant, dans la mesure où la résolution du C/5 relative au Programme de participation mentionne explicitement les ONG parmi les bénéficiaires et décline également les modalités de leur participation, la Commission a convenu de répondre aux préoccupations exprimées en amendant légèrement les directives afin de refléter davantage ce lien évident avec la résolution du C/5 sur le Programme de participation.

6.17 Sous le point 5.1, « Propositions des États membres relatives à la célébration des anniversaires auxquels l'UNESCO pourrait être associée en 2012-2013 », les membres de la Commission ont exprimé leur soutien en soulignant leur rôle pour accroître la visibilité de l'UNESCO, tout en insistant sur la diversité culturelle. Rejoignant le Secrétariat, ils ont reconnu qu'il était important de disposer d'une liste d'anniversaires plus représentative, à la fois quant à la répartition géographique et quant à l'équilibre des genres.

6.18 Concernant le point 3.1, « Examen par la Conférence générale des futures procédures pour l'élaboration des projets de stratégie à moyen terme (C/4), et sur la base du projet de résolution présenté par le Danemark et cosigné par la Norvège », la Commission a souhaité soumettre à la Conférence générale un projet de résolution amendé recommandant que l'examen des amendements proposés par les États membres sur le C/4 lors de la session de la Conférence générale soit confié à la réunion conjointe des commissions et que le groupe de travail éventuellement constitué ait un caractère strictement rédactionnel.

6.19 Au titre du point 9.4, « Définition des régions en vue de l'exécution par l'Organisation des activités de caractère régional », la Commission a donné voix à la requête de Curaçao et Sint Maarten d'appartenir à la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes en vue de leur participation aux activités régionales de l'Organisation, et à celle de la République du Soudan pour la région Afrique.

6.20 Enfin, au titre du point 5.9, « Création des instituts et centres de catégorie 2 placés sous l'égide de l'UNESCO », la Commission a approuvé sans débat préalable, comme proposé par le Conseil exécutif, l'établissement d'un institut international pour la paix à l'Université Rutgers aux États-Unis d'Amérique, en tant qu'institut de catégorie 2.

6.21 Mesdames et Messieurs, j'arrive maintenant au terme de mon rapport oral. J'espère avoir restitué fidèlement la richesse de nos débats, liés à des décisions importantes pour la politique et les actions futures de l'Organisation. Permettez-moi de remercier très chaleureusement les membres du Secrétariat de la Commission PRX pour leur efficacité, leur touchante disponibilité, ainsi que le soutien ô combien précieux qu'ils m'ont apporté tout au long de l'exercice de mes fonctions : Mme Sabina Colombo, Secrétaire de la Commission PRX, Mme Petra van Vucht Tijssen, M. Tee Wee Ang, M. Davide Storti, Mme Marketa Brustlova, et Mme Marie-Noëlle Branet. Comment, pour terminer, passer sous silence cette fabuleuse élite dont nous connaissons la voix et dont nous aimerions cependant découvrir le visage ? Comment, enfin, ne pas saluer ces hommes de l'ombre dont l'héroïsme au quotidien nous rend la tâche si facile, si agréable – je veux bien sûr parler des commis ? Mesdames et Messieurs, Monsieur le représentant de Madame la Directrice générale, Madame la Présidente, je tiens à vous remercier pour votre aimable et patiente écoute.

#### 7. The President:

Thank you very much, Mr Maïlele, for a clear and eloquent presentation. My congratulations also go to you for your successful chairmanship of the Commission. Are there any comments or suggestions on this report? Shall I then consider that the plenary takes note of the report of the PRX Commission and hereby adopts the draft resolutions proposed, subject to the decisions the General Conference may take when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013? Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, *it is so decided*. I give the floor to Angola.

#### 8. Angola:

Madame la Présidente, la Délégation de l'Angola souhaiterait vous remercier vivement de lui avoir accordé la parole pour une intervention très courte, visant simplement à demander que soit corrigé le nom de la Reine à la page 9 du rapport 36 C/77, point 8, où il est écrit « 350<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la mort de la Reine Njinga Mbandi », avec un « i » final. Au Brésil, le « e » final se prononce « i » : « Mbandi ». Chez nous, en bantou, c'est « i ». « Ngola K-i-l-w-a-n-g-e », avec « i » aussi à la fin, le « e » étant brésilien. C'est à cela que se résume notre requête et nous sommes disposés à adresser un petit mot au Secrétariat aux fins de cette correction. Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente.

#### 9. The President:

Thank you very much. You see how many languages we speak, in how many different ways. So we will of course change this according to your comments. Thank you very much.

**Item 14.1: Venue of the 37th session of the General Conference** (36 C/45)

**Point 14.1 : Lieu de la 37<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale** (36 C/45)

**Punto 14.1: Lugar de celebración de la 37<sup>a</sup> reunión de la Conferencia General** (36 C/45)

**Пункт 14.1: Место проведения 37-й сессии Генеральной конференции** (36 C/45)

البند ١٤,١ : مكان انعقاد الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام (٤٥/م٣٦)

**项目 14.1 : 大会第三十七届会议地点** ( 36 C/45 )

**项目 14.1 : 大会第三十七届会议地点** ( 36 C/45 )

**10. The President:**

Now we come to item 14.1, "Venue of the 37th session of the General Conference". Dear colleagues, we will now examine this item. As you can see in document 36 C/45, the Executive Board has already made a recommendation on this matter through 187 EX/Decision 26. I would like to ask if the General Conference wishes to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of document 36 C/45, which proposes that the 37th session of the General Conference be held at the Headquarters of the Organization here in Paris. No other new offers? So I don't see any objection here. *It is so **decided***. See you again in two years in Paris. Thank you.

**Item 10.7: Working Capital Fund: level and administration** (36 C/37 and Add. & Add.2 Rev.)

**Point 10.7 : Fonds de roulement : niveau et administration** (36 C/37 et Add.-Add.2 Rev.)

**Punto 10.7 Fondo de Operaciones: cuantía y administración del Fondo** (36 C/37 y Add.-Add.2 Rev.)

**Пункт 10.7: Фонд оборотных средств: уровень и управление** (36 C/37 and Add.-Add.2 Rev.)

البند ١٠,٧ : رأس المال العامل: مقداره وإدارته (٣٧/م٣٦ وضميمة وضميمة ٢ معدلة)

**项目 10.7: 周转基金: 数额和管理** (36 C/37 and Add. &Add.2 Rev.)

**11. The President:**

Now, ladies and gentlemen, as I mentioned to you, the report of the Administrative Commission will be examined tomorrow. First, I would like to give the floor to the Director-General who wishes to make an announcement relating to item 10.7. Madam Director-General, the floor is yours.

**12.1 La Directrice générale :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, permettez-moi d'attirer votre attention sur la situation de notre budget. Je tiens à faire preuve de transparence et de clarté. La situation est difficile, et je pèse mes mots. J'ai mené une série de consultations pour vous alerter sur nos problèmes et y faire face, de façon collective. Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne le budget, il est à mon avis absolument impératif que la Conférence générale adopte la proposition de budget en l'état, et ce pour deux raisons. D'une part, il ne faut pas préjuger de la situation future et de l'évolution de la situation au cours du prochain biennium quant à la décision des États-Unis de suspendre leur contribution. D'autre part, si nous devons réduire notre enveloppe budgétaire dès aujourd'hui, en enlevant par exemple l'équivalent de la contribution américaine, cela équivaldrait en réalité à une réduction de notre budget non pas de 22 % mais de près du double, ce qui plongerait l'UNESCO dans une crise extrêmement grave. C'est pourquoi je compte sur vous pour adopter ce budget en l'état. Il repose sur un équilibre fragile et est le résultat d'un long processus de consultation par les organes directeurs de l'Organisation.

12.2 Je passe maintenant à notre problème le plus immédiat. Avant la fin de cette année, nous devons combler un déficit de trésorerie de 65 millions de dollars. C'est la question la plus urgente. Ce déficit correspond à la somme due par les États-Unis au titre de l'année 2011. Les États-Unis ont en effet l'habitude de payer leur contribution à la fin de l'année, pour des raisons liées à leur calendrier budgétaire. Cette somme, nous ne la percevons pas. Nous devons donc prendre des mesures radicales, et nous devons les prendre maintenant, à cette Conférence générale. Dès la semaine dernière, l'Équipe de direction a commencé à revoir l'ensemble de nos activités prévues pour novembre et décembre. J'ai suspendu l'ensemble de nos engagements. J'ai effectivement suspendu l'exécution de nos programmes pour les réviser jusqu'à la fin de l'année. Nous sommes en train de passer en revue l'ensemble des activités prévues pour novembre et décembre, dans tous les domaines, dans tous les secteurs, y compris les engagements contractuels, les voyages du personnel, les publications, les coûts de communication, les réunions, etc. Grâce à toutes ces mesures, nous estimons pouvoir dégager une économie de 35 millions de dollars. Mais cela ne suffira pas à résoudre notre problème. Nous regardons également du côté de notre Fonds de roulement (« Working Capital Fund » en anglais). Il s'élève à 30 millions de dollars et représente 4,5 % de notre budget total, ce qui nous laisse trois à quatre semaines d'autonomie. Permettez-moi aussi d'ajouter que c'est un niveau très bas comparé à d'autres organisations du système. L'intégralité de cette somme, 30 millions de dollars, sera injectée pour combler le déficit de 65 millions. Cela signifie que nous finirons l'année sans aucune réserve, dans une situation dangereuse. Nous n'avons aucune autre marge de manœuvre à ce jour. À partir du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2012, nous allons devoir faire face à un autre problème, avec un déficit prévu de 143 millions de dollars, correspondant à une perte de contribution à notre budget de 22 %. Et le solde de notre Fonds de roulement à ce moment-là sera nul. Il nous faudra prendre des mesures radicales. J'y vois l'occasion de consolider nos efforts de réforme et je suis totalement disposée à réviser l'ensemble de notre action, nos modalités de fonctionnement, nos structures s'il le faut, et je vous demande de me soutenir à cet égard. Je me voue entièrement à profiter de cette situation pour diminuer les coûts administratifs et prioriser nos programmations.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*



12.3 So, ladies and gentlemen, I have come here with a series of proposals for your support and our immediate action which I have already broached with many of you since last week during bilateral and regional group consultations.

12.4 These same proposals will be defined in the document that will be submitted to you in the next few minutes. The first and most important measure I propose as an immediate, urgent solution is to secure a temporary increase of our Working Capital Fund for the years 2012-2013. I would propose the Working Capital Fund be increased to 10% of the global budget ceiling shared proportionately among the Member States, that is to say, \$65 million instead of \$30 million today. This can be done through an additional assessment to Member States or through voluntary advances that would be reimbursed at a later stage. I am convinced this would be the most effective urgent response to address the magnitude of our expected cash-flow deficit. I know that it is not a long-term solution but it will provide the Organization with some breathing space to plan rationally within the new context.

12.5 I know that many of you who support this idea are subject to the constraints of your different administrative and legislative processes, and I understand very well that we cannot make an immediate decision although I know that the majority of you support this approach. That is why I would request that the General Conference take the decision to delegate the authority to the Executive Board during its next spring session to raise the Working Capital Fund if the Executive Board so decides.

12.6 Second, I have decided to launch an Special Emergency Multi-Donor Fund for UNESCO Priority Programmes and Reform Initiatives. This Emergency Fund will be opened to multiple donors from Member States, public institutions, foundations and individuals. Since 2 November, there has been an unprecedented outpouring of support for UNESCO from individuals, associations and private corporations from all corners of the globe. Certainly, this is proof of the good that UNESCO does. This expression of support from individual citizens is the most concrete indicator of success. We are now working on the modalities of such an Emergency Fund. We are looking at all the legal and financial implications and I want to see this Fund working in full transparency, with regard to the donors and all Member States. I want to see the money flow into the Fund and the financial transactions of the Fund taking place in a credible, transparent manner and, most importantly, I want to see the Fund working to contribute to the core priorities of the Organization. I do not see it as another extrabudgetary fund, adding something extra to the core programme of this Organization because the lack of resources from the budget is affecting our core programmes. We need to tackle the immediate necessity of delivering our core programmes and activities.

12.7 Third, I wish to make an appeal to all governments to provide their assessed contributions as early as possible in 2012. Some governments have already stated their readiness to do so. I would seek the support of all Member States in this respect.

12.8 The fourth proposal I wish to make is to postpone the payment to Member States of resources available under the current "incentive scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions" until the 37th session of the General Conference, and this is also reflected in the document that will be distributed to you for your examination.

12.9 So ladies and gentlemen, these are not decisions of choice in my view. These are decisions of urgency. Unfortunately, I do not believe we can afford to wait or postpone these decisions. If we take these measures now, it will give us time to consider long-term solutions, in a process of open and inclusive consultation. The full picture of the situation is just becoming clear. I appreciate the support of every single Member State. I would welcome your ideas and I thank you for all your goodwill in these difficult times. This is a new situation. I am not comparing this crisis to any that the Organization has lived through in the past, because the conditions, the starting point, and the modalities are not the same, but I do believe that we can pull together through these difficulties and in order to do that, we must act now. Thank you, Madam President.

13. **The President:**

Thank you, Director-General. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we are now talking about an urgent document that will be an addendum to 36 C/37. I give the floor to the Secretary, please.

14. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Madam President. The document is ready, at least in English and French, and will be available as you leave this room on either side of the hall. Thank you.

15. **The President:**

Are there any comments or questions? Canada, the floor is yours.

16. **Canada :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Nous sommes surpris et déçus par cette demande et nous nous y opposons. Le Canada refuse toute demande de contribution financière supplémentaire, qu'elle soit temporaire ou permanente. Comme vous le savez, nous sommes chaque année, depuis plusieurs années, le premier ou le deuxième pays à s'acquitter de sa contribution et nous continuerons ainsi. Notre pays profite du système des initiatives de paiement rapide et nous sommes déçus qu'il soit retardé. Madame la Présidente, j'espère que demain nous aurons une discussion, voire un vote sur cette question, et que chacun aura eu le temps de penser aux conséquences de ce qui s'est passé. Nous sommes un acteur important et continuerons de l'être mais nous sommes contre cette démarche, contre cette demande. Merci.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would just like to say that this is a new addendum, which we will discuss it tomorrow, but now I would like to give the floor to Germany, please.

18.1 **Germany:**

Thank you very much, Madam President and thank you, Madam Director-General for your explanations. I think you are totally right to highlight the urgency and I do appreciate all the endeavours that went into trying to find, for all of us, a way out of this very, very unfortunate situation at a moment when UNESCO is preparing for the future, is modernizing, and is presenting a budget that concludes these reforms.

18.2 However, Germany is now the second largest donor country and we were so for the 20-year period during which the United States of America was not a member of UNESCO. Unfortunately, my parliament is not very amused and, upon instruction, I have to say that the zero nominal growth budget can only pass tomorrow, and I think it should, but only on the understanding that we will try from the beginning to economize the 22% shortfall, as long as we do not have the funds in another way, maybe by way of a trust fund or extrabudgetary payments. As to an increase in the Working Capital Fund, it would be all right, I think, if it were taken from the regular contributions, but if 5.6% or 5.5% were to be added to the contributions, this would require a decision from parliament, which at this point I am afraid I will not get. Germany could not accept such an increase. I beg everybody to understand that, as we are the second largest donor, all such decisions cannot simply be made by the Executive Board, but consultations with the donor countries are absolutely necessary. Thank you very much for your attention.

19. **The President:**

Italy, please, the floor is yours.

20.1 **Italy:**

Thank you very much, Madam President. We obviously understand fully the moment we are going through and we really appreciate the efforts that the Director-General and her team are making at this precise moment. However, I think that upon consideration, we need really to go through the document before we can have a serious discussion on it. I would consider it very preliminary at this point, so please consider my remarks as extremely preliminary, not having had the opportunity to read the document yet. While I was familiar with and understand the issues raised under proposals 2, 3 and 4, that is the Special Emergency Multi-Donor Fund, whereby there could effectively be some fundraising achieved by the Member States themselves, I understand also the need to pay contributions as early as possible on every financial budget as well as to defer the payment on the incentive scheme. So this is technically something that has to be studied.

20.2 I must, however, raise doubts on point 1 concerning an increase in the Working Capital Fund of such magnitude, even if it is lower in comparison with other agencies. I think that for technical reasons, for a number of Member States, this should be based only on voluntary advances, rather than additional assessment. By deferring the matter to the coming Executive Board we could gain some more time in order to have a better understanding of it at the spring session. I think that an additional assessment would create substantial technical problems for a number of our Member States. Thank you very much.

21. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I give the floor to Saudi Arabia.

٢٢ المملكة العربية السعودية:

عفوًا. كنت أقول أكرر شكرنا دومًا للسيدة المديرية العامة السيدة بوكوفا على جهودها التي تبذلها لخدمة هذه المنظمة. وبالطبع يزعجني ويؤسفني، وأكد أنه يزعج كثيرين، ما تواجهه الآن من صعوبات في استكمال أعمالها ومبادراتها لخدمة هذه المنظمة في جميع مجالات عملها. ويزعجنا ويؤسفنا أيضًا أن تواجه هذه الصعوبة مجرد أنها بذلت أيضًا جهدًا كبيرًا في سبيل الحفاظ على حرية هذه المنظمة. لن أدخل طبعًا في تفاصيل إنشائية بشأن الجهة المسؤولة عن هذه المشكلة التي تواجهها اليونسكو، لكنني أريد أن أقول كلمة واحدة فقط: إنها ليست فلسطين ولا المجموعة العربية كما يُشاع أحيانًا. ومن ناحية أخرى، كان لي شرف المبادرة بدعوة مجموعة من الدول المؤثرة، وهي الصين والبرازيل وفرنسا والمملكة العربية السعودية، وكنا مجموعة رباعية التقينا الأسبوع الماضي وتناقشنا معًا حول كيفية حماية هذه المنظمة وكيفية مساعدتها على مواجهة هذه المشكلة. بل إننا ناقشنا أيضًا كيفية مساعدة زميلنا سفير الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية على مواجهة المشكلة الداخلية التي يرغب هو أيضًا، كما أبدى لنا كثيرًا، في أن يُسهم في حلها. وتداولنا الكثير من الأفكار، ثم التقينا بالسيدة بوكوفا وأبدينا لها طبعًا رغبة الدول الأربع التي تمثلها في دعم اليونسكو وعدم تركها وحيدة في العراق. والدعم المراد تقديمه لليونسكو ليس دعمًا ماديًا فقط، مع قناعتي بأنها تحتاج إلى المال الآن أكثر من احتياجها إلى أي شيء آخر، ولكنها تحتاج أيضًا إلى الدعم المعنوي. وينبغي لهذا الدعم المعنوي أن يأتي أيضًا من دول أخرى حتى لا تصبح منظمة اليونسكو معزولة بين سائر المنظمات الدولية. وقد أوصلت هذه الفكرة إلى السفير الفلسطيني وتناقشنا فيها مع السيدة بوكوفا. ومن ناحيتنا، لا نستطيع طبعًا أن نعد الآن، ولكنني كنت اليوم في اتصال مع العاصمة السعودية، وهناك نقاش حول ما يمكن أن تقدمه المملكة العربية السعودية لدعم وتعزيز قوة هذه المنظمة واستمراريتها ودعم موقفها الأخلاقي الذي وقفته أثناء التصويت لفلسطين. أردت فقط التوضيح، وقد نوسّع هذه المجموعة الرباعية أيضًا كما تناقشنا بالأمس مع بعض الدول، وهي بالطبع مفتوحة للجميع. وستواصل مرة أخرى مع السيدة بوكوفا خلال الأيام القادمة بإذن الله. وشكرًا جزيلًا.

(22) **Saudi Arabia (translation from the Arabic):**

Excuse me. I was saying I wished to reiterate our thanks to the Director-General, Ms Bokova, for the efforts she has exerted on behalf of the Organization in all its fields of endeavour. Naturally, it disturbs and saddens me, and it surely disturbs many of us, that she should now be facing such difficulties in completing her work and initiatives in the service of the Organization in all its fields of endeavour. It also disturbs and saddens us that she should be facing these difficulties merely because she exerted such great efforts to preserve the freedom of this Organization. I do not propose to go into great detail about where the responsibility lies for this problem confronting UNESCO; I will just say one thing: it is neither Palestine nor the Arab States group, as it is sometimes put about. On the other hand, I had the honour to be invited to take part in a quartet of influential countries, namely China, Brazil, France and Saudi Arabia, which met last week to discuss ways and means of protecting this Organization and how to help it to deal with this problem. We also discussed how to help our colleague, the Ambassador of the United States of America, to cope with the internal problem, which he, too, as he has demonstrated to us,

wishes to help to solve. We exchanged numerous ideas and then met Ms Bokova, and we naturally conveyed to her the desire of the four countries that we represent to support UNESCO and not to leave it in the lurch. The support that we hope to give to UNESCO is not only material support, despite my conviction that it needs funding now more than it needs anything else; it also needs moral support, which should also come from other countries so that UNESCO should not be isolated among the other international organizations. I conveyed this idea to the Ambassador of Palestine and we discussed it together with Ms Bokova. For our part, we cannot promise anything now, but today I was in contact with the Saudi capital, and I can tell you that a discussion is ongoing there about what Saudi Arabia can provide to help support and strengthen the Organization in order to ensure that it continues and to support the moral stand that it took in the vote on Palestine. I just wished to provide a clarification. We may expand this quartet, as we discussed yesterday with a number of countries. It is naturally open to all. And we shall pursue our discussions with Ms Bokova in the coming days, God willing. Thank you very much.

23. **The President:**

Thank you. I would like to give the floor to the United Kingdom.

24.1 **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank the Director-General for setting out her proposals, some of which have put some of us in a difficult place, not because of the situation, but because we need to recognize that for some of these aspects, UNESCO has not been in the situation that it needed to be in before any other decision was taken that affected the financial stability of the Organization. I am speaking particularly about the Working Capital Fund. On reflection, it was probably never enough to have a Working Capital Fund that would not last us long enough between the day we knew we had an emergency and the day we could convene a meeting to do something about it. So the Working Capital Fund in UNESCO is probably never enough. In many of our governments, this would be called a contingency fund, which would be funded from the regular budget, so there are some balances that we need to think about there. I would encourage you when this is being presented directly to governments to do two things: first, to do your very best to add up the savings you are making, because it would be a principle for many governments that we are not replacing somebody else's commitment, so the clearer you can be about how much you have saved as you go along, the easier it is to help in the interim with other things; and second, we must make sure that during these financial difficulties, we remember that this is a golden opportunity to go further and faster and deeper with reforms. We should not use this as any excuse to put off any part of what we were going to do. We were going to be more efficient. We were going to be clearer about our results and resources. We were going to have pared-down operations to the most high-performing minimum we can.

24.2 There is something you did not ask us for, Director-General, which I think we should try to give you, which is greater flexibility on movements between the budget lines themselves. My understanding is that it is relatively limited in terms of the ability to move resources between budget lines and in an emergency, that limitation may be too great. I think that when we are reflecting on how to go forward we should be careful about over-specifying the level of budget and be careful about giving you too little room to manoeuvre.

24.3 My final comment is that going forward, you should also ask us for something that you requested during the independent external evaluation, to do our best to refrain from micro-managing. Because in all of this, you are going to have to take difficult decisions and sometimes those decisions will affect programmes we cherish or sometimes they will affect citizens of our country. And I promise you this, for my part, you will not find me coming knocking on your door second-guessing your every move. We trust you to do this. We must give you the authority to do it and we hold you accountable to for doing it. So please carry on, do your best and ask us for everything you need.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Any other comments from the floor? France.

26.1 **France :**

Madame la Présidente, je voudrais à mon tour remercier la Directrice générale, car je crois qu'elle nous a exposé aujourd'hui ce qu'est la situation dans laquelle nous sommes, une situation qui appelle des mesures d'urgence courageuses. Le Secrétariat, nous le savons, étudie actuellement les solutions envisageables pour faire face à la situation d'ici la fin de l'année – car nous ne parlons pas de la situation pour le prochain biennium mais de la situation d'ici la fin de l'année : comment faire face au déficit de trésorerie qui se profile. Je pense que nous devons, pour faire face à cette situation, envisager des mesures courageuses. Certes, comme l'indique le document qui vient de nous être distribué, il faut parfois, pour certaines mesures plus complexes que d'autres, qui ont des conséquences directes pour les États et leur niveau de contribution, s'accorder un peu de temps pour pouvoir y réfléchir et envisager très sérieusement ces possibilités mais il existe des mesures aux effets beaucoup plus immédiats que nous pouvons prendre bien plus rapidement.

26.2 Je voudrais insister pour ma part sur un point, et j'en terminerai par là, à savoir la marge de manœuvre qu'il faut accorder, me semble-t-il, dans ces circonstances tout à fait exceptionnelles, à la Directrice générale. Dans n'importe lequel de nos pays, en cas de difficultés financières, les dirigeants disposent d'une marge de manœuvre accrue. Je crois que ce devrait être la même chose pour une organisation multilatérale. Lorsque des circonstances imprévues et difficiles se profilent, il faut que nous accordions un mandat de confiance à notre Directrice générale pour appliquer les décisions qui sont absolument nécessaires pour l'Organisation elle-même. Il peut s'agir du niveau de transfert de fonds – je vois que la décision qui nous est proposée le prévoit – mais il existe sans doute d'autres mesures. Je crois que, plus que jamais, nous devons aujourd'hui éviter de tomber dans le péril de la microgestion. Il en va de l'intérêt même de notre Organisation. Merci.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Russian Federation.

28.1 **Г-жа Митрофанова** (Российская Федерация) (Председатель Исполнительного совета):

Спасибо большое, я просто вижу, что моих коллег из посольства нет. Поэтому позвольте мне выступить от Российской Федерации. Очень, конечно, тяжело, что Организация попала в такую ситуацию и что у нас некоторые страны напрямую связали весьма демократичную процедуру голосования по поводу принятия Палестины с отказом от финансирования.

28.2 Мы рассчитываем на то, что как-то это будет пересмотрено. Тем не менее, сейчас, действительно, нужно срочно решить вопрос, что делать. Мне кажется, из всего того, что предложила Генеральный директор, есть по крайней мере две вещи, которые совершенно очевидно, страны могут выполнить без особых сложностей, может быть, за исключением тех, которые находятся в сложной экономической ситуации: во-первых, постараться как можно быстрее заплатить взносы в начале года, а во-вторых, согласиться на то, чтобы схему стимулирования уплаты взносов перенести на следующую Генеральную конференцию.

28.3 Я согласна с теми, кто сказал, что Генеральному директору нужно дать больше полномочий, для того чтобы она могла вывести этот корабль по крайней мере без больших потерь. Мы все переживали кризисы. Я думаю, что и этот кризис мы переживем. Тем не менее у Генерального директора есть возможность провести реальную и очень серьезную реформу в самой Организации, реально сократив административные расходы и сконцентрировав ресурсы на остальных направлениях деятельности. Сейчас такой шанс реален, как никогда.

28.4 И, конечно, нам нужно дать возможность Генеральному директору и, по всей видимости, отменить статью, которая обязывает согласовывать переброску средств с Исполнительным советом и информировать Генеральную конференцию, и дать ей более широкие возможности для того, чтобы можно было бы этими средствами маневрировать. Я, конечно, за то, чтобы мы предоставили возможность и делегировали Исполнительному совету право принятия решений в отношении других предложений, таких как Чрезвычайный фонд, а также в отношении увеличения оборотного капитала. Спасибо большое.

(28.1) **Ms Mitrofanova** (Russian Federation), Chair of the Executive Board (*translation from the Russian*):

Thank you very much, I just see that none of my colleagues from the Ministry are here. Please allow me then to speak on behalf of the Russian Federation. It is of course most regrettable that the Organization finds itself in this situation, and that a few countries here have directly linked a wholly democratic voting procedure on the issue of the admission of Palestine to a funding refusal.

(28.2) We expect that this will somehow be reviewed. Nevertheless, now, we really need, as a matter of urgency, to settle the question of how to proceed. It seems to me that on the basis of all that has been proposed by the Director-General, there are at least two things that, quite obviously, countries can do without particular trouble, maybe, other than for those that are in a difficult economic situation: first, they can try as rapidly as possible to pay their contributions at the beginning of the year, and secondly, they can agree to defer to the next session of the General Conference the incentive scheme regarding the payment of contributions.

(28.3) I agree with those who have said that the Director-General should be given greater authority so that she can steer this ship at the least without greater losses. We have all survived crises. I think that we will get through this crisis too. Nevertheless, the Director-General has the opportunity to conduct genuine and very serious reform of the Organization itself, after really reducing administrative expenditure and concentrating resources on the remaining areas of activity. This opportunity is now more real than ever.

(28.4) And, naturally, we must give the Director-General the possibility and, it would seem, suspend the provisions requiring that the Executive Board agree on the transfer of resources and that the General Conference be informed, and give her broader authority to move these resources around. I am, of course, in favour of entrusting the possibility and delegating to the Executive Board the right to take decisions on other proposals, such as the Emergency Fund and in relation to increasing working capital. Thank you very much.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to Mali.

30.1 **Mali :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Le Mali voudrait s'associer à la France et à la Russie pour, d'abord, féliciter Mme la Directrice générale pour le courage et la réactivité dont elle a fait preuve dans une situation certes difficile pour notre Institution mais qui résulte d'un processus démocratique de vote dont les conséquences doivent être assumées par l'ensemble des États membres de cette vénérable Institution. Dans ce contexte, le Mali estime que nous devrions accorder une importante marge de manœuvre à Mme la Directrice générale et il soutient effectivement l'idée de déléguer au Conseil exécutif la possibilité de prendre des décisions en ce qui concerne le Fonds de roulement.

30.2 Pour notre part, en ce qui concerne notre contribution, quelles que soient les difficultés dans lesquelles nous nous trouvons, nous pouvons vous assurer que nous rendrons compte de la situation à notre capitale pour prendre les dispositions nécessaires afin que le Mali puisse être parmi les pays qui manifesteront leur volonté de contribuer à la solution de la situation que traverse – temporairement, nous en sommes convaincus – notre vénérable Institution. спасибо большое.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to Spain.

32. **España:**

Mi Gobierno desea otorgar un voto de confianza a la gestión de la Directora General en esta situación de crisis administrativa y presupuestaria. Sin embargo, mis autoridades no tienen ahora el margen político suficiente ni la autorización parlamentaria para ningún tipo de medida que suponga un incremento de nuestras cuotas contributivas regulares a esta Organización. Sin embargo, conociendo el problema y tratando de ayudar en lo posible a la

subsistencia de esta Organización, atenderemos a los casos específicos dentro de los programas concretos que se nos señalen como prioritarios con urgencia para que podamos cooperar dentro de la disposición que existe en la UNESCO en el fondo fiduciario España-UNESCO. Muchas gracias.

(32) **Spain** (*translation from the Spanish*):

My Government would like to give the Director-General a vote of confidence for her management at this time of administrative and budgetary crisis. However, my authorities do not have enough political scope or parliamentary authorization for any kind of measure that would imply an increase in our regular contributions to this Organization. Then again, as we are aware of the problem and would like to help the survival of this Organization wherever possible, we will give top priority to the specific cases in programmes that are identified as urgent priorities so that we can cooperate within UNESCO's provisions for the Spain-UNESCO Trust Fund. Thank you very much.

33. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Qatar.

قطر: ٣٤

شكراً سيدي الرئيسة، نود ابتداءً أن نشكر المديرية العامة على تقريرها الواضح، ونتمنى لها التوفيق في هذه المرحلة الصعبة من تاريخ المنظمة. ولا نريد أن ندخل في التفاصيل، ولكن ننتظر حوار الغد إن شاء الله بفارغ الصبر. وأود فقط أن أحبي صديقي وزميلي سفير المملكة العربية السعودية على مبادرته بالتشاور مع بعض الدول الأعضاء، ونتمنى أن يتم توسيع هذه المجموعة. وأريد أن أقول إن هذه ليست منظمة إيرينا بوكوفا، ولكنها منظمنا جميعاً ومنظمة جميع الدول. ولا شك في أنّ التعاون بين الجميع سيؤدي إلى إيجاد الحلول المناسبة. وشكراً.

(34) **Qatar** (*translation from the Arabic*):

Thank you Madam President. To begin with, we should like to thank the Director-General for her clear report and wish her every success in this difficult period in the history of the Organization. We do not wish to go into detail, but we are eagerly looking forward to tomorrow's debate. I should merely like to congratulate my friend and colleague, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, on his initiative, in consultation with certain other Member States; we hope that this group will be expanded. I would also like to say that this is not Irina Bokova's Organization; it is the Organization of all of us, of all the Member States. No doubt cooperation among all of us will help to find the appropriate solutions. Thank you.

35. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to South Africa.

36. **South Africa:**

Thank you very much, Madam President. I would also like to signal our support to the Director-General for the efforts that she is making and maybe tomorrow, when we present this, we should present the easy matters first and get approval for those and leave the difficult ones to the end. I wanted to focus a little bit, however, on the issue of reducing the budget, because I think it is an important matter that we have not even talked about. I hope that all Member States understand why it is important that we do not reduce the budget. Even though the United States of America has withdrawn, the amount due stays to their account, I understand. So, if you reduce the budget, it has implications down the line. It is important to flag this early on in the discussion. Thank you very much.

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I give the floor to the Netherlands. Thank you very much.

38. **Netherlands:**

Thank you, Madam President. With every respect and appreciation for the position that the Director-General finds herself in and the efforts that she is undertaking to overcome the "non-crisis", as we are supposed to call it, I would like to say that we feel that we are now pre-empting on developments that we are at least still waiting for. We have been promised more detailed information about the financial position that UNESCO is facing. We have been told that we would be given information about possibilities for reducing expenditure. Before receiving that, however, we have been presented with a proposal to increase the working capital. In my opinion, that is not in the right order. In addition to that, I would like to associate myself with what was said earlier by the Ambassadors of Canada and the United Kingdom. Thank you.

39. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Sri Lanka.

40.1 **Sri Lanka:**

Thank you, Madam President. Ernest Hemingway used a phrase that became quite famous and to me, the conduct of the Director-General in recent weeks has exemplified that phrase: "Grace under pressure". For that, I congratulate her, but even more, I thank her on behalf of Sri Lanka.

40.2 By applauding, we must assist her to stay the course of the principle that she has outlined in her perspectives, which she shared with us recently, including in her letters. You may read between the lines of what I am going to say now. I think we should learn a lesson from the best and worst experiences of States when faced with budgetary crises, with crunch times.

40.3 We have one approach, which many of our countries have gone through, and that is of slash and burn, where you engage in contraction and ditch socially important programmes and open yourself up to a fire sale of assets and you open yourself up to rampant privatization. This is the new liberal model, which is being discredited in many parts of the world, not least in Latin America.

40.4 That is one response to a budgetary crisis. And that I believe is a kind of response that we must avoid. I am not saying that anybody is contemplating that. I just want to signal the dangers of that kind of approach.

40.5 Another approach is to pretend there is no problem and to keep whistling in the dark, hoping that somehow the domestic politics of certain States will unravel or unfold in such a way that enlightened self-interest comes back to the forefront. I would not bet my last dollar on that. We should not whistle in the dark either and hope to roll back some of these things simply by reasoned argument. That might not work. So we cannot pretend that nothing bad is happening or is going to happen. That will not help, because then we will face a shipwreck.

40.6 The third approach, which has worked globally is one in which a budgetary crisis is met with broad and deep consultation with all stakeholders and when there is consensus underpinning the reforms that are necessary, where the socially most important programmes are protected, where the reforms reflect the real balance of social and economic forces, where the interest of the most vulnerable are put at the forefront, the human-centric approach. I think that in dealing with the looming fiscal crisis of UNESCO, our response must be informed by the very values that we stand for and we preach. There cannot be purely budgetary response to a budgetary crisis. It has to be a response informed by UNESCO's guiding ethics. Thank you.

41. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I give the floor to Yemen.

٤٢ اليمن:

شكراً سيدي الرئيسة، أريد فقط أن أذكر بمقال للمديرة العامة، وهو المقال المعنون "Don't punish UNESCO" (أي لا تعاقبوا اليونسكو). فقد عوقبت اليونسكو فعلاً من أجل موقفها الأخلاقي الديمقراطي. ويجب علينا فعلاً أن نقف مع هذه المرأة العظيمة التي تمثلنا وتمثل اليونسكو. وتعد هذه العقوبة عقوبة جماعية حقاً، سواء أكان القرار الخاص بها قد اتخذ بوعي أم بغير وعي. ونرجو أن تُعيد الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية النظر في هذا الأمر، فهي الدولة التي تحظى بمكانة مرموقة في قلوبنا جميعاً، والتي تُعتبر نموذجاً للديمقراطية. ولا أقول هذا الكلام جزافاً، فنحن في بلادنا في اليمن، الدولة التي تُعد من الدول الخمسين الأكثر فقراً في العالم، نكن احتراماً وتقديراً لهذا البلد الكبير. إذ أغلق هذا الباب وأفتح باباً ثانياً، وهو كيف يمكن أن نعالج هذه القضية؟ أعتقد أن هناك ثلاثة مسارات يعتمد أولها على الدول الغنية، وهي عريضة علينا وموجودة بيننا وكانت لها الصدارة والريادة في اتخاذ هذا القرار الشجاع، فينبغي لنا أن نلتمس دعمها ومساندتها، ومنها المجموعة الرباعية التي تطلب دعماً إضافياً من دول أخرى معروفة بيننا. ويتمثل المسار الثاني في الإسراع بدفع اشتراكات الدول الأعضاء. وسوف أبحث إن شاء الله دولتي، رغم كونها من الدول الخمسين الأكثر فقراً، على دفع اشتراكها إحصائياً من أجل هذه المنظمة ولقيمها وأخلاقها. أما الباب الثالث، فهو باب خطير، إذ يخص ما يجري الآن من بحث في ترشيد النفقات أو في تخفيض الميزانية. وأعتقد أن تخفيض الميزانية كلام لا معنى له، ولكن هناك الترشيح الذي اقترحه المدير العام وفريقها المجل. وقد اقترحت المدير العام وفريقها أشياء كثيرة طُرحت على بساط البحث خلال اجتماع المجموعة العربية. وأنا أعتبر هذا الأمر جيداً. أما قضية التخفيض والرجوع إلى الوراء، فهذا أمر يجب ألا نستسلم له. وهذه حالة طارئة وسوف تتم مواجهتها جيداً، فلا تخافي نحن معك، امضي على بركة الله. وشكراً جزيلاً.

(42) **Yemen (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you, Madam President. I would just like to recall an article by the Director-General entitled "Don't punish UNESCO". UNESCO has really been punished for the ethical and democratic stand it has taken. We really need to take a stand alongside this wonderful woman who represents us and represents UNESCO. This is truly a collective punishment, no matter whether the decision for it was taken consciously or unconsciously. We urge the United States of America to reconsider this matter, for it is a State which enjoys great standing in the hearts of all of us, and which is considered to be a model of democracy. I do not say this haphazardly; we in Yemen, one of the 50 poorest countries in the world, hold this great country in great respect and appreciation. This doorway is closed, and I now open a second one: how can we address this issue? I believe there are three possible courses of action: the first involves the rich countries, which are dear to our hearts, and are present here among us; they were foremost in taking this courageous decision, and we need to seek their support and assistance, including the quartet which is requesting additional support from other well-known countries among us. The second course of action consists in ensuring that Member States pay their assessed contributions rapidly. God willing, I shall urge my own country, despite the fact that it is among the 50 poorest countries in the world, to pay its contribution out of devotion to this Organization and its values and ethics. The third course of action is a dangerous one, because it concerns the current rationalization of expenditure or budgetary reductions. I believe that budgetary reductions are meaningless; on the other hand, there is the rationalization of expenditure proposed by the Director-General and her admirable team. The Director-General and her team have proposed many things, which were put to discussion during the meeting of the Arab States group. I find this commendable. However, the idea of reductions and taking steps backwards are measures which we should not give in to. This is an emergency, which should be dealt with properly. Do not be afraid; we are with you. We shall forge ahead with the blessings of God. Thank you very much.

43. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Turkey.

44. **Turkey:**

Madam President, I can confirm that the Turkish Government will give very careful consideration to the Director-General's proposals. My delegation is of the opinion that it is time to act responsibly, not only for the sake of UNESCO, but for the common interest of the international community and the future of the multilateral system of which we are all a part. Thank you.

45. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Excellencies. Are there any other colleague who would like to take the floor? I would like to give the floor Peru, please.

46. **Perú:**

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta. En el nombre del Perú, quiero felicitar a la Directora General por los esfuerzos que está haciendo por salir de esta crisis. Muchos Estados y muchos ciudadanos del mundo confían en usted para que reciba facultades especiales a fin de resolver esta crisis. Por lo demás, espero que los países podamos

ponernos todos de acuerdo sobre el sentido del voto que emitimos y que una sanción de este tipo pierda sentido a medida que la historia avance y ponga de manifiesto la eficacia de la decisión que hemos tomado. Muchas gracias.

(46) **Peru** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, madam President. On behalf of Peru, I would like to congratulate the Director-General for the efforts she is making to overcome this crisis. You have the confidence of many States and many citizens of the world, who rely on you receiving special authority to resolve this crisis. Moreover, I hope that the Member States can reach an agreement over the meaning of the decision that we are reaching and that a punishment of this kind loses meaning as history progresses and shows the effectiveness of the decision that we have made. Thank you.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Germany.

48. **Germany:**

Thank you very much, and I apologize for taking the floor again, but I think there were some constructive proposals in the room, which I would like to emphasize. First, it was said that we should not give up hope, that the United States of America can solve this problem and I think everybody in this room knows that the American President as well as our colleague, Mr Killion, the American Ambassador, would like this problem to be solved as soon as possible. So it is not considered a punishment, but it may turn out to be one involuntarily at this time. The second problem is how we can overcome the situation and allow our Director-General to implement the reforms she wishes to, and keep the Organization in its very important multilateral place. There are democratic systems that are, on financial matters, more open and more meticulous and I think that if I hear in this room that there are countries that would be in a position to put money into UNESCO instead of putting it in the bank, thereby putting it into the future of this Organization and of all of us and our work and the programmes that we have worked on jointly, they would do everybody a very big favour and they would be very much appreciated. I have some hope that this may help us all and would be considered by all of us, including the United States of America, as helping all of us. Thank you.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I give the floor to Denmark.

50. **Denmark:**

Thank you, Madam President. We have of course to look at the proposals and come back to them tomorrow and later on. However, Denmark, in principle, fully supports the rapid and responsible efforts just expressed by the Director-General. Thank you.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to give the floor to the Director-General.

52.1 **The Director-General:**

Thank you very much, Madam President. Let me first thank all the delegations that participated in this debate and let me immediately thank those who said that this Organization does not belong to me. I really needed this debate because there are difficult decisions to be taken and there is a lot of need for support, including the political and moral support that some of you have mentioned, but there is also a need to look at the Organization's financial situation and most importantly, the way forward.

52.2 Let me just say why I believe that it is important to maintain the current budget of the Organization. First, I think it is important because we should not prejudge any future decision on the part of our biggest donor, and any other decision on lowering the ceiling of this current budget would immediately also envisage once again 22%, which will not be received by this Organization. This means that if we change the current ceiling of the budget, we will end up with a deficit not only of 22% next year but of 44%. It means cutting by half the current budget of the Organization. I therefore believe that it is absolutely crucial, from that perspective, that we adopt the current budget as it is.

52.3 Second, the other argument, which I mentioned earlier, is that such a budget is the result of a long process of consultation, work, and a very fine balance between the different parts of the budget, which have been through discussions within the Executive Board and then of course here in the commissions and the General Conference. So I do believe that it is very important that we keep the current budget as it is.

52.4 I will do everything possible in order to continue with the reforms, cut the current administrative expenditures and move funding to programmes. I can say now, with the full responsibility of the position that I am taking, that I will not overlook a single part of our budget and of our current activities from the point of view of savings, which belong to the core priorities of this Organization. I know that in order to gain your trust, I have the responsibility, as some of you have said, of revising our programmes by the end of this year. Some of you asked how I could possibly ask you for additional financial support without making an effort in terms of savings. Let me say that we intend to save \$35 million by the end of this year owing to the very severe cash-flow problem and then we will look, with all the seriousness of the situation, at future reforms and savings, which I intend to report on in January, when I believe that we will have an information meeting with the Executive Board. By that time, I will have a much clearer picture of what is at stake and what kind of measures I will propose to you.

52.5 Unfortunately, we do not have International Monetary Fund (IMF) support, unlike countries that find themselves in similar situations. We only have the \$30 million Working Capital Fund currently at our disposal in order to cushion the situation and shore us up until the end of December. What we do have is the possibility of generating savings and we will do everything possible in order to save \$35 million, hopefully, and then we will use our Working Capital Fund.

52.7 This means that we will start the New Year from zero. The idea of inviting you to discuss the matter of increasing the ceiling of the Working Capital Fund is proposed, for the time being, on an entirely voluntary basis. Let me emphasize that this is on a totally voluntary basis, because we do understand the complexities of your domestic administrative and legislative processes, as well as the financial constraints and difficulties faced by some of your countries. My proposal is thus to appeal to those countries that might consider it possible to contribute to increasing the Working Capital Fund, which will continue to be your money. We will take this up in two years' time, in 2013, so that you may make the definitive decision on what to do with this Working Capital Fund.

52.8 In the meantime, should you consider that we could entrust the Executive Board with taking up this matter it does not mean that such a decision will be taken. For the time being, we are talking only about voluntary contributions that some of your countries might consider possible, which would be a help to us by providing a little more leeway in the form of cash.

52.9 At the same time, I would like to thank very warmly those countries which have already approached us and expressed such willingness. In particular I would like to thank once again the distinguished representative of Yemen because I know how difficult it is for his country to make this gesture and commitment to UNESCO. Many others of you have also said that they will communicate this request to their governments.

52.10 So, in response to those who were asking what we are doing now, I will pledge that we will save \$35 million by the end of the year, with the full appreciation of continuing the commitments and very important core activities that are under way, and revisiting all other spending. This is also the only way I see the situation as of now.

52.11 I also thank all those who have offered to give me more leeway, more freedom to take certain decisions and action. I know that in the current draft appropriation resolution there is the possibility, if I am not wrong, of providing leeway, of flexibility in taking decisions within the different sectors. Should the Member States decide to give me more responsibility I would of course take it up and I reassure you that it will be a very transparent process. I would like to thank you also for your commitment to not micro-manage. Sometimes I will have to take difficult decisions that will require your support. I see this as a very interactive process, involving mutual trust. I know that in order to earn your trust, I have to show you that I am serious about what I am saying now. I have to show you that we can go forward with the important core priorities of the Organization with the full responsibility of all UNESCO staff. I am in constant contact with the staff associations. I am meeting the staff associations on Monday. It is a matter of informing you as well as mobilizing the staff. I have already received the written commitment of the staff associations concerning the proposal that I am making and all the different actions.

52.12 I see two sets of problems. The first is the immediate cash-flow problem. We are tackling this immediate set of problems. The second concerns the future. I know that we have savings to make. We will change our work methods next year. I intend to change the way we prepare our work plans in the Organization. The usual way of working is by adopting an annual work plan, approved by me. We will now move to shorter-term work plans, carefully revisiting the content of the work plans well in advance, cutting back and taking into account the deficit that will be incurred. Of course, this will be accompanied by all the measures that were mentioned in terms of savings. It does not mean that I will decrease the programmatic activities by 20%. It should be against the background of very serious measures in terms of administrative costs. I have discussed this already with the President of the General Conference and the Chair of the Executive Board. I would like to pay tribute once again to Ms Mitrofanova as Chair of the Executive Board for following the difficult reform process and suggesting very bold proposals for savings. I would like to thank her once again and to thank the working group established under her, following the External Evaluation Report. Of the 86 measures that we have adopted jointly with you, there are so many valid points to make this Organization more efficient.

52.13 However, under these circumstances, this is not enough. We have to move and we have to make bolder decisions. I think as an imminent decision, we have to go digital. We have to look at the expenditure that we incur by printing documents and publications. I can enumerate right now a number of proposals that I think can make savings in terms of publications and otherwise. Here, I will need your support in order to create this atmosphere of trust and to change our way of doing business in the Organization. There are a number of other issues, but I think this is the most visible, the most obvious one.

52.14 I would like to thank the distinguished Ambassador of Sri Lanka, as I was touched by the way you made your presentation, outlining the three options. I would go for the third option, of course, because I think that this is the only way forward. We need broad consultations, but we should protect our socially important programmes and the most vulnerable. I think we should make every possible effort to avoid the opposite scenario. That is why I believe we should focus on our core activities, concentrating on those countries in the greatest difficulty and that most benefit from our programmes, and on those activities that make the value added of this Organization. We must also work better with the other United Nations agencies. We must concentrate better on our programmatic activities with a longer-term impact.

52.15 Of course, this cannot be done overnight. All this needs time. But I must say that we have already started this process. This is not something new. We have to accelerate some of the decisions that we plan to take and that we must take. This also concerns those countries that might consider supporting us with extrabudgetary resources and contributions to the Emergency Fund that we want to create. I wish to reassure them that everything that they could possibly contribute to the Organization will go once again to these core priorities. It is extremely important that we all know that every single contribution that you might wish to contribute will be done so in full transparency and in full consultation, not only with the donors, but also with all the Member States, because it is a common problem that we have now. These contributions will go to the core priorities of the Organization, because we will, of course, make an enormous effort to cut administrative costs. It is not possible, however, to substitute or cover the full 22% shortfall in funds to the



Organization. I do not want to be in a situation that will impact some of our core programmes. We must also make better use of extrabudgetary resources.

52.16 I would also ask those countries that have extrabudgetary trust funds with us to try to consult with each other and see whether part of the funding that is here in the Organization may be redirected and moved from the extrabudgetary activities to some of our core programmes in order to save the Organization's core priorities and programmes. I appeal to every single Member State of UNESCO that considers it possible, because of their stable financial and economic situation and their engagement with UNESCO, to come out in support of the Organization. I would not only thank them but I would ask them to do this in consultation with us and with other Member States. I was particularly touched and appreciative of the joint initiative by the Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Brazil, France and China – followed later by the Ambassador of Russia, who also informed me that she would like to join this group but could not at this particular moment – expressing very strong support to the Organization and looking at the possible outcomes of this complicated financial situation. I believe it's a time to reunite. I believe that it is not a time to accuse each other, it is not a time to pass judgement. It is a time when we can unite forces to overcome this difficult situation. That is why I have said that it is not a crisis but a difficult situation. I hope that the difficulties we face are temporary for the Organization and that together we can overcome them.

52.17 I know that sometimes as I say we have to take imminent decisions, and we have to take decisions that are longer-term decisions, which will affect the 2012-2013 budget. I immediately invite any other type of suggestion or proposal that you might have in order to solve the problem of the Organization. It may be focusing in some other way more on our priority programmes. We will need support and dialogue with you. I would like to thank in particular those countries, such as Qatar, that have already informed their governments and are considering supporting the Organization. I know that there are other countries with the same approach. UNESCO works for the public good and for the good of humanity, which is important in these difficult times. I know that even some of those countries who have declared now that their financial constraints prevent them from providing additional funding are big supporters of UNESCO and important contributors to the regular budget, such as Italy and Canada. Some countries are supporting with very strong extrabudgetary resources, such as Italy, which is the biggest extrabudgetary donor and others, such as Germany, are also big contributors to the regular budget. I know that you have constraints at home, too, but I think that by continuing to support the Organization, including by looking at current extrabudgetary funding, like Spain, I believe that we can find a way, with a combination of factors.

52.18 Let me just mention that I do not see only one single decision that will help us in these turbulent times, not that of postponing the incentive scheme decision until 2013, or increasing the Working Capital Fund, or attracting further extrabudgetary resources, or decreasing administrative costs or implementing internal reforms in the Organization. I believe the solution is in the complexity of all these measures, and we can find the right balance of having a budget that will be with a deficit, but a budget that will still deliver the core programmes of this Organization. We need a combination of budgetary contributions, extrabudgetary resources and, of course, the support of wider partners of this Organization that have already come to us and pledged their support.

52.19 Before I end, I would like to say one last thing. I must say that even nowadays, in these difficult times, we receive here at the Secretariat – and I am sure that you are also receiving hundreds of messages from citizens in this world – a number of cheques with messages such as "I want to donate 100 dollars to UNESCO because I believe in UNESCO", "I want to support UNESCO". This is a very encouraging sign that we are on the right track to strengthening this Organization and moving forward during these turbulent times. So once again, thank you for every single opinion that you have expressed. Thank you for your trust. Thank you for the responsibility that you entrust in me and in the senior management team. Thank you for all your valuable proposals. I thank every single delegation, including delegations that cannot contribute financially in these difficult times, but which are supporting what we are doing. All of this is very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. I would immediately propose setting up a fundraising concert series in this hall, because I am sure that we can provide beautiful artists and invite people who would appreciate it – we just have to be creative in all kind of ways. Now I would like to inform you that the addendum to document 36 C/37 is available; please read it, and we will consider the proposal tomorrow afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our work for this evening and we will meet again tomorrow morning. Since we have a full day tomorrow, I should kindly ask you to be punctual tomorrow morning, because it will be a long day. We have a lot to do, so tomorrow, at 10 o'clock sharp, we would like to continue our work. This meeting is now adjourned. Thank you very much.

*The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.  
La séance est levée à 17 h 30  
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30  
Заседание закрывается в 17.30  
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٥,٣٠ مساءً  
会议于 17 时 30 分结束*

# Sixteenth plenary meeting

Thursday 10 November 2011 at 10.15 a.m.  
President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Seizième séance plénière

Jeudi 10 novembre 2011 à 10 h 15  
Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Decimosexta sesión plenaria

Jueves 10 de noviembre de 2011 a las 10.15  
Presidenta: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Шестнадцатое пленарное заседание

четверг 10 ноября 2011 г. в 10.15  
Председатель: г-жа Бодяи (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة السادسة عشرة

الخميس ١٠ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً  
الرئيسة: السيدة بوجيائي (المجر)

# 第十六次全体会议

2011年11月10日星期四10时15分  
主席：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）

**Report of the Education Commission (ED) (36 C/71)**  
**Rapport de la Commission Éducation (ED) (36 C/71)**  
**Informe de la Comisión de Educación (ED) (36 C/71)**  
**Доклад Комиссии по образованию (ED) (36 C/71)**

تقرير لجنة التربية (ED) (٧١/م٣٦)

**教育委员会 (ED) 的报告 (36 C/71)**

**1. The President:**

Your Excellencies, good morning. Ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the sixteenth plenary meeting of the General Conference. As you all know, today is the last day of the 36th session. It will be dedicated to examination of the reports of programme commissions and the adoption of the Appropriation Resolution. We will also have a brief closing ceremony to mark the end of our work, with a little surprise. First, we will examine the report of the Education Commission which is contained in document 36 C/71. The Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Rodolph Imhoof will now present this document. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

**2.1 Mr Imhoof (Switzerland) (Chairperson of the ED Commission – Education):**

Thank you, Madam Chair, and sorry to have been a little bit late but there is so much going on. Thank you for your understanding.

*(The speaker continued in French)*

**2.2 M. Imhoof (Suisse) (Président de la Commission ED) :**

Chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, la Commission Éducation de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale a terminé ses travaux, et comme cela a été annoncé, j'ai le privilège de vous rendre compte des principales conclusions de nos deux jours et demi d'intenses et riches discussions. Notre Commission a travaillé de manière très efficace, et j'aimerais ici rendre hommage à toutes celles et à tous ceux qui se sont exprimés et qui ont su, comme je l'ai suggéré, privilégier le débat de fond plutôt que de tomber dans le travers de la sémantique. Nous avons ouvert notre première séance avec les conclusions du 7<sup>e</sup> Forum des jeunes, présentées par M. Miko Tomi, qui a fait état des huit recommandations du Forum intéressant le Secteur de l'éducation. M. Tomi a déclaré, entre autres, que les jeunes étaient prêts à s'engager de manière constructive auprès du Secteur de l'éducation pour trouver ensemble des solutions aux défis que rencontre l'éducation. Tout au long des débats, il s'est du reste avéré que ce secteur avait une importance majeure pour les jeunes, et cela est bien compréhensible, parce qu'à bien des égards, et nous verrons que cela a été repris par de nombreux délégués, les priorités de l'éducation influent directement sur l'avenir que les jeunes ont déjà aujourd'hui et auront demain, dans le monde qu'ils gèrent eux-mêmes.

2.3 Le Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation a introduit ensuite le débat 1, qui comprenait deux unités de discussion, la première concernant une consultation des États membres sur l'Éducation pour tous après 2015, y compris les conclusions du Forum des jeunes, et la deuxième relative au Projet de programme et budget pour 2012-2013, au titre du point 4.2 de l'ordre du jour. La discussion sur l'EPT post-2015 était organisée autour de quatre questions clés. Cinquante États membres et un observateur ont pris la parole, et la discussion a été, comme je l'ai dit, large et intense. Voici, me semble-t-il, les quelques points essentiels de cette discussion de fond :

- Les progrès vers les objectifs de l'EPT sont inégaux à travers le monde. De nombreux pays n'atteindront pas les six objectifs de l'EPT d'ici 2015. Cela signifie, que l'EPT restera malheureusement un travail inachevé au-delà de 2015, et cela influera très certainement sur le programme Éducation après cette échéance.
- De ce fait, l'idée d'engager un processus de consultations nationales sur l'EPT dans le cadre de la préparation de l'après-2015 a été lancée et a bénéficié surtout d'un large soutien des pays d'Afrique.
- Dans le même esprit, l'éducation doit continuer de figurer au nombre des objectifs internationaux de développement après 2015 et pour cela, il faut renforcer les actions de plaidoyer aux niveaux national, régional et mondial.
- Les jeunes, et je reviens à l'un de leurs chevaux de bataille, doivent être étroitement associés au processus d'élaboration du programme de l'EPT post-2015.
- Le cinquième point concernait l'éducation de qualité. Vous savez que l'EPT était avant tout centrée sur la quantité, et l'on a noté de toutes parts qu'une éducation de qualité était indispensable pour réaliser l'EPT.
- Sixième point : le rôle prépondérant des enseignants. Une éducation sans éducateurs éduqués n'est pas une éducation qui a de l'avenir, et l'on a donc beaucoup insisté sur l'amélioration des curricula et des matériels pédagogiques, nécessaire pour offrir une éducation pertinente et de qualité qui réponde aux besoins des apprenants, et inclue des valeurs telles que la paix, la démocratie et la citoyenneté.
- J'ai prononcé le mot « valeurs », et c'est bien sûr un aspect fondamental qui a été également relevé : importance de l'éducation aux valeurs et lien essentiel entre l'EPT et l'éducation en vue du développement durable.
- Compte tenu des taux élevés de chômage parmi les jeunes, un fort intérêt s'est manifesté pour l'enseignement technique et professionnel et pour l'amélioration des perspectives d'emploi, l'accent étant mis notamment sur les compétences nécessaires à la création d'entreprise.

- On a également relevé qu'il fallait adopter une approche globale d'une éducation fondée sur les droits, et axée sur l'équité et l'inclusion. Bien entendu, une éducation de qualité devait être offerte aux groupes marginalisés, et priorité devait être donnée à l'égalité des sexes en tant que moyen de réaliser l'EPT et les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, ces deux principes étant étroitement liés.
- Il a été rappelé aussi que le développement de l'éducation de la petite enfance était le fondement de tous les autres niveaux d'éducation. L'importance d'un apprentissage tout au long de la vie a aussi été soulignée. Plusieurs pays ont de même relevé l'importance d'un passage sans heurt de l'enseignement primaire à l'enseignement secondaire. Et cela rejoint d'ailleurs les recommandations du Forum des jeunes, où il était fait mention du droit à l'enseignement secondaire gratuit pour tous. Il en ressort clairement que le programme de l'après-2015 doit adopter une approche holistique. J'ai rappelé, je crois, une douzaine de points essentiels qui ont été soulevés au cours du débat, et la nécessité d'étendre la portée de l'EPT au-delà de l'enseignement primaire et de l'enseignement de base, et au-delà des aspects quantitatifs, pour mettre l'accent beaucoup plus vigoureusement sur la qualité de l'enseignement.

2.4 Voilà pour la première unité de discussion, Mesdames et Messieurs. Madame la Présidente, la deuxième unité concernait le point 4.2, notamment l'examen et l'adoption du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013 (document 36 C/5 Add.). Dans son introduction, le Sous-Directeur général pour la planification stratégique a présenté une vue d'ensemble du cadre de préparation du 36 C/5. Ce point a lui aussi donné lieu à un riche débat : 31 membres et quatre observateurs ont pris la parole pour exprimer unanimement leur engagement indéfectible en faveur de l'EPT, en tant que priorité absolue de l'Organisation. Les États membres ont salué et approuvé un 36 C/5 bien ciblé, articulé autour de quatre priorités : l'alphabétisation, les enseignants, la formation technique et professionnelle, et la formulation et la planification de politiques sectorielles. Ils ont jugé important de maintenir l'accent sur les enseignants, l'inclusion et l'équité, la qualité de l'éducation, et bien entendu les valeurs dont j'ai déjà parlé tout à l'heure et, autre point fondamental qui préoccupe beaucoup les jeunes, une meilleure articulation entre l'éducation, la formation professionnelle en général et le monde du travail, de façon à répondre plus efficacement aux besoins concrets et réels d'insertion des jeunes dans la vie quotidienne. Les États membres ont également été unanimes à soutenir le rôle de chef de file de l'EPT joué par l'UNESCO, et ont souligné la nécessité de privilégier les petits États insulaires en développement et les pays les moins avancés.

2.5 Chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de vous rappeler que la Commission Éducation avait à examiner les recommandations du Conseil exécutif concernant le grand programme I (document 36 C/6), qu'elle a approuvées avec de légères modifications. Elle a examiné 12 projets de résolution relatifs au C/5 qui étaient soumis par des États membres. Un projet de résolution a été adopté *in extenso*, six n'ont pas été retenus, et cinq ont été adoptés tels qu'amendés par la Commission. Deux DR ont donné lieu à des discussions. Le premier était le DR.44, relatif aux classements internationaux des établissements d'enseignement supérieur, proposé par la France, et cosigné par le Nigéria. La France et les cinq autres États membres qui ont pris la parole ont insisté sur le fait que l'intention n'était pas d'impliquer l'UNESCO dans des questions de classements internationaux, mais bien de lancer une réflexion sur un enseignement supérieur de qualité, et sur l'échange de bonnes pratiques. Au terme de ces discussions, la Commission a adopté le DR a après avoir décidé d'abandonner la référence aux « classements internationaux ». Le deuxième DR, à savoir le DR.51, portait sur l'éducation en vue du développement durable (EDD). Il était proposé par la Suisse. Huit États membres ont pris la parole. La Suisse proposait que tous les aspects de l'EDD soient pris en compte, avec un accent particulier sur la qualité et la promotion des valeurs. Il était ainsi suggéré que les aspects relatifs à l'environnement du résultat escompté devraient plutôt être considérés comme des points d'entrée pour l'EDD. Tout en acceptant l'esprit du DR proposé, les pays qui ont pris la parole ont suggéré de garder la proposition initiale de la Directrice générale, compte tenu de ce que sa suggestion d'ajouter les mots « vision d'ensemble » tenait compte des préoccupations de la Suisse. Après avoir examiné les projets de résolution, la Commission a procédé à l'examen et à l'adoption de l'enveloppe budgétaire du grand programme I figurant dans le 36 C/5 Add.

2.6 Notre deuxième débat portait sur l'application de la résolution 35 C/75 concernant les institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires arabes occupés. Cette résolution a été adoptée sans débat. Toutefois, quatre États membres ont pris la parole pour faire des remarques générales et saluer l'appui de l'UNESCO aux institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires arabes occupés. Madame la Présidente, je passe au troisième débat, qui concernait la stratégie visant à faire du Bureau international d'éducation (BIE) le centre d'excellence de l'UNESCO en matière de curricula. Trente-trois États membres ont pris la parole pour soutenir cette proposition, tout en soulignant la nécessité d'éviter tout doublon avec le travail d'autres instituts, de rester centré sur les problématiques de curricula, et de renforcer les capacités humaines et financières pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie, qui est apparue très ambitieuse. Il a été noté aussi que l'aspiration à l'excellence devait être partagée par tous les instituts d'éducation de l'UNESCO, idée qui a été également soutenue par le Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation. Le DR a été adopté avec de légères modifications. La Commission a écouté ensuite les rapports d'activités pour 2010-2011 des six instituts d'éducation de catégorie 1. La Commission a pris aussi note des défis auxquels font face les pays de la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes dans la réalisation des objectifs de l'EPT, tels que décrits dans le rapport sur le PRELAC.

2.7 Pour terminer, je vais rendre brièvement compte du quatrième et dernier débat, qui comprenait cinq points. Vingt-sept États membres et un observateur ont pris la parole au cours de ce débat. Le premier point concernait la révision de la Classification internationale type de l'éducation (CITE). La version 2011 inclut entre autres l'enseignement supérieur, l'éducation de la petite enfance, et l'éducation non formelle, révisions saluées par la plupart des États membres, qui ont demandé en même temps que des manuels d'utilisation soient mis à leur disposition pour les aider à interpréter et à appliquer la CITE 2011 dans leurs pays respectifs. Pendant l'adoption du rapport écrit, le délégué de l'Espagne a rappelé au sujet de la CITE que le terme « *licenciatura* » en espagnol n'était pas équivalent à « *bachelor* » en anglais. Il a été pris bonne note de cette remarque, qui sera transmise à l'ISU pour information. Le deuxième point

concernait la mise en œuvre par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1993 sur la reconnaissance des études et des titres de l'enseignement supérieur. Les États qui ont pris la parole ont été nombreux à juger important de faciliter cette reconnaissance, en particulier dans le contexte de la mondialisation et de la mobilité accrue des personnes dans le secteur de l'enseignement. Le DR relatif à ce point a été adopté par consensus avec une très légère modification. Le troisième point concernait le rapport sur la mise en œuvre par les États membres de la Recommandation de 1976 sur le développement de l'éducation des adultes. Plusieurs États membres ont fait ressortir l'importance de l'évaluation des programmes d'enseignement et la réforme de l'éducation des adultes, en particulier l'éducation des adolescents, pour y intégrer la dimension du genre et l'éducation tout au long de la vie. Le quatrième point concernait la demande visant à autoriser le Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO à examiner à sa 189<sup>e</sup> session la proposition de création, à Sri Lanka, d'un centre sud-asiatique pour le perfectionnement des enseignants en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. Il a été considéré que ce centre répondait à un besoin urgent et qu'il fallait améliorer la qualité de l'éducation dans ce domaine au niveau de la région, et il a été décidé de soumettre cette proposition à la Conférence générale à sa présente session pour commencer sans tarder les études de faisabilité. La proposition était cosignée par 39 pays, et six États membres ont pris la parole pour la soutenir lors de l'examen du DR, qui a été adopté sans aucune discussion tel qu'il était proposé. Le cinquième et dernier point concernait la révision de la Convention régionale de 1981 sur la reconnaissance des études et des certificats, diplômes, grades et autres titres de l'enseignement supérieur dans les États d'Afrique (connu aussi sous le nom de Convention d'Arusha). Le projet de résolution figurant dans le DR demande à la Directrice générale d'organiser en 2012-2013 une conférence internationale de catégorie I en vue d'examiner et d'adopter les modifications qu'il était envisagé d'apporter à cette Convention. Le Maroc s'est proposé d'accueillir la conférence. Plusieurs États membres ont souhaité que des synergies soient facilitées entre les différents réseaux d'Afrique afin d'accélérer la ratification de la Convention.

2.8 Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'arrive au terme de ma litanie. Je vous demande pardon d'avoir été aussi long, mais je crois que le débat a été tellement fructueux qu'il me fallait insister en tout cas sur la première partie, c'est-à-dire le débat 1, qui a été assurément le plus stimulant et le plus intéressant au sein de notre Commission. J'aimerais conclure cette présentation en félicitant une fois de plus toutes celles et tous ceux qui étaient présents dans la salle, et tous les orateurs qui ont participé à ce débat, que je pense en effet avoir été intéressant, fructueux et constructif. Merci beaucoup de votre attention. Merci, madame la Présidente.

3. **The President:**

Thank you so much, Your Excellency. Are there any comments or suggestions on document 36 C/71? I see none. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Education Commission and adopts the draft resolutions contained therein, subject to the decisions that the General Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for the next biennium? I see no objections. *It is so decided.* Your Excellency, I wish to thank you for having successfully chaired your commission. I also wish to congratulate and thank all members of the Education Commission for their commitment and efficiency. Thank you very much.

**Report of the Communication and Information Commission (CI) (36 C/75)**

**Rapport de la Commission Communication et information (CI) (36 C/75)**

**Informe de la Comisión de Comunicación e Información (CI) (36 C/75)**

**Доклад Комиссии по коммуникации и информации (CI) (36 C/75)**

تقرير لجنة الاتصال والمعلومات (CI) (٧٥/٣٦)

传播和信息委员会 (CI) 的报告 (36 C/75)

4. **The President:**

Now, ladies and gentleman, we will examine the report of the CI Commission (Communication and Information). I am pleased to give the floor to His Excellency, Mr Ludovit Molnár, who will introduce the report of the Commission he successfully chaired. The report is contained in document 36 C/75. Mr Molnár, you have the floor.

5.1 **Mr Molnár** (Chairperson of the CI Commission – Communication and Information):

Madam President of the General Conference, *dobroe utro*, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, *dobroe utro*, Madam Director-General, good morning ladies and gentlemen, this was a small example of multilingualism and how it is implemented here at UNESCO. But this is not our main point. Our main point is to show how multilingualism can bring a smile to our faces. Old wisdom says that – and I hope you agree – with a smile, everything goes better. So Madam, if you allow me to add also some Slovak, *dobré ráno*, good morning to everybody and Madam, keep smiling, don't worry, be happy. Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, it is a great honour for me to present the oral report of the CI Commission. The CI Commission is number five, but I think that in order of importance this is number one, because without communication, there is no education – I apologize – there is no culture, there is no science. I think, therefore, that our commission is really very important.

5.2 I would like to express my appreciation to the UNESCO General Conference for entrusting me with the task of chairing this Commission, which has proven to be a challenging yet most enriching experience. I also wish to thank the other members of the Bureau who have helped me in this mission, namely Mr Magne Velure (Norway), Ms Assel Utegenova (Kazakhstan), Mr Mohammed Sheya (Tanzania) and Mr Said Chaabane (Algeria). Our Rapporteur, Ms Jeanne Marion-Landais (Dominican Republic), deserves special recognition for her excellent work in capturing the key issues emerging from our discussions. I am also truly grateful to the representative of the Director-General, Mr Janis Karklins, whose contribution to the smooth conduct of the debates was invaluable. Finally, please allow me to acknowledge the dedication and competency of the CI Commission Secretariat, headed by Ms Sylvie Coudray. I shall

now proceed to summarize the debates of our Commission, which faced a particularly heavy agenda this year, with twelve major items to discuss.

5.3 In the general introduction to the debate of the Commission, the Assistant Director-General for the UNESCO Communication and Information Sector, Mr Janis Karklins, outlined the Sector's guiding principles and major achievements. He referred to the CI Sector's structural reform, and emphasized advances in the engagement with other sectors, communication between Headquarters and field offices as well as with Member States, the introduction of results-based programming and budgeting, increased cost-effectiveness and CI's active recruitment policy. As critical upcoming actions, he stressed reflecting on UNESCO's next Medium-Term Strategy, positioning CI to meet challenges up to 2015 and beyond, restructuring the field presence, and mobilizing extrabudgetary funds.

5.4 Delegates were presented with the reports of the two extrabudgetary programmes managed by the CI Sector, namely the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP). In the absence of Mr Raghu Menon, Chairperson of the IPDC Intergovernmental Council, Mr Ivan Ávila Belloso, Vice-Chairperson, presented the report of IPDC, the only programme within the United Nations system with a mandate to mobilize international support for media development in developing countries. He informed the delegates that in the 2010-2011 period, contributions to the Programme had reached their highest level in the last decade, namely more than \$4.5 million, received from 13 donor countries. The funds were used to implement 176 media development projects across the globe. Mr Ávila Belloso reported on the United Nations interagency meeting on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity organized by UNESCO in September 2011. He provided an update on the progress made in the application of the UNESCO/IPDC Media Development Indicators (MDI), with eight MDI-based assessments of national media landscapes already completed, and another 10 ongoing. He also pointed out the efforts of IPDC in supporting journalism education in Africa, with over \$1 million spent by UNESCO and its partners in this field during the last biennium.

5.5 Turning to the second intergovernmental programme, the Chairperson of IFAP, Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, spoke of achievements in the last two years. He reminded the assembly that IFAP was designed to address the challenges of the global information society. Mr Kuzmin emphasized how IFAP had undergone a true revival, and went on to present some of the recent publications produced by IFAP. He also referred to the four international conferences organized by IFAP during this past biennium: on information literacy in the Asia and the Pacific region, on building knowledge societies in the Caribbean, on linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace; and finally, on storing digital information.

5.6 The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mr Karklins, informed the assembly of the Director-General's active support for the implementation of the strategic plan for IFAP (2008-2013), aimed at reinvigorating the Programme. The Director-General welcomed, in her report, the increased synergy between IFAP and the Secretariat, as well as the growing number of activities in each of IFAP's five strategic priority areas. However, she also underlined the need for additional resources for IFAP, therefore inviting Member States to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme.

5.7 Now, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to move on to some observations from debate number one. The first debate related to the adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013. By way of introduction, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), Mr Jean-Yves Le Saux, informed delegates that UNESCO's Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 would be based on a zero-nominal growth ceiling of \$653 million. The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mr Karklins, explained that 55% of the budget for Major Programme V activities would be decentralized to the field (of which 36% was earmarked for Africa), while 45% would remain at Headquarters. He went on to highlight the three main lines of action (MLAs) proposed for Major Programme V in the draft 36 C/5 document, namely: MLA 1: Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression in order to foster development, democracy and dialogue for a culture of peace and non-violence; MLA 2: Strengthening free, independent and pluralistic media, civic participation and gender-responsive communication for sustainable development; and MLA 3: Supporting Member States in empowering citizens through universal access to knowledge and the preservation of information, including documentary heritage. Mr Karklins then outlined the planned activities and expected results for each MLA.

5.8 Nineteen-year-old Nasma Dasser presented the delegates with some recommendations resulting from the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum. Discussions underlined the opportunities that ICTs represent for young people, but the persisting inequalities in terms of access were a cause for concern. Participants called for a gender- and disability-sensitive approach to ICTs. They also examined the role of social media, exhorting governments to guarantee the inalienable right of freedom of expression both on and offline, while also protecting privacy and security.

5.9 Turning to the comments from the 38 Member States and one observer that intervened during the discussion on the 36 C/5, the document was welcomed as a comprehensive and goal-oriented roadmap to enable UNESCO's successful fulfilment of its mandate in the area of communication and information. With regard to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, many delegates welcomed the strong emphasis on freedom of expression and freedom of the press in document 36 C/5, while inviting UNESCO to play a bigger role in establishing policy dialogue on these issues between Member States and other relevant stakeholders. It was proposed that freedom of expression good practices be shared between Member States. Several representatives encouraged UNESCO to further strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Council and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression. One Member State suggested the development of an independent mechanism for monitoring the situation of press freedom at the global level, with a particular focus on the safety of journalists, building upon UNESCO's Media Development Indicators initiative. Ensuring the safety of journalists was mentioned by many as a precondition for free media. A number of Member States expressed their appreciation for the recent United Nations interagency meeting

organized by UNESCO on this topic, and hoped that it would lead to a coherent system-wide plan of action, with active participation by UNESCO in its implementation. The decriminalization of press offences was highlighted as another significant challenge. The importance of promoting freedom of expression both offline and online was also underscored.

5.10 Several Member States stressed the need to ensure the respect of different religions and nations, national security and public order. Algeria, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkey and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed their reservations about the text of 36 C/DR.43, stating that it contained many ambiguities and causes for confusion, notably in paragraph (iii) when referring to “other relevant organizations active in this field”. The problem was with the wording “relevant organizations” and it was agreed that a reference to these reservations would be included in the oral report of the CI Commission. The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information made it clear that UNESCO works with organizations with which it maintains official relations, including professional associations and civil society organizations specialized in this subject field.

5.11 Many delegates emphasized that freedom of expression should go hand in hand with media pluralism. Several Member States warned against the dangers that concentration of media ownership posed to the ideal pursued by UNESCO of ensuring a plurality of information sources and a diverse mix of public services, private and community media. Two Member States proposed that UNESCO engage in research on media concentration and its possible implications on freedom of expression – a proposal that the Assistant Director-General said UNESCO would take on board.

5.12 With regard to capacity building of journalists, there was consistent support among delegates for UNESCO’s contribution to capacity building and the training of media professionals. Some key areas mentioned were training in investigative journalism, reporting on elections and professional ethics. Member States also voiced the need for UNESCO to continue bolstering its efforts to promote media and information literacy (MIL), including in relation to Internet use, and especially targeting youth and women.

5.13 Delegates responded very positively to the intervention of the representative of the Youth Forum. They encouraged further inclusion of youth in delegations to the General Conference and throughout UNESCO’s activities. This was recognized as especially relevant in light of the role of youth, new media and social networks in the recent events in the Arab region. It was stressed that National Commissions should play an important role in UNESCO’s youth-related work.

5.14 Bridging the digital divide: Member States noted that it was imperative for UNESCO to continue its work to reduce the digital divide, highlighting the potential of ICTs and Internet to empower disadvantaged groups and those living in remote areas. At the same time, the continuing relevance of traditional media (particularly local media) to facilitate access to information and knowledge was also underscored, taking into account the fact that almost three quarters of the world population still lacked access to the Internet. As to the World Summit on the Information Society, Member States recognized the advances made by UNESCO in the implementation of the WSIS Action Plan, and its contribution to anticipating trends and challenges related to the information society. A call was made for additional efforts to ensure inclusiveness and a better linking of forecast and implementation methods.

5.15 UNESCO’s work on open access to scientific information and research was praised as being especially advantageous for least developed countries (LDCs). The use of ICTs for education was encouraged, and one delegate referred to the specific needs of people with disabilities. The open educational resources initiative also received positive comments. The Commission took note of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s wish to underline the importance of free access to information and scientific research, with reference to the discussion on draft resolution 19 in document 36 C/5.

5.16 I turn now to the Memory of the World Programme, libraries and archives. Supporting libraries and archives was highlighted as essential. There was consistent praise for UNESCO’s work on documentary heritage, particularly the Memory of the World Programme, which several Member States wished to see reinforced. One delegate underscored the need to strengthen its regional committees. The preservation of digital heritage was identified as an urgent and particularly complex priority, due to the rapid obsolescence of digital resources and the lack of expertise in this fast-evolving field.

5.17 UNESCO was commended for its role in multi-stakeholder discussions on Internet governance, and there were calls to strengthen cooperation with other actors in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The Organization’s engagement with the ethical dimension of the information society was highly appreciated, particularly considering the illegal or harmful uses of the Internet. The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information stressed the complexities of the issues at stake, given the trans-border character of the Internet and constantly emerging challenges in cyberspace.

5.18 Regarding the two intergovernmental programmes of UNESCO’s Communication and Information Sector, a number of Member States recognized the major role played by IPDC in UNESCO’s action to support media development, and reaffirmed their financial commitments to the Programme. Several delegates underlined the importance of IPDC’s standard-setting initiatives, mentioning its media development indicators and its role in upholding the safety of journalists, as examples. As to IFAP, it was described by several delegates as an important programme for promoting universal access to information. One representative noted IFAP’s unique position within the United Nations system for assessing the ethical implications of the information society on a global scale. At the same time, attention was drawn to the need to ensure more substantial extrabudgetary resources for the Programme.

5.19 Draft resolution 26, which proposed support to the cross-cutting projects developed by the working groups for the IFAP priority areas in document 36 C/5, was not adopted. However, the Secretariat undertook to incorporate the objectives and concepts identified in the four proposals elaborated by the IFAP working group on information

preservation to the fullest extent possible when implementing document 36 C/5, and to keep Member States informed in this regard. That brings me to the end of my report on the first debate.

5.20 The second debate pertained to the proposed establishment of two category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO – a regional centre for library information systems and current research information systems (IZUM) based in Maribor, Slovenia and a regional centre of studies for the development of the information society in São Paulo, Brazil. The CI Commission welcomed the establishment of the two centres and adopted the two draft resolutions on the issue without amendments.

5.21 With regard to the third debate, I would now like to make some brief observations by the Commission, during which the report by the Director-General on UNESCO's activities for the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society goals was discussed. Overall, Member States expressed their satisfaction with the report and the progress made by UNESCO in implementing the WSIS Plan of Action, notably through more than 600 WSIS-related activities carried out across all sectors in 2010 and 2011 alone. Many delegates recognized the important role played by the Organization in building inclusive, human-centred knowledge societies, in particular as concerned promoting accessibility, open access, freedom of expression, freedom of information, multilingualism and the ethical dimension of the information society. A call was made for closer collaboration with civil society, other United Nations agencies, regional organizations and national stakeholders, including the private sector. UNESCO was also encouraged to focus its efforts on areas in which it had a comparative advantage – for example, the promotion of freedom of expression online.

5.22 The challenges linked to the digital divide were emphasized, and one Member State suggested the elaboration of indicators to measure the extent to which it was being bridged. Another noted the absence in the report of any reference to the digital solidarity fund. Finally, Member States welcomed the proposal that UNESCO organize in 2013 a high-level WSIS review event in the lead-up to the WSIS 2015 review at the United Nations General Assembly, and adopted the proposed draft resolution on this item with no modifications.

5.23 The fourth debate of our Commission concerned UNESCO's reflection and analysis on the Internet. Member States taking the floor praised the document and encouraged UNESCO to continue its important work in this area, including through its involvement in the Internet Governance Forum, and actions to promote freedom of expression online. UNESCO's cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the United Nations Human Rights Council was identified as critical. The need to ensure privacy and personal protection was also discussed. Especially highlighted were the dangers youth were exposed to, and the relevance of fostering media and information literacy from an early age. A delegate pointed out that youth and their central role in bringing about change were not given sufficient attention in the examined document. It was proposed that UNESCO analyse the use of social media and that youth be involved in upcoming events on Internet governance and other related matters.

5.24 The importance of further developing quality local content, and enhancing Internet access in rural and remote areas, among women and disadvantaged groups, was stressed. One delegate underscored the opportunities that Internet offered for small island developing States, while another emphasized its relevance with regard to disaster risk reduction. It was noted that the report could have been strengthened by including financial estimates regarding proposed activities, and other statistical data. There were calls for further intersectorality in the analysis of UNESCO's work related to the Internet, as well as for an increased involvement of National Commissions. The draft resolution on this item was adopted with few amendments.

5.25 During the fifth debate, our Commission considered the consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States for the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, adopted by the General Conference at its 32nd session. The representative of Mexico enquired about the Secretariat's follow-up to the reports received from Member States. In his reply, Mr Karklins outlined the timeline for the preparation of the report. He went on to note that responses by Member States provided a snapshot allowing the Secretariat to plan activities to foster multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace. Among these, he highlighted UNESCO's work with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) on Internet domain name (IDN) variants for the Cyrillic script, and on the internationalized country code top level domain names. He also informed delegates about the work carried out to develop a methodology to measure linguistic diversity in cyberspace. The debate ended with the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/LEG/4, as amended orally by Member States.

5.26 The sixth debate of our Commission concerned a draft resolution submitted by Poland and co-sponsored by 55 countries, calling for an overall evaluation and reflection on strengthening the impact of the Memory of the World Programme, building on its twentieth anniversary in 2012. After an introduction by the Assistant Director-General and the Ambassador of Poland, delegates taking the floor unanimously supported the item. They congratulated Poland on its initiative and on the successful organization of the Fourth International Conference of the Memory of the World Programme in May 2011. A number of Member States encouraged greater efforts to place documentary heritage on an equal footing with other types of heritage. A call was made for increased budgetary allocation to the Programme. One delegate exhorted UNESCO to ensure that young people were brought on board in the celebration of the Programme's anniversary. Special emphasis was placed on access and preservation of digital information, and the proposed draft resolution was approved with an amendment inviting Member States to support the conference on digital preservation planned for September 2012.

5.27 The seventh concerned the proposed endorsement of the digital library manifesto of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The representative of IFLA, Ms Wiebke Dalhoff, reminded the assembly that IFLA represented 750,000 library and information professionals in more than 150 countries and maintained formal consultative relations with UNESCO. She explained that the manifesto comprised principles that supported libraries in



the implementation of sustainable digitization activities and promoted the execution of national e-strategies in that area. Several delegates emphasized the importance of IFLA as a long-standing UNESCO partner, and the CI Commission decided to recommend that the General Conference endorse the IFLA digital library manifesto.

5.28 The eighth debate dealt with the code of ethics for the Information Society submitted by the IFAP Intergovernmental Council to the General Conference for endorsement. After a brief introduction by the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, the Chairperson of IFAP, Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, presented the code elaborated within the framework of one of IFAP's five priority areas – information ethics – and in line with UNESCO's lead role in coordinating action line 10 "Ethical dimensions of the information society" of the WSIS Plan of Action. He noted that the code balanced the concerns of different Member States, was not binding in nature, and had been developed through a vast consultation process involving Member States, intergovernmental organizations, experts, academics and NGOs.

5.29 Some Member States raised concerns relating to the code's dispersed target group. They underscored the relevance of ensuring sufficiently inclusive discussions, noting that an intergovernmental forum might not be the most appropriate context for endorsement of the code. Some found that certain aspects were sensitive and could conflict with national legal interpretations and policies. They therefore believed it would be difficult to reach a consensus. There were recommendations to refer to "guidelines" or a "set of principles" rather than to a code. While taking note of IFAP's efforts to address the pressing ethical issues related to the information society, a number of delegates felt they could not adopt the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/49, lending support to the amendment introduced by Denmark through draft resolution 3 on this item. Other Member States, however, expressed their unreserved support for the General Conference's endorsement of the code, commending it for its contribution towards addressing critical challenges, the flexibility that its non-binding nature allowed for, and the significant consultative work behind it. After extensive discussions, including a special informal meeting, an amended draft resolution was adopted, taking note of the code and inviting the Director-General to suggest, at the 189th session of the Executive Board, possible ways in which UNESCO could address ethical issues linked to the information society.

5.30 The ninth debate of our Commission focused on a draft resolution submitted by Senegal and co-sponsored by four countries, which proposed the General Conference's endorsement of the Universal Declaration on Archives, developed by the International Council on Archives. The document was favourably received by all delegates. Clarification was requested as to whether the endorsement of such a declaration engaged the procedures applicable for normative instruments. The CI Commission agreed to recommend to the General Conference the endorsement of the Universal Declaration on Archives, making explicit mention of the International Council on Archives' authorship of the Declaration in the draft resolution and in its annex.

5.31 The tenth debate concerned the proposal, submitted by Spain, to proclaim a World Radio Day on 13 February in order to raise the profile of radio among the public and favour the exchange of ideas, programmes and practices among broadcasters. Spain was warmly congratulated for the initiative. Widespread support was expressed by delegates, who highlighted in their interventions some of the key attributes of radio: its accessibility and low cost, its ability to reach communities in remote and rural areas, as well as illiterate populations, and its instrumental role in coping with post-disaster situations. The observer representing the International Radio and Television Union (URTI) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) exhorted the Commission to imagine a world without radio. The observer from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) expressed his organization's full support for the initiative, informing the assembly that ITU was ready to cooperate with UNESCO in the celebration of World Radio Day. It was decided by delegates to make no specific mention in the draft resolution of the names of the scientists who contributed to the invention of radio. The Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the proposed resolution as amended.

5.32 In the eleventh debate, drawing attention to the fact that currently only around 20% of scientific information was freely available online, the Assistant Director-General presented the proposed revised strategy on UNESCO's contribution to the promotion of open access to scientific information and research. Member States overwhelmingly supported the revised draft strategy, describing it as pragmatic, comprehensive and balanced, and one that had taken into account their concerns. The importance of strong collaboration with other UNESCO sectors, in particular the science sectors, and other relevant stakeholders, was underlined. Several delegates insisted on the need for UNESCO to make all of its own publications available in open access. Mr Karklins informed delegates that UNESCO was currently working with Creative Commons on the development of a suitable license for intergovernmental organizations, in order to make this possible. The recent launch of the Global Open Access Portal was welcomed. Two delegates suggested the possibility of developing an international standard-setting instrument on open access. The last draft resolution was adopted with one amendment.

5.33 Excellencies, distinguished delegates, at the close of the Commission's debates, one Member State pointed out the poor quality of the Arabic version of the documentation provided to the delegates and asked that it be noted in the oral report. This brings me to the end of my report on the proceedings of the CI Commission. I thank you very much for your attention.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Molnár. What a clear report and thank you for an efficient chairmanship. I also wish to thank all the members of the Commission for their work. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 36 C/75? I see one. Please identify yourself, sir, at the back.

7. **International Telecommunication Union – ITU:**

I am an observer and I am representing the ITU, Madam President.

8. **The President:**

Is there no one else wishing to take the floor? I intend to give one minute, if that is okay with the Member States. Thank you, the floor is yours. One minute sir, thank you.

9. **Union internationale des télécommunications – UIT:**

Merci Madame la Présidente de me donner la parole. Au nom de l'Union internationale des télécommunications et de son Secrétaire général, le Docteur Touré, je vous félicite, Madame la Directrice générale, de votre réélection. Madame la Présidente, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, honorables représentants des États membres ; je réitère que l'UIT est disposée à coopérer avec l'UNESCO en vue de la mise en œuvre d'une Journée mondiale de la radio, dont la proclamation faisait l'objet du débat 10. Par ailleurs, je tiens à rappeler à la Conférence que l'UNESCO et l'UIT ont signé en 1992 un accord de coopération qui est toujours en vigueur. Cette coopération s'est intensifiée, en l'occurrence avec le Secteur de la communication et de l'information, sous la direction de son Sous-Directeur général, M. Kärkliņš, à l'équipe duquel j'adresse mes félicitations. En conclusion, je vous prie de bien vouloir consigner ma déclaration dans les actes de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale. Madame la Présidente, je vous remercie de votre attention et je souhaite bon vent aux cybernautes. Merci.

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much, sir. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 36 C/75? I see none. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the CI Commission contained in document 36 C/75, 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? I see no objections. *It is so decided.* Thank you very much Mr Molnár. Congratulations again. Your Excellencies, the next item on our agenda for this morning is the report of the Science Commission. I am very happy to welcome His Excellency, Mr Montri Chulavatnatol, who will introduce the report contained in document 36 C/72. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

**Report of the Natural Sciences Commission (SC) (36 C/72)**

**Rapport de la Commission Sciences exactes et naturelles (SC) (36 C/72)**

**Informe de la Comisión de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales (SC) (36 C/72)**

**Доклад Комиссии по естественным наукам (SC) (36 C/72)**

**تقرير لجنة العلوم الطبيعية (SC) (٧٢/م٣٦)**

**自然科学委员会 (SC) 的报告 (36 C/72)**

11.1 **Mr Chulavatnatol (Thailand) (Chairperson of the SC Commission – Natural Sciences):**

Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, as the Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission, I am very pleased to present the conclusions of the Commission's work to this honourable assembly. First of all, allow me to thank the members of the Bureau of the SC Commission: Mr Ciarlini (Brazil), Mr Kizabi (Democratic Republic of Congo), Mr El-Zahaby (Egypt), and Mr Sikachev (Russian Federation), for their contributions in bringing our work to a successful conclusion. I also wish to pay tribute to the Secretary of the Science Commission, Ms Meriem Bouamrane and to her excellent team, because without them the work of this Commission would have been impossible. I should also like to thank the representatives of the Director-General, Mr Hans d'Orville, Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, Ms Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences and Ms Wendy Watson-Wright, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) with whom we had several productive exchanges, for their helpful cooperation with the Commission.

11.2 The Natural Sciences Commission started on Tuesday, 1 November, and met five times. The work of the Natural Sciences Commission was organized around seven agenda items. I intend to present the results of our work according to the timetable adopted, which is also reflected in the written report. Prior to examination of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 concerning the Natural Sciences, the Chairperson of the Man and the Biosphere Programme delivered the joint statement of the chairpersons of UNESCO's six intergovernmental and international scientific programmes : the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), and the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST).

11.3 On behalf of the chairpersons of the intergovernmental and international scientific programmes, the Chairperson of MAB underscored the necessity for the programmes to continue to be innovative and relevant. Notably, he underscored the importance for UNESCO of continuing to develop global collaboration in the sciences, enhance the flow of scientific results, build national capacities in science and science education, advocate building green societies and the efficient management of scarce water resources, use the world network of biosphere reserves to shape and implement sustainable development, enhance effective management of marine and coastal areas and strengthen linkages between social sciences research and policies. He also advocated establishing close collaboration with the High-level Panel on Science for Sustainable Development, streamlining the procedures for funding applications and promoting awareness of UNESCO's mandate as the lead United Nations organization in international scientific development, especially in the framework of Rio+20.

11.4 Following the presentation by the MAB Chairperson, the Commission endorsed the reports of the intergovernmental and international scientific programmes (IOC, MAB, IGCP, IHP and IBSP) and the report of the Governing Board of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education without debate. The representative of the International Council for Science (ICSU) then took the floor to highlight some of the main achievements attained through ICSU's collaboration with UNESCO, notably in the preparations for Rio+20 and the setting up of the earth system

sustainability initiative. The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences took the floor to echo ICSU's statement and to underscore the important work UNESCO and ICSU were doing in the area of international research collaboration. Cooperation with ICSU has been instrumental in furthering the contribution of science, technology and innovation to sustainable development in the context of the Rio+20 process. ICSU and UNESCO will continue collaborating closely in this area, as well as with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC). The Commission took note of ICSU's presentation.

11.5 The Commission started its work with agenda item 4.2, "Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, Major Programme II – Natural Sciences". The representatives of the Director-General, namely the Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, the Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences, and the IOC Executive Secretary, introduced the item. The ADG for Strategic Planning noted that the Executive Board and the ADM Commission of the General Conference had endorsed the zero nominal growth scenario of \$653 million. He explained that compared to document 35 C/5, the Natural Sciences Sector's budget had been increased by approximately \$1.9 million. He noted that the six intersectoral platforms would, for the first time, have funds allocated to them, representing 8% of the total budget, or approximately \$7.1 million. He also noted that the 36 C/5 Addendum proposal contained approximately \$9 million for field network reform, some of which would benefit the Natural Sciences Sector.

11.6 The ADG for Natural Sciences first presented what the Sector had focused on in the past two years, notably activities that required large-scale multinational collaboration, capacity building in Member States, and science for peace. She then went on to highlight some of the recent accomplishments of the Sector, notably in the area of natural disasters, science policy, institutional research capacity-building, the new UNESCO biodiversity initiative, IPBES, water, MAB, science education, earth sciences, geoparks, and the engineering initiative. She emphasized that the Sector had focused on strengthening its intersectoral work, its work with other United Nations agencies and its partnerships with the private sector, and underscored the Natural Sciences Sector's strong role in the preparations for Rio+20.

11.7 The ADG for Natural Sciences then presented the two main biennial sectoral priorities for the Natural Sciences: priority one, "Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies for sustainable development, poverty eradication and a culture of peace and non-violence", with three main lines of action; and priority two, "Mobilizing science for sustainable use of natural resources, renewable energy efficiency, and for natural disaster reduction and mitigation", with four main lines of action; and the sector's interdisciplinary approach to addressing issues such as climate change and small island developing States.

11.8 The IOC Executive Secretary highlighted some of IOC's most recent achievements, including the work of its tsunami warning systems, notably in the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, and ocean observations through its Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS), as well as ocean health. She also underscored IOC's work in Africa, where the IOC Assembly established a sub-commission, and is implementing programmes in capacity building, ocean observation and ocean sciences. Finally, she highlighted IOC's leadership in the preparations for Rio+20 with regard to oceans and climate change. The representative of UNESCO's Youth Forum underscored the importance of involving youth in deliberations related to issues such as climate change, green economies and sustainable development, and the preparations for Rio+20. She also highlighted the importance of science education and training, the preservation of natural heritage and asked that UNESCO take a leading role in the follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

11.9 Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, in the debate that followed, 55 speakers took the floor. Numerous Member States expressed their support for the programme and budget of Major Programme II, as set out in document 36 C/5 Addendum, and confirmed their support for the global priorities of Africa and gender equality within the Natural Sciences Sector's work. Some countries requested that the Sector continue to focus on streamlining its programmes and concentrate on its areas of comparative advantage. Many countries focused on the importance of the Sector's work in the area of science, technology and innovation as well as capacity building, notably in Africa, and a number of countries recalled the need for UNESCO to continue its important interdisciplinary work to address the growing vulnerabilities faced by small island developing States (SIDS).

11.10 The importance of UNESCO's work in the area of water, notably through the work of IHP in areas such as water governance, groundwater management, floods and droughts and the work of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education was also strongly emphasized. One Member State noted that reference should be made to transboundary waters, not shared waters. Numerous countries underscored the importance of UNESCO's work in sustainable development, particularly through the work of MAB and the world network of biosphere reserves, as learning sites for sustainable development, and one country emphasized the importance of MAB increasing its focus on urban ecosystems. One Member State expressed its concern that the MAB budget not be reduced, as it had been during the last biennium, and requested information on the budget for cross-cutting themes.

11.11 A large number of delegates underlined the importance of UNESCO's climate change work, and asked that the Organization use an interdisciplinary approach taking into account the work of the intergovernmental and international scientific programmes, including IOC, and incorporating such issues as natural disasters and indigenous knowledge. Many countries highlighted the important work of the Global Geoparks Network, notably in the area of earth sciences education and geo-hazards, and asked that UNESCO expand its cooperation with the Network. Numerous delegates also asked UNESCO to continue and reinforce its actions in natural disaster risk reduction, for example by promoting early warning systems in order to better prepare for and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. Many countries emphasized the importance of UNESCO's work in the basic sciences and engineering and welcomed the new engineering initiative. UNESCO's work in renewable energies was also highlighted.

11.12 IOC was praised by numerous countries, notably for its work on tsunami warning systems, oceans observations and climate change science, and its increased presence in Africa through its new sub-commission, and through its work in the region in the areas of capacity building, ocean observation and ocean sciences. Many countries acknowledged UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector and IOC's work in the preparations for Rio+20. A number of countries underscored the important role of the High Level Panel on Science and Technology for Development in advising UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector. A number of countries welcomed the report of the Youth Forum and emphasized the importance of including youth in discussions on issues such as climate change and sustainable development.

11.13 In her reply to the debate, the ADG for Natural Sciences agreed on the necessity for UNESCO to adapt its work and concentrate on areas in which it has a comparative advantage. She acknowledged the importance expressed by Member States for science policy, MAB, IHP, science education, basic sciences, geoparks, Africa, SIDS, indigenous knowledge and the engineering initiative. She also acknowledged the importance of interdisciplinarity, and better coordination between intergovernmental and international scientific programmes and category 1 and category 2 centres. The IOC Executive Secretary thanked Member States for the positive comments made by the delegates on IOC, and acknowledged the comments relating to the importance of IOC's tsunami warning systems, oceans observations and climate change forecasts, its work in Africa and its role in the Rio+20 preparations. At the end of the debate, the Commission examined the recommendations of the Executive Board on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, and a total of 20 draft resolutions submitted by Member States. The results of our work are presented for your examination and approval in the Commission's written report.

11.14 I would like to turn now to item **5.9** devoted to the establishment of category 2 centres and institutes under the auspices of UNESCO. The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences introduced the 10 new proposed UNESCO category 2 centres and their aims. The Commission then recommended to the General Conference that it adopt all the resolutions for the establishment of 10 proposed category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO. The nine countries proposing the centres then took the floor to further elaborate on the purpose of the centres and the activities they planned to organize once the centres were established.

11.15 I now turn to item **5.23** related to the UNESCO engineering initiative. Germany presented its draft resolution, 36 C/COM.SC/DR.2, related to item **5.23** on the UNESCO engineering initiative, noting that engineering plays an important role in addressing the complex challenges of our world including poverty reduction, sustainable development and sustainable use of resources. He also highlighted the importance of engineering education for sustainable development. Furthermore, he underscored the importance of addressing engineering issues in an interdisciplinary manner, to work through South-South and North-South-South partnerships, and seek a broad range of partnerships, including the private sector, universities and engineering associations. Eighteen countries and one observer (the World Federation of Engineering Organizations – WFEO) took the floor to support Germany's draft resolution. One Member State spoke on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Many noted the importance of the initiative for the developing world, notably Africa. A Member State asked that the Secretariat take into account the particularities of SIDS when putting in place the initiative. Countries highlighted the importance of strengthening basic research, engineering education, building engineering associations and networks, South-South cooperation, the necessity for more engineers, a focus on multidisciplinary work and the importance of partnerships. One Member State notably mentioned the importance of reinforcing cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, which already had in place a programme and funds for sustainable development of the Mediterranean. The ADG for Natural Sciences underscored that the role engineering could play in sustainable development and poverty eradication was key to what UNESCO was attempting to achieve with the engineering initiative. She also noted the importance of partnerships for the initiative. The resolution was adopted as amended by the Philippines, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Germany.

11.16 I turn now to the discussions related to cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network. The ADG for Natural Sciences introduced item **5.25** on cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network and 187 EX/Decision 6 (V) put forward to the General Conference by the Executive Board. She emphasized the strong community-based activities in geoparks, including education at all levels and celebrating the links between geological heritage and other aspects of natural and cultural heritage. Twenty-four Member States took the floor in the debate. A strong majority endorsed the proposal to study the establishment of a more formal relationship between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network. Some expressed concern with the creation of a new UNESCO programme, which could duplicate already-existing UNESCO networks such as MAB biosphere reserves. Numerous countries praised the bottom-up approach of geoparks which promoted geological heritage for sustainable development and greatly complemented the work done in UNESCO sites such as MAB biosphere reserves and natural world heritage sites. One country asked that developing countries in the Asia and the Pacific region receive support to create geoparks. The Commission adopted the draft resolution in its entirety.

11.17 I turn now to the discussions related to item **5.28** on the Statutes of the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB). 187 EX/Decision 24 put forward to the General Conference by the Executive Board called for the adoption of revised statutes of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The ADG for Natural Sciences explained that the revisions, approved by the MAB Council in Dresden, Germany, in June 2011, and by the Executive Board at its 187th session, were minor in scope. The Commission adopted the draft resolution in its entirety without debate.

11.18 I now turn to the discussions related to item **5.22** on the 40th anniversary of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, mid-term evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan, and endorsement of the Dresden Declaration. Germany presented its draft resolution, 36/C/COM SC/DR.1, underscoring the relevance of the MAB Programme 40 years into its history, reflected by the increasing number of Member States actively participating in the MAB

Programme and in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Germany highlighted actions taken by Member States to further increase the relevance of MAB during 2011, the 40th anniversary year of MAB, as evidenced notably by the successful conference "For life, for the future, Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change" held on 27 and 28 June 2011 in Dresden, Germany. Thirty-two countries and one observer from the World Mountain People Association took the floor in the debate. Many Member States expressed their support for the Dresden Declaration, the Madrid Action Plan, and the MAB Programme after 40 successful years of operation. Countries highlighted the important role MAB had in ensuring a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to sustainable development, taking into account social, environmental and economic issues. Countries also underscored the value of biosphere reserves as learning places for sustainable development, as well as in policy making. Promoting connections with UNESCO Chairs and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet), as well as other environmental networks, was emphasized. Some Member States underscored the importance of urban landscapes. A number of countries also emphasized the importance of preparing a strategy document for MAB in 2013 following the Madrid Action Plan. Many countries asked that the MAB budget be protected in order for the programme to continue having the same impact it had been able to achieve in recent years. The ADG for Natural Sciences then took the floor to reflect on the strong support for MAB from Member States, which she fully shared. She emphasized that the MAB programme would be better linked to other environmental stakeholders and underscored the importance of bringing all biosphere reserves to the same level of capacity. She noted that in the 36 C/5 Addendum, the budget for the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences would in fact increase as a percentage of the Natural Sciences Sector's budget compared to last biennium, and that MAB would feature very strongly at Rio+20. The Commission adopted the resolution as amended by Egypt, Germany, Belgium, Gabon, France and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

11.19 Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, this brings me to the conclusion of my oral report. I hope we have succeeded in capturing most of our rich debates over the past week and in clearly expressing the guidance provided by this Commission for the programmes of the Natural Sciences Sector. Thank you very much for your attention.

12. **The President:**

Thank you Mr Chulavatnatol for your presentation. My congratulations go to you for successfully chairing the Commission and also to the Commission for its work. Are there any comments or suggestions on this report ladies and gentlemen? Shall 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 36 C/72, subject to the decisions that the Conference may take when adopting the Appropriations Resolution for 2012-2013? Thank you. It is *so decided*. Thank you very much, Professor.

**Report of the Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS) (36 C/73)**

**Rapport de la Commission Sciences sociales et humaines (SHS) (36 C/73)**

**Informe de la Comisión de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas (SHS) (36 C/73)**

**Доклад Комиссии по социальным и гуманитарным наукам (SHS) (36 C/73)**

**تقرير لجنة العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية (SHS) (٧٣/٣٦)**

**社会科学及人文科学委员会 (SHS) 的报告 (36 C/73)**

13. **The President:**

Now, ladies and gentlemen, we will examine the report of the Social Sciences Commission (SHS), contained in document 36 C/73. I am pleased to give the floor to Mr Ivan Avilá Belloso, who successfully chaired this Commission. When he last made his report to the General Committee, Mr Avilá Belloso used several most interesting quotations to portray the main themes that his Commission had to address. I hope he will do so on this occasion as well. Sir, the floor is yours.

14.1 **Sr. Ávila Belloso** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) (Presidente de la Comisión SHS – Ciencias sociales y humanas):

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta. Distinguida Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, distinguida Directora General, distinguidos representantes, damas y caballeros: es para mí un verdadero honor y privilegio presentarles la quintaesencia de las deliberaciones de nuestra Comisión. Tras dos días plenos de debate, 112 oradores de 75 países tomaron la palabra, aportando comentarios y observaciones pertinentes, y alabando desarrollos positivos y señalando omisiones y áreas donde esfuerzos adicionales deben ser empleados. En mis palabras de introducción a nuestros debates resalté la ventaja comparativa y el valor añadido del Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, cuya misión se basa en los valores universales de los derechos humanos, la filosofía y la democracia. En este contexto, mencioné que la democracia es el símbolo de la igualdad y de la paz, pero para que una paz se establezca definitivamente es imprescindible destruir el muro que separa cada vez más a los hombres en dos parcelas, ricos y pobres. También subrayé que cuando la UNESCO fue creada, sus artífices le asignaron, además de la función prioritaria de la educación, el doble propósito de contribuir al estudio de todas las sociedades y de favorecer la comprensión y la comunicación entre los pueblos y sus culturas, con el noble propósito y objetivo de edificar la cultura de la paz en las mentes de los hombres. El mundo nos reclama una acción más decidida. Los indignados claman sus derechos para conquistar una sociedad de incluidos, sin distinción de raza, sexo, idioma o religión.

14.2 Una declaración conjunta en nombre de los presidentes de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental y de los cinco programas científicos internacionales e intergubernamentales de la UNESCO fue presentada a la Comisión por el Sr. Harjeet Singh, Vicepresidente del Programa MOST. El Sr. Singh subrayó la interconexión entre la labor de los programas intergubernamentales y las prioridades del Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas para el próximo bienio.

14.3 La representante de los jóvenes presentó el informe del séptimo Foro de la Juventud de la UNESCO. Congratuló la atención prestada a la juventud y coincidió con la propuesta de incluir este tema en las prioridades de la próxima Estrategia a Plazo Medio para 2014-2019. También exhortó a la Organización a reforzar el alcance de este Foro e invitó a los Estados Miembros a que asignaran recursos para la celebración del mismo, así como a su seguimiento.

14.4 Damas y caballeros: el punto 4.2 relativo al Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2012-2013 para las ciencias sociales y humanas fue introducido por el representante del Subdirector General de Planificación Estratégica, que presentó el documento 36 C/5 y explicó la transición entre un crecimiento real cero y un crecimiento nominal cero del tope presupuestario.

14.5 Las principales prioridades del Gran Programa III fueron presentadas por la Sra. Álvarez-Laso, Subdirectora General de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, quien señaló que el documento 36 C/5 Addendum propone un programa que procura aportar respuestas a los grandes desafíos de la actualidad, basado en los derechos humanos, la democracia y la solidaridad moral. Durante el próximo bienio, las acciones del Sector se orientarán hacia una efectiva consecución de resultados esperados. El programa se erigirá sobre la base de cuatro prioridades: nuevos desafíos en el campo de la bioética, inclusión social, dimensión social del cambio ambiental mundial e innovación social impulsada por la juventud. Los derechos humanos serán el meollo del trabajo del Sector, la piedra angular, a través de la aplicación de un enfoque basado en los derechos humanos a todos sus programas. Asimismo, la integración de la filosofía y del pensamiento crítico a todas las actividades del Sector impulsará una mejor comprensión de los desafíos y de las respuestas que debemos aportar todos.

14.6 Los representantes de 66 Estados Miembros, seis observadores, entre ellos un Estado no miembro, y cinco organizaciones no gubernamentales, hicieron uso de la palabra. De manera general, los Estados Miembros expresaron su apoyo al Gran Programa III, reconociendo su importancia frente a los grandes desafíos ligados a la crisis financiera, las consecuencias del cambio climático, los trastornos sociales que derivan de la primavera árabe, entre otros movimientos.

14.7 El Programa y Presupuesto alternativo fue, de manera general, bien acogido, considerado, realista, bien estructurado y más centrado en los objetivos. Fue también elogiado el alineamiento con las recomendaciones de la evaluación externa independiente y la orientación hacia la consecución de resultados. Varios oradores insistieron sobre la importancia de los indicadores de resultados cualitativos, en el ámbito de la igualdad de género y los derechos humanos, para medir el impacto de los programas. Los Estados resaltaron de manera unánime la importancia de los derechos humanos en los trabajos del Sector. El nuevo enfoque transversal, a través de los derechos humanos, y los cambios estructurales fueron apoyados por varios oradores que los consideraron favorables a la sinergia y cooperación transectorial. En cambio, otros delegados expresaron opinión contraria y esbozaron sus comentarios. También fue expresamente formulada la recomendación de mantener los temas de la erradicación de la pobreza y de las migraciones vinculados a las actividades del Sector, así como de fortalecer las capacidades en el campo de la investigación científica como una verdadera prioridad. Asimismo, varios oradores expresaron su preocupación respecto a lo que percibieron como un debilitamiento del programa de derechos humanos y filosofía, cuya aplicación a todas las actividades del Sector podría entrañar la disgregación de estas disciplinas fundamentales. A fin de evitar esto, se sugirió que se nombraran puntos focales dentro de la nueva estructura del Sector para estos temas en particular. Varios representantes reconocieron también las acciones del MOST, así como su importante rol en los diversos programas del Sector.

14.8 Se prestó igualmente atención particular a la necesidad de vincular las ciencias naturales a las ciencias sociales y humanas. Varios Estados subrayaron la necesidad de reforzar la cooperación entre los temas de ética y cambio ambiental mundial. En este contexto, la aplicación transversal en este campo, así como la interdisciplinariedad para el continente africano, fue señalada por un orador, mientras otros países instaron a una mayor cooperación Norte-Sur y Sur-Sur. En lo que respecta a las temáticas específicas, se reconoció de manera unánime la importancia del programa de bioética, se reconocieron sus objetivos claros y sus resultados tangibles. Entre las actividades más aclamadas por los Estados Miembros: el desarrollo de programas educativos en materia de ética, el reforzamiento de capacidades para apoyar a los comités nacionales de bioética, en particular en África, y, de manera más global, el trabajo del Comité Intergubernamental de Bioética (CIGB) del Comité internacional de Bioética (CIB) y de la COMEST. Se exhortó a la UNESCO a liderar las acciones internacionales en el ámbito de la bioética y la ética de la ciencia. Varios Estados Miembros propusieron aumentar los fondos asignados al eje de acción 1. Varios delegados insistieron en la necesidad de trabajar en el campo de la ética referente al cambio climático.

14.9 Señora Presidenta: en el área de la educación física y el deporte, varios oradores recalcaron el importante papel desempeñado por el CIGEPS en la promoción de una cultura de paz y no violencia. Aplaudieron los trabajos realizados en materia de lucha contra el dopaje y la implementación de la convención respectiva. Fue subrayada la necesidad de establecer alianzas con organizaciones deportivas y dar un nuevo impulso al Fondo Internacional para el Desarrollo de la Educación Física y el Deporte.

14.10 En el ámbito de los derechos humanos, los Estados Miembros manifestaron un gran apoyo al trabajo realizado en materia de cultura de paz y derechos humanos. Varios delegados apoyaron el programa de la Coalición de Ciudades contra el Racismo y la Discriminación, plataforma para la promoción de políticas de inclusión social e intercambio de buenas prácticas a nivel local. Algunos oradores solicitaron una mayor acción del trabajo de la UNESCO en cuanto a los derechos que se inscriben en el marco de sus competencias, en particular los derechos culturales y los derechos sociales, advirtiendo sin embargo la necesidad de evitar redundancias con los programas de las Naciones Unidas. Algunos delegados elogiaron el compromiso renovado con las Cátedras UNESCO en este ámbito.

14.11 Con relación a la igualdad de género, algunos oradores advirtieron que este tema tiene que seguir siendo una de las mayores prioridades del Sector y que tendrán que desarrollarse acciones en materia de lucha contra la violencia basada sobre el género. En este contexto, el establecimiento del centro de Kinshasa fue aplaudido.

14.12 Varios delegados apoyaron firmemente la necesidad de proseguir con las acciones de la UNESCO en el campo de la enseñanza de la filosofía, en particular en el mundo árabe, y agradecieron la celebración del Día Mundial de la Filosofía. Reiterando la importancia de este tema, algunos oradores sugirieron que permaneciera siendo un área de acción autónoma y permanente.

14.13 En cuanto al programa de juventud, los delegados aprobaron la importancia dada a este programa, que reconoce el papel fundamental de la juventud en el proceso de las transformaciones sociales. Los oradores agradecieron la oportunidad ofrecida de discutir las recomendaciones de los jóvenes durante la Conferencia General. En este sentido, se avanzaron propuestas para obtener un mayor desarrollo de sus deliberaciones y de su correspondiente impacto en la sociedad. Algunos oradores reconocieron la importancia de la estrategia de la UNESCO para la juventud africana y solicitaron una movilización de recursos apropiados para su implementación. Se dio un énfasis particular a la participación de la juventud en los procesos de toma de decisiones y en la prevención de la violencia entre los jóvenes.

14.14 Señora Presidenta: el Programa MOST recibió un apoyo contundente y unánime por parte de los Estados Miembros. MOST es percibido como un espacio que favorece la interacción entre la comunidad científica y los legisladores, así como un instrumento de promoción de la investigación en el área social. La pertinencia del Programa MOST fue considerada de particular importancia en el marco de la primavera árabe. La estructuración del Programa, basada en dos temas prioritarios, fue muy bien acogida. Estos temas son la inclusión social y las dimensiones sociales y humanas del cambio ambiental mundial. Se instó a que se prestara atención a los derechos de los pueblos vulnerables, incluido los jóvenes, los minusválidos, los migrantes, las mujeres y personas con VIH, en el ámbito de la inclusión social. Varios oradores recalcaron que el Programa MOST debería favorecer el desarrollo de capacidades y aptitudes entre las poblaciones, a fin de fortalecer la formulación de políticas con resultados bien tangibles. Asimismo, algunos oradores señalaron la necesidad de establecer formatos para su efectiva aplicación a objeto de mejorar las acciones del MOST. Finalmente, algunos delegados manifestaron su inquietud de no ver claramente reflejada la secretaría del MOST en la nueva estructura del Sector.

14.15 Al final del debate, la representante de la juventud dio respuesta a varios de los comentarios expresados sobre el tema por parte de los Estados Miembros, recordando que la transición política que viven actualmente diferentes Estados crearía expectativas entre los jóvenes. Aprobó la propuesta de otorgar mayor importancia a la participación de la juventud en el marco de la UNESCO, así como la propuesta de establecer un diálogo interregional con la juventud.

14.16 En su respuesta, la Subdirectora General del Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas agradeció el apoyo manifestado por los Estados al Gran Programa III y por el soporte al proceso de reforma llevado por el Sector. También agradeció el apoyo manifestado a los programas de bioética, juventud y foro de jóvenes, deporte y antidopaje y el Programa MOST. Subrayó asimismo que el Programa MOST es una real prioridad en el Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, ya que cuatro de los seis resultados esperados se refieren a este Programa. Señaló asimismo que la secretaría del MOST estaría compuesta de varios funcionarios del Sector. La Sra. Álvarez-Laso resaltó igualmente que los derechos humanos son la piedra angular de la acción de la UNESCO, recalcando que el enfoque basado en los derechos humanos y la filosofía es esencial a todas las actividades del Gran Programa III. También observó las posibilidades que ofrece el programa de Coalición de Ciudades con relación a la inclusión social.

14.17 Señora Presidenta: tras la conclusión de este debate, la Comisión examinó el proyecto de resolución relativo a la distribución presupuestaria. La Comisión examinó siete proyectos de resolución presentados por los Estados Miembros, entre los cuales, la DR.8 fue remitida a la comisión conjunta. Cuatro de los proyectos de resolución no fueron retenidos (se trata de los DR.24, 25, 27 y 45) y dos fueron aprobados (el DR.23, de conformidad con la nueva formulación propuesta por la Directora General, y el DR.38). El proyecto de resolución relativo al Gran Programa III y la asignación presupuestaria correspondiente fue aprobado sin enmienda.

14.18 Permítanme aquí aportar unas breves clarificaciones sobre los proyectos de resolución que no fueron retenidos. Con relación al DR.25, la República Islámica del Irán anunció que acogería una reunión conjunta de todos los líderes religiosos sobre los desafíos éticos ligados a las cuestiones medioambientales. Concerniente al proyecto de resolución 27, relativo a las actividades del Proyecto de Solidaridad Internacional José Martí, la Comisión tomó en cuenta el compromiso moral y financiero asumido por la Directora General. Finalmente, con relación al proyecto de resolución 45, los autores tomaron en consideración el aumento de un 3,2% del presupuesto asignado en el 36 C/5 al eje de acción 1, relativo a la bioética, en comparación con el 35 C/5.

14.19 El Uruguay, apoyado por el Ecuador, Guatemala y Venezuela, propuso enmendar el proyecto de resolución contenido en el párrafo 03000 del documento 36 C/5 Addendum, introduciendo dos resultados esperados mencionados en el documento 36 C/5 (resultado N° 4) y en el 36 C/6 (resultado N° 8). Según este grupo de Estados, la adición sugerida se inscribía en el marco del precedente debate sobre el punto 4.2 y, sin esta adición, la formulación de los resultados esperados para el Gran Programa III permanecería demasiado restrictiva y poco clara. Al no llegar la Comisión a un consenso sobre la posibilidad de introducir estas enmiendas, la propuesta no pudo ser examinada. A fin de responder a la preocupación de dichos Estados, la Comisión tomó nota de la garantía expresada por la Subdirectora General de integrar en el programa del Sector los derechos humanos que se inscriben en el campo de competencias de la UNESCO y de reforzar las capacidades en ciencias sociales.

14.20 En el momento de adoptar el informe escrito de nuestra Comisión, Italia, apoyada por el Uruguay y Venezuela,

manifestó su preocupación en relación con la imposibilidad de introducir a este nivel de los trabajos de la Comisión modificaciones técnicas en el texto del proyecto de resolución. En la misma sesión, Italia, apoyado por Granada, subrayó que los derechos humanos, tal como se presentan en el proyecto de resolución, son los derechos humanos tal y como están contenidos en los instrumentos normativos internacionales existentes.

14.21 Distinguidos delegados: como es de su conocimiento, también se asignó a nuestra Comisión el examen de dos puntos específicos, previamente examinados por la Conferencia General en su 35ª reunión, los puntos 5.6 y 5.8. Se examinó primero el punto 5.6 relativo a la revisión de los Estatutos del Comité Intergubernamental para la Educación Física y el Deporte (CIGEPE). La Subdirectora General recordó que hubo un consenso sobre algunas enmiendas de los Estatutos – pocas, pero fundamentales – que fueron convalidadas en la plenaria del CIGEPE, en julio de 2010, y en las reuniones 185ª y 187ª del Consejo Ejecutivo. Las enmiendas retenidas tienen por objetivo orientar los trabajos del CIGEPE hacia la consecución de resultados tangibles y reducir sus costes. Asimismo, el Consejo Consultivo Permanente ampliado desempeñará un papel más estratégico para proporcionar orientaciones y consejos de calidad. El distinguido representante de Cuba, en su capacidad de Presidente del CIGEPE, agradeció el énfasis dado a la contribución del deporte en materia de igualdad de género, desarrollo de la juventud y promoción de la paz. La Comisión aprobó el proyecto de resolución sin debate previo.

14.22 El último punto de nuestro calendario fue el punto 5.8, relativo a la conveniencia de preparar un proyecto de declaración universal de principios éticos del cambio climático. La Sra. Álvarez-Laso recalcó que la falta de consenso sobre este punto, que fue presentado en las reuniones 185ª y 186ª del Consejo Ejecutivo, dictó la necesidad de abordar cuidadosamente este tema y de continuar el diálogo y la reflexión. Los 39 Estados Miembros y un observador que tomaron la palabra durante el debate relativo a este punto expresaron su voluntad de articular urgentemente una respuesta integrada al gran desafío que plantea el cambio climático. Los efectos aún se ven y se verán. Reafirmaron el papel que tiene que desempeñar la UNESCO en este ámbito, como complemento a otros foros internacionales, como la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMCCNU) y conforme al mandato de la Estrategia de acción sobre el cambio climático. Varios países señalaron que los efectos nefastos del cambio ambiental mundial, en todas las regiones del mundo y particularmente en los países en vía de desarrollo y los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo (PEID), apelan a una acción firme y a la necesidad de preparar urgentemente un proyecto de declaración. Otros países consideraron que tal declaración no era viable ni conveniente. Varios oradores recalcaron la necesidad de una solidaridad internacional a favor de los grupos más vulnerables. Otro orador señaló la importancia de prestar una atención particular a las necesidades de los PEID, asegurando la participación de los mismos en las negociaciones multilaterales. Varios delegados propusieron la elaboración de un plan de acción que procure aportar una respuesta articulada de la UNESCO al cambio climático. También se propuso movilizar a todos los órganos de la UNESCO que trabajan dentro de este mandato, como el MAB y los centros de categoría 2.

14.23 En su respuesta, la Subdirectora General agradeció el apoyo manifestado por los oradores al trabajo de la COMEST sobre la ética del cambio ambiental mundial y al enfoque del MOST en las dimensiones sociales y humanas del cambio climático. También reafirmó su compromiso de establecer una interacción aún más estrecha con el Sector de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, tema en el cual varios representantes insistieron. Dado el consenso sobre el curso de las acciones propuestas en el proyecto de resolución este fue adoptado sin enmienda.

14.24 Distinguidos delegados, damas y caballeros: he llegado al término de mi informe oral. Permítanme concluir felicitando a los distinguidos delegados de los Estados Miembros por sus claras y enriquecedoras intervenciones, que facilitaron ampliamente mi tarea como Presidente. Nuestras sesiones se desarrollaron en el marco de un verdadero espíritu democrático y de alto contenido intelectual y político que permitieron arrojar resultados fructíferos en la toma de decisiones, lo cual permitió evitar las trampas lingüísticas y semánticas, así como las interpretaciones jurídicas correctas. También quisiera agradecer a la Sra. Álvarez-Laso por sus pertinentes presentaciones con las que supo plantearnos un marco claro para nuestras deliberaciones.

14.25 Mi más sincero agradecimiento va también a los miembros de la Mesa que me apoyaron con su presencia y consejo, los vicepresidentes: la Sra. Françoise Medegan (Benin), la Sra. Linda Nielsen (Dinamarca), el Sr. Oleg Serebrian (Moldavia) y el Sr. Ali Hawat (Libia), y a nuestro insigne Relator, el Sr. Minami Tetsuhito. Agradezco aquí igualmente a los miembros del Sector, que formaron la Secretaría de la Comisión, bajo la eficaz dirección de su Secretario, el Sr. Alexander Schischlik y su equipo, señoras April Tash, Miguelina Domínguez, Rachida Benschila y Diana Raillard, y al Sr. Konstantinos Tararas, que me demostraron fehacientemente a lo largo de todos sus trabajos su vocación de servicio, su capacidad profesional, un hondo sentido de solidaridad y especialmente su profunda condición humana.

14.26 Quisiera concluir, señora Presidenta, distinguidos delegados, con dos frases que nos alientan a seguir siendo ciudadanos del mundo y constructores de la paz en este mundo. Me refiero primero a la gran cita del gran político Marco Aurelio que decía: “La libertad solo reside en los Estados en los que el pueblo tiene el poder”. Y una última frase de un gran visionario, Eckart Tolle, que decía: “Vous êtes ici pour permettre à la mission divine de l'univers de se déployer. Voilà à quel point vous êtes importants !”. Gracias.

(14.1) **M. Avilá Belloso** (République bolivarienne du Venezuela) (Président de la Commission SHS) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :  
Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente. Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants, c'est pour moi un véritable honneur et un privilège de vous présenter la substance des délibérations de notre Commission. Au cours de deux journées entières de session, 112 intervenants et quelque 75 États ont pris la parole, formulant beaucoup d'observations intéressantes, se félicitant des évolutions positives constatées et appelant l'attention sur les lacunes et les domaines nécessitant des efforts supplémentaires. En présentant nos débats, j'ai fait valoir l'avantage comparatif et la valeur ajoutée du Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines dont la mission se fonde sur les valeurs universelles des droits de l'homme, de la philosophie et de la démocratie. À cet égard, j'ai indiqué que la démocratie



était le symbole de l'égalité et de la paix. Mais pour que la paix s'établisse d'une façon définitive, il est indispensable de détruire le mur qui sépare toujours plus profondément les hommes en deux catégories : les riches et les pauvres. J'ai souligné également que lorsque l'UNESCO a été créée, ses fondateurs lui ont assigné comme tâches, outre la fonction prioritaire de l'éducation, la double mission de contribuer à l'étude de toutes les sociétés et de favoriser la compréhension et la communication entre les peuples et leurs cultures dans le noble objectif d'édifier une culture de la paix « dans l'esprit des hommes ». Le monde exige de nous une action plus déterminée. Les Indignés réclament leurs droits pour parvenir à une société d'Inclus, sans distinction de race, de sexe, de langue ni de religion.

(14.2) Comme il est d'usage, la Commission a entendu une déclaration au nom des présidents de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale et des cinq programmes scientifiques intergouvernementaux et internationaux de l'UNESCO. Cette fois-ci, la déclaration conjointe a été présentée par M. Harjeet Singh, Vice-Président du Conseil intergouvernemental du Programme MOST. M. Singh a mis en avant la corrélation des travaux des programmes scientifiques intergouvernementaux et des priorités du Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines pour le prochain exercice biennal.

(14.3) La représentante des jeunes a présenté le rapport du 7<sup>e</sup> Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO. Elle s'est félicitée de l'accent placé sur la jeunesse et a fait part de la proposition tendant à inclure la jeunesse parmi les priorités de la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2014-2019. Elle a en outre appelé de ses vœux le renforcement du Forum des jeunes et invité les États membres à affecter des ressources suffisantes pour l'organisation et le suivi de ce Forum.

(14.4) Mesdames et Messieurs, le point 4.2 relatif au Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013 en ce qui concerne les sciences sociales et humaines a été présenté par le représentant du Sous-Directeur général pour la planification stratégique, qui a donné un aperçu du 36 C/5 et expliqué le passage d'une croissance réelle zéro à une croissance nominale zéro pour le plafond budgétaire.

(14.5) Les principales priorités du grand programme III ont été présentées par Mme Álvarez-Laso, Sous-Directrice générale pour les sciences sociales et humaines, qui a indiqué que le document 36 C/5 Add. proposait un programme visant à apporter des réponses aux grands enjeux d'aujourd'hui, fondé sur les droits de l'homme, la démocratie et la solidarité morale. Lors du prochain exercice biennal, les activités du Secteur seront axées sur la réalisation effective des résultats escomptés. Le programme reposera sur quatre priorités : les nouveaux défis dans le domaine de la bioéthique, l'inclusion sociale, la dimension sociale du changement de l'environnement mondial et l'innovation sociale à l'initiative des jeunes. Les droits de l'homme seront l'épine dorsale de l'action menée par le Secteur, qui mettra l'accent sur cette question dans tous ses programmes. De même, l'intégration de la philosophie et de la réflexion critique dans toutes les activités du Secteur favorisera une meilleure compréhension des enjeux et des réponses que nous devons tous apporter.

(14.6) Les représentants de 66 États membres, de six observateurs, dont un État non membre, et de cinq organisations non gouvernementales ont pris la parole. Dans l'ensemble, les États membres ont exprimé leur appui au grand programme III, reconnaissant son importance face aux immenses défis de la crise financière, aux conséquences du changement de l'environnement mondial et aux bouleversements sociaux qui découlent, entre autres, du Printemps arabe.

(14.7) D'une manière générale, l'option alternative du Programme et budget a été bien accueillie et considérée comme réaliste, bien structurée et mieux ciblée. Son alignement sur les recommandations de l'Évaluation externe indépendante et l'accent mis sur l'obtention des résultats ont également été salués. Plusieurs orateurs ont insisté sur l'importance des indicateurs de performances qualitatifs, dans le domaine de l'égalité des genres et des droits de l'homme, pour mesurer l'impact des programmes. Les États membres ont unanimement souligné l'importance des droits de l'homme dans les activités du Secteur. La nouvelle approche transversale, fondée sur les droits de l'homme, et les changements structurels ont reçu l'appui de plusieurs orateurs qui ont estimé qu'ils favoriseraient les synergies et la coopération entre les secteurs. En revanche, d'autres ont été d'avis contraire et ont expliqué leur position. En outre, il a été expressément recommandé de conserver un lien entre les activités du Secteur et les thèmes des migrations et de l'élimination de la pauvreté, ainsi que de renforcer les capacités en matière de recherche scientifique pour en faire une véritable priorité. De même, plusieurs orateurs se sont dits préoccupés par ce qui leur apparaissait comme un affaiblissement des programmes en matière de droits de l'homme et de philosophie, l'intégration de ces questions dans toutes les activités du Secteur pouvant avoir pour effet de diluer ces disciplines fondamentales. Pour éviter cela, il a été suggéré de désigner des points focaux pour ces thèmes précis au sein de la nouvelle structure du Secteur. Plusieurs représentants ont également reconnu l'importance des activités du Programme MOST et de son rôle dans les divers programmes du Secteur.

(14.8) Une attention particulière a également été prêtée à la nécessité de relier les sciences exactes et naturelles aux sciences sociales et humaines. Plusieurs États membres ont souligné qu'il fallait resserrer les liens entre les thèmes de l'éthique et du changement planétaire. À cet égard, un État membre a suggéré une approche transversale, avec des activités interdisciplinaires pour l'Afrique, tandis que d'autres pays ont insisté sur la nécessité d'accroître la coopération Nord-Sud et Sud-Sud. Pour ce qui est de certains autres thèmes en particulier, l'importance du programme de bioéthique a unanimement été reconnue, de même que la clarté de ses objectifs et ses apports tangibles. Parmi les activités les plus saluées par les États membres figurent l'élaboration de programmes d'enseignement de l'éthique, le renforcement des capacités à l'appui des comités nationaux de bioéthique, en particulier en Afrique, et, d'une manière plus générale, le travail du Comité intergouvernemental de bioéthique (CIGB) du Comité international de bioéthique (CIB), ainsi que de la Commission mondiale d'éthique des connaissances scientifiques et des technologies (COMEST). Il a été demandé à l'UNESCO de prendre la direction des actions internationales menées dans les domaines de la bioéthique et de l'éthique des sciences. Différents États membres ont proposé d'augmenter les crédits alloués à l'axe d'action 1 et plusieurs délégués ont insisté sur la nécessité d'agir dans le domaine de l'éthique en rapport avec le changement climatique.

(14.9) Madame la Présidente, s'agissant de l'éducation physique et du sport, plusieurs orateurs ont insisté sur le rôle important joué par le Comité intergouvernemental pour l'éducation physique et le sport (CIGEPS) dans la promotion d'une culture de la paix et de la non-violence. Ils ont salué le travail accompli en matière de lutte contre le dopage, ainsi que l'application de la convention correspondante. Ils ont également souligné la nécessité de nouer des alliances avec d'autres organismes intervenant dans le domaine du sport et de donner un nouvel élan au Fonds international pour le développement de l'éducation physique et du sport.

(14.10) S'agissant des droits de l'homme, les États membres ont manifesté un large soutien à l'action menée concernant une culture de la paix et des droits de l'homme. Plusieurs délégués ont appuyé le programme de la Coalition des villes contre le racisme et la discrimination, plate-forme destinée à promouvoir des politiques d'inclusion sociale et d'échange de bonnes pratiques au niveau local. Certains orateurs ont demandé un renforcement de l'action de l'UNESCO dans le domaine des

droits qui relèvent de sa compétence, notamment les droits culturels et les droits sociaux, notant toutefois qu'il fallait éviter les doubles emplois avec d'autres programmes des Nations Unies. Quelques délégués ont salué l'engagement renouvelé en faveur des Chaires UNESCO dans ce domaine.

(14.11) En ce qui concerne l'Égalité des genres, certains orateurs ont noté que ce thème devait demeurer l'une des grandes priorités du Secteur et qu'il faudrait mettre au point des activités en matière de lutte contre les violences liées au genre. À cet égard, la création d'un Centre à Kinshasa a été saluée.

(14.12) Plusieurs délégués ont résolument appuyé la nécessité de poursuivre les activités de l'UNESCO concernant l'enseignement de la philosophie, en particulier dans le monde arabe, et se sont félicités de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de la philosophie. Réaffirmant l'importance de cette question, certains orateurs ont suggéré de continuer à en faire un domaine d'action autonome et permanent.

(14.13) Pour ce qui est du programme relatif à la jeunesse, les délégués ont approuvé l'importance accordée à cette activité qui reconnaît le rôle fondamental des jeunes dans le processus des transformations sociales. Ils se sont félicités de la possibilité offerte de discuter des recommandations formulées par les jeunes pendant la Conférence générale. À cet égard, des propositions ont été faites pour enrichir encore les délibérations du Forum et en accroître l'impact sur la société. Certains orateurs ont souligné l'importance de la stratégie de l'UNESCO en faveur de la jeunesse africaine et ont appelé à une mobilisation de ressources suffisantes pour la mettre en œuvre. L'accent a été mis en particulier sur la participation des jeunes aux processus décisionnels et à la prévention de la violence entre jeunes.

(14.14) Madame la Présidente, le Programme MOST a reçu un appui franc et unanime de la part des États membres. Ce programme est perçu comme un espace favorisant les échanges entre la communauté scientifique et les décideurs, ainsi que comme un instrument de promotion de la recherche en sciences sociales. La pertinence du Programme MOST a été jugée d'une importance particulière dans le cadre du Printemps arabe. La structure du programme, qui repose sur deux thèmes prioritaires, a reçu un accueil très favorable. Ces thèmes sont l'inclusion sociale et les dimensions sociales et humaines du changement planétaire. En matière d'inclusion sociale, il a été instamment demandé qu'une attention soit portée aux droits des populations vulnérables, notamment les jeunes, les personnes handicapées, les migrants, les femmes et les personnes touchées par le VIH. Plusieurs orateurs ont souligné que le Programme MOST devait favoriser le développement des capacités et des aptitudes entre les populations, afin de renforcer la formulation des politiques et l'obtention de résultats tangibles. De même, certains orateurs ont indiqué qu'il était nécessaire de mettre en place des cadres en vue de l'application effective du Programme MOST, dans le but d'améliorer son action. Enfin, quelques délégués se sont déclarés inquiets de ne pas voir le secrétariat du MOST expressément mentionné dans la nouvelle structure du Secteur.

(14.15) À l'issue du débat, la représentante des jeunes a répondu à différentes observations formulées par les États membres à ce sujet, rappelant que la transition politique que connaissaient actuellement certains États allait susciter de nombreuses attentes chez les jeunes. Elle s'est dite favorable à la proposition d'associer davantage les jeunes à l'action de l'UNESCO, ainsi qu'à la proposition de nouer un dialogue intergénérationnel avec la jeunesse.

(14.16) Dans sa réponse, la Sous-Directrice générale pour les sciences sociales et humaines s'est félicitée de l'appui manifesté par les États membres en faveur du grand programme III, ainsi que du soutien au processus de réforme entrepris par le Secteur. Elle s'est également réjouie de l'appui exprimé en faveur des programmes relatifs à la bioéthique, à la jeunesse, notamment le Forum des jeunes, au sport et à la lutte contre le dopage, et au Programme MOST. Elle a souligné à cet égard que le Programme MOST était une véritable priorité du Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines, quatre des six résultats escomptés étant en rapport avec ce programme. Elle a également indiqué que le secrétariat du Programme MOST serait composé de différents membres du personnel du Secteur. Mme Álvarez-Laso a par ailleurs souligné que les droits de l'homme étaient la pierre angulaire de l'action de l'UNESCO, rappelant que l'accent mis sur les droits de l'homme et la philosophie était un aspect essentiel de toutes les activités menées au titre du grand programme III. Elle a également fait observer les possibilités qu'offrait la Coalition des villes contre le racisme et la discrimination en matière d'inclusion sociale.

(14.17) Madame la Présidente, à l'issue de ces échanges, la Commission a examiné le projet de résolution relatif à la répartition des crédits budgétaires, ainsi que sept projets de résolution présentés par des États membres, parmi lesquels le DR.8, qui a été renvoyé à la réunion conjointe des Commissions. Quatre de ces projets de résolution n'ont pas été retenus (il s'agit des DR.24, 25, 27 et 45) et deux ont été approuvés (le DR.23, avec la nouvelle formulation proposée par la Directrice générale, et le DR.38). Le projet de résolution relatif au grand programme III et à l'enveloppe budgétaire correspondante a été approuvé sans amendement.

(14.18) Permettez-moi à présent d'apporter quelques brefs éclaircissements concernant les projets de résolution qui n'ont pas été retenus. S'agissant du DR.25, la République islamique d'Iran a annoncé qu'elle allait accueillir une réunion conjointe de tous les chefs religieux sur les défis éthiques en rapport avec l'environnement. En ce qui concerne le DR.27, relatif aux activités du Projet José Martí de solidarité internationale, la Commission a pris en compte l'engagement moral et financier pris par la Directrice générale. Enfin, pour ce qui est du DR.45, les auteurs ont pris en considération l'augmentation de 3,2 % des crédits budgétaires alloués à l'axe d'action 1, relatif à la bioéthique, dans le 36 C/5, par rapport au 35 C/5.

(14.19) L'Uruguay, appuyé par l'Équateur, le Guatemala et la République bolivarienne du Venezuela, a proposé d'amender le projet de résolution figurant au paragraphe 03000 du document 36 C/5 Add. en y ajoutant deux résultats escomptés tirés des documents 36 C/5 (résultat n° 4) et 36 C/6 (résultat n° 8). Selon ce groupe d'États membres, l'ajout proposé s'inscrivait dans le cadre du débat qui venait d'avoir lieu sur le point 4.2 et, sans cet ajout, la formulation des résultats escomptés du grand programme III demeurerait trop restrictive et manquait de clarté. La Commission n'étant pas parvenue à un consensus sur la possibilité d'intégrer ces amendements, la proposition n'a pu être examinée. Afin de répondre à la préoccupation desdits États membres, la Commission a pris note de la garantie donnée par la Sous-Directrice générale d'intégrer dans le programme du Secteur les droits de l'homme relevant de la compétence de l'UNESCO et de renforcer les capacités en sciences sociales.

(14.20) Au moment d'adopter le rapport écrit de notre Commission, l'Italie, appuyée par l'Uruguay et la République bolivarienne du Venezuela, a exprimé sa préoccupation devant l'impossibilité d'apporter, à ce stade des travaux de la Commission, des modifications techniques au texte du projet de résolution. Au cours de cette même séance, l'Italie, appuyée par la Grenade, a tenu à préciser que les références aux droits de l'homme dans le projet de résolution s'entendaient des droits de l'homme tels qu'énoncés dans les instruments normatifs internationaux en vigueur.

(14.21) Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, comme vous le savez, notre Commission était également chargée d'examiner

deux points précis déjà examinés par la Conférence générale à sa 35<sup>e</sup> session, à savoir les points 5.6 et 5.8. Elle a procédé en premier lieu à l'examen du point 5.6, relatif à la révision des statuts du Comité intergouvernemental pour l'éducation physique et le sport (CIGEPS). La Sous-Directrice générale a rappelé qu'il y avait eu un consensus sur quelques amendements aux statuts – peu nombreux mais essentiels – qui avaient été ensuite approuvés par le CIGEPS à sa réunion plénière de juillet 2010, ainsi que par le Conseil exécutif à ses 185<sup>e</sup> et 187<sup>e</sup> sessions. Les amendements retenus avaient pour objet d'orienter les travaux du CIGEPS vers l'obtention de résultats concrets et d'en réduire les coûts. De même, le Conseil consultatif permanent, une fois élargi, aura un rôle plus stratégique pour ce qui est de fournir des orientations et des conseils de qualité. Le distingué représentant de Cuba, en sa qualité de Président du CIGEPS, s'est félicité de l'accent mis sur la contribution du sport dans les domaines de l'égalité des genres, du développement des jeunes et de la promotion de la paix. La Commission a approuvé le projet de résolution sans débat préalable.

(14.22) Le dernier point à notre ordre du jour était le point 5.8, relatif à l'examen de l'opportunité d'établir un projet de déclaration universelle de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique. Mme Álvarez-Laso a indiqué que l'absence de consensus sur ce point, lors de sa présentation au Conseil exécutif à ses 185<sup>e</sup> et 186<sup>e</sup> sessions, avait mis en évidence la nécessité de traiter ce thème avec précaution et de poursuivre le dialogue et la réflexion. Les 39 États membres et l'observateur qui ont pris la parole lors du débat sur ce point ont exprimé leur volonté d'élaborer de toute urgence une réponse intégrée face à l'immense défi que représente le changement climatique, dont les effets sont déjà visibles, et le seront davantage encore à l'avenir. Ils ont réaffirmé le rôle que devait jouer l'UNESCO dans ce domaine, en complément de celui d'autres instances internationales, telles que la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC), et conformément au mandat énoncé dans la Stratégie de l'UNESCO pour faire face au changement climatique. Plusieurs États membres ont souligné que les effets néfastes du changement climatique, dans toutes les régions du monde et en particulier dans les pays en développement et les petits États insulaires en développement (PEID), appelaient une action résolue, ainsi que l'élaboration urgente d'un projet de déclaration. D'autres ont estimé qu'une telle déclaration n'était ni viable ni opportune. Plusieurs orateurs ont insisté sur la nécessité d'une solidarité internationale à l'égard des groupes les plus vulnérables. Un autre a déclaré qu'il était important de prêter une attention particulière aux besoins des PEID, en assurant la participation de ces derniers aux négociations multilatérales. Différents délégués ont proposé de mettre au point un plan d'action destiné à permettre à l'UNESCO d'apporter une réponse coordonnée au changement climatique. Il a également été proposé de mobiliser tous les organes de l'UNESCO œuvrant dans le cadre de ce mandat, tels que le Programme MAB et certains centres de catégorie 2.

(14.23) Dans sa réponse, la Sous-Directrice générale s'est félicitée de l'appui manifesté par les orateurs à l'égard du travail de la COMEST sur l'éthique en rapport avec le changement climatique, ainsi que de l'accent mis par le Programme MOST sur les dimensions sociales et humaines du changement climatique. Elle a également réaffirmé sa volonté de resserrer la coopération avec le Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles, point sur lequel plusieurs représentants ont insisté. Étant donné le consensus autour activités proposées dans le projet de résolution, ce dernier a été adopté sans amendement.

(14.24) Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, j'arrive au terme de mon rapport oral. Permettez-moi, pour conclure, de féliciter les distingués délégués des États membres pour leurs interventions claires et enrichissantes, qui ont largement facilité la tâche qui était la mienne en tant que Président. Nos séances, qui se sont déroulées dans un esprit véritablement démocratique, ont été riches sur les plans intellectuel et politique, ce qui a permis d'adopter des décisions constructives, sans tomber dans les pièges de la linguistique ou de la sémantique, ni dans ceux des interprétations juridiques. Je tiens aussi à remercier Mme Álvarez-Laso pour la pertinence de ses présentations, qui ont apporté un éclairage utile à nos délibérations.

(14.25) J'adresse également mes plus sincères remerciements aux membres du Bureau, qui m'ont soutenu par leur présence et leurs conseils, ainsi qu'aux Vice-Présidents, Mme Françoise Medegan (Bénin), Mme Linda Nielsen (Danemark), M. Oleg Serebrian (République de Moldova) et M. Ali Hawat (Libye), et à notre remarquable Rapporteur, M. Minami Tetsuhito. Je voudrais aussi remercier les membres du Secteur qui ont assuré le secrétariat de la Commission, sous la conduite efficace de M. Alexander Schischlik, et son équipe : Mmes April Tash, Miguelina Domínguez, Rachida Benshila et Diana Raillard, et M. Konstantinos Tararas, qui m'ont donné la preuve éclatante de leur dévouement et de leur professionnalisme, manifestant un sens profond de la solidarité et, en particulier, une grande humanité.

(14.26) Je voudrais conclure, Madame la Présidente, distingués délégués, par deux citations qui nous encouragent à continuer d'être des citoyens du monde et des défenseurs de la paix. Tout d'abord la célèbre phrase du grand politicien Marc Aurèle : « Il n'est de liberté que dans les États où le peuple détient le pouvoir suprême ». Puis, enfin, les paroles d'un grand visionnaire, Eckart Tolle : « Vous êtes ici pour permettre à la mission divine de l'univers de se déployer. Voilà à quel point vous êtes importants ! ». Je vous remercie.

**Tribute to the Chairperson of the Executive Board**  
**Hommage au Présidente du Conseil exécutif**  
**Homenaje a la Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo**  
**Выражение признательности Председателю Исполнительного совета**

(إشادة برئيسة المجلس التنفيذي)

向执行局主席致敬

**15.1 The President:**

Thank you so much. I knew it would come; we were waiting for this wonderful quote. Thank you so much Mr Ávila Belloso for this wonderful report. I also wish to thank all members of the Commission for their work. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 36 C/73? I see none. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the SHS Commission contained in document 36 C/73 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 2012-2013? I see no objections. It is so **decided**.

15.2 Ladies and gentlemen, before we adjourn this meeting in a moment, I wish to inform you that the General Committee decided to pay tribute to the Chair of the Executive Board, Ambassador Eleonora Valentinovna Mitrofanova, a great friend. The Committee recognized her professionalism, diplomatic skills and dedication with which she presided

over the Board. It therefore decided to recommend that the plenary adopt the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/PLEN/DR.2. Dear colleagues, if you so permit, I will read out this text. "Tribute to the Chair of the Executive Board. The General Conference, *Noting* that Ambassador Eleonora Valentinovna Mitrofanova will conclude her term of office as Chair of the Executive Board, which she has held since 23 November 2009, at the end of the 36th session of the General Conference, *Recalling* the professionalism and dedication with which she has assumed her multiple and concurrent responsibilities as Chair of the Executive Board, Chairperson of the thirty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee and Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation to UNESCO, *Recognizing* her constant adherence to the ideals of UNESCO and her significant contribution towards the pursuit of the Organization's objectives, *Commending* her personal and professional qualities, as well as her wisdom and diplomatic acumen, which enabled her to preside over the work of the Executive Board in a very constructive spirit and in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect, based on her highly esteemed consensus-collaborative personal approach, *Further acknowledging* the efforts the Executive Board has made, under her leadership, towards greater effectiveness and rationalization, by ensuring better coherence between the two governing bodies and a clear division of functions between the three organs of UNESCO, *Underscoring* the various substantive achievements of the Executive Board under her leadership, notably the major progress in the process of reforming and modernizing the methods of work of UNESCO thus further enhancing efficiency and transparency in its work and in that of its governing bodies, as well as effective follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group on the Independent External Evaluation Report, *Expresses* its profound gratitude to Ambassador Eleonora Valentinovna Mitrofanova for the invaluable services and contributions that she has rendered to the Organization.

15.3 Dear friends, I take from this applause that the General Conference adopts this resolution by acclamation. It is so **decided**. I would like to give the floor to Her Excellency, Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova.

16.1 **Ms Mitrofanova** (Russian Federation) (Chair of the Executive Board):

Distinguished delegates of the 36th session of the General Conference, Madam President of the General Conference, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues and friends, first of all, please, allow me to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for such an expressive tribute and for your words of trust and recognition of my past and present contribution to UNESCO. I am very touched by your particular attention today, which is a clear reflection of the wisdom, constructive spirit of cooperation, consensus-collaborative approach and support you have given me in advancing our joint undertakings during my term.

16.2 I must say that all the achievements of the governing bodies would not have been possible without our collective commitment through the individual roles of all 58 Board Members, representatives of UNESCO Member States, Vice-Chairs of the Board and Chairs of the commissions and committees, Chairs and members of the working groups, the President of the General Conference and, of course, the Director-General. As the Director-General rightly pointed out in her introductory remarks to the general policy debate on 25 October here in this room "staff is our greatest asset – their dedication and quality are vital for the impact made by UNESCO". I take this opportunity to thank all staff who have been involved in the preparation and running of Board sessions for their hard work and commitment, especially all members of the Board Secretariat and my personal assistant. I will never cease to remember all those with whom I shared great moments and engaged in concrete actions aimed at the optimization of Board's work over the past two years. I would also mention here the special role played by my predecessors, former Chairs of the Board whose wise guidance and inspiring advice I could rely on in executing this function. We know that the Organization and its governing bodies can always benefit from their extensive knowledge and experience. I hope and I am sure that I will have further opportunities to express my gratitude and friendship to all of them and to all colleagues to whom I paid my warmest tribute at the closing of the 187th session of the Board, the last of the biennium. It has been my great honour to have had this opportunity to be together with all of you in chairing the work of the Executive Board.

16.3 Dear colleagues, it was not only my personal honour, but a great honour for my country, as it was its first leadership of the Executive Board of UNESCO. As Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation, I would like to take this occasion to extend my profound gratitude to all Member States who, with an unexpected number of votes, allowed my country to be included in the new composition of the Executive Board. Thank you very much. And again, I am also deeply grateful to you for having elected my country to host the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, to be held from 24 June to 6 July 2012 in Saint Petersburg. The Russian Federation is proudly thankful for this international acknowledgment of the significance of its history, of its people's values, the impact of its culture and thus, of its indisputable contribution to the diverse activities and priorities of the Organization.

16.4 Ladies and gentlemen, let me also warmly welcome once again the new members of UNESCO who brought to the Organization an even greater universality. Their admission at the present session of the General Conference must make our Organization stronger. We know that the quest of political identity and international identification is one of the major problems facing every newborn independent State. I would like to wish them every success in their future accomplishments.

16.5 Distinguished delegates, today, the closure of the General Conference coincides symbolically with the World Science Day for Peace and Development. UNESCO is a great promoter of democratized science for the benefit of all. UNESCO must fully demonstrate its competences at Rio+20. Our Organization must not fail to provide political and moral leadership in all areas of its expanded mandate. It must not fail to perform its deliverables, especially in the transition period to the new C/4 and C/5 programming cycles. We must be particularly proactive in the current context of global crises, the process of in-house reforms and the circumstances of UNESCO's limited resources. We live in a very challenging moment of our modern history, but also at a very interesting and inspiring time for UNESCO. Because we are responsible for positive change, because the world is rightly expecting from us meaningful responses to the sustainable development of our societies, global peace and security.

16.6 Taking into account the experience of the past, I can look to the future with a great deal of optimism. At this point, I would especially like to thank remaining and outgoing colleagues and to congratulate newly elected Board members, and wish each of you and the entire Executive Board fruitful work in the future in the name of the noble mission of UNESCO. My dear friends, today I relinquish my authority with a feeling of duty done in order to join you tomorrow in congratulating my successor to whom I shall gladly pass the wealth of experience I have amassed over two years in this post. Of course, this does not mean that I am leaving UNESCO. I shall continue my activity as Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation and shall be happy in this capacity to continue to make as great a contribution as I can to the activity of UNESCO and its governing bodies. Also, in my capacity as Chairperson of the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, I will be extremely glad to welcome those of you who will be participating in its work next summer on the banks of the Neva river in the city of white nights. Please believe me; I will treasure all this time for the rest of my life. Now, I would like to congratulate you, representatives of the Member States, my friends Katalin Bogyay, President of the General Conference, Irina Bokova, Director-General, and the entire Secretariat for the very successful 36th session of the General Conference. I sincerely would like to wish you all, as well as your families, all the best in your future endeavours. Thank you again, and may peace be with us.

17. **The President:**

Congratulations again. I just would like to say that I remember a conversation with Ms Mitrofanova's husband, who is here with us, and he asked me "when are you giving back my wife?" Not yet, thank you very much. Now I would like to give the floor to our Director-General, Ms Bokova.

18.1 **Генеральный директор:**  
Спасибо большое.

18.2 Госпожа Председатель Генеральной конференции, госпожа Председатель Исполнительного совета, Ваши Превосходительства, дамы и господа. Мне всегда приятно произносить слова благодарности, поэтому я с большим удовольствием хочу выразить вам, госпожа Председатель Исполнительного совета, мою признательность за вашу деятельность, за ту работу, которую вы осуществляли на протяжении двух последних лет. Я неоднократно подчеркивала, что мне повезло. Мои первые два года в качестве Генерального директора совпали с периодом вашего председательства. Нас многое объединяет, нас многое сближает. Мы вместе пользуемся одной и той же азбукой, азбукой Кирилла и Мефодия. Мы обе учились в Московском институте международных отношений. Схожи и наши профессиональные пути: наша работа на дипломатическом поприще в министерствах иностранных дел наших стран обогатилась настоящей дружбой, которая указывала нам дорогу на всем протяжении этих двух лет.

18.3 Здесь я хочу особо подчеркнуть, насколько важен был для меня в течение двух первых лет полномочий ваш опыт и ваше глубокое знание ЮНЕСКО. Вы знаете эту организацию, я бы сказала, изнутри, поскольку работала в нем заместителем Генерального директора по административным вопросам. Все это сыграло важную роль в том, что ЮНЕСКО стала на путь реформ.

18.4 Я уже говорила об этом в ходе сессии Исполсовета, но хотела бы повторить это еще раз: я признательна вам за то, что вы всегда придерживались последовательной и четкой позиции в вопросе соблюдения полномочий и ответственности каждого руководящего органа ЮНЕСКО и поддерживали меня во всех моих усилиях. Эта поддержка важна, когда необходимо устоять в трудные периоды, такие как период, переживаемый нами сейчас, когда необходимо, чтобы наши действия были понятными. Это, я бы сказала, ключевой элемент доверия и взаимного уважения, которые также являются движущей силой реформы.

18.5 Ваше пребывание, г-жа Председатель, на посту Председателя Исполнительного совета станет еще одним пунктом в длинном послужном списке вашей деятельности на благо общих интересов. Вы были депутатом Государственной Думы, аудитором Счетной палаты Российской Федерации, первым заместителем Министра иностранных дел, заместителем Генерального директора ЮНЕСКО и Председателем его Исполнительного совета. Однако ваша творческая профессиональная биография на этом не заканчивается. Вы будете председателем Комитета Всемирного наследия. Я думаю, это станет еще одной формой признания ваших заслуг в деле реализации возложенных на ЮНЕСКО задач, в частности, в области охраны культурного наследия.

18.6 Я счастлива, что вы смогли привнести в эту Конвенцию ваш авторитет и ваше видение общественных интересов в поворотный момент, который имеет решающее значение для укрепления доверия к этому важному нормативному инструменту и, конечно, для поддержания его репутации и популярности. Позвольте мне, дорогая Элеонора, процитировать слова пламенного поэта и гуманиста вселенского масштаба Виктора Гюго, который сказал: «Лучшее наследие – это достойное имя». Вы имеете это достойное имя. Думаю, нам всем необходимо задумываться над этими словами.

18.7 С вашего позволения, дамы и господа, и в знак признательности за все, что вы, уважаемая г-жа Митрофанова, сделали для поддержания и укрепления авторитета ЮНЕСКО, разрешите вручить вам эту медаль с изображением Виктора Гюго, этого неувержимого гения. Желаю вам всяческих успехов в вашей будущей деятельности.

(18.1) **La Directrice générale (traduit du russe) :**  
Je vous remercie beaucoup.

(18.2) Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs. Le moment des hommages est toujours un plaisir. C'est donc avec une grande satisfaction que je veux saluer votre action et vous féliciter pour le travail que vous avez accompli au cours des deux dernières années. J'ai souvent dit que j'avais eu de la chance de vous avoir à mes côtés pendant les deux premières années de mon mandat. Beaucoup de choses nous unissent et nous rapprochent. Nous utilisons le même alphabet que nous tenons de Cyrille et

Méthode. Nous avons toutes deux étudié à l'Institut des relations internationales de Moscou. Nos parcours professionnels se ressemblent : notre expérience dans le domaine diplomatique au sein des Ministères des affaires étrangères de nos pays respectifs s'est enrichie d'une véritable amitié qui nous a guidées pendant ces deux années.

(18.3) Je voudrais tout particulièrement souligner ici combien m'ont été précieuses pendant les deux premières années de mon mandat votre expérience et votre profonde connaissance de l'UNESCO. Vous connaissez cette Organisation, aurais-je envie de dire, de l'intérieur, pour y avoir occupé la fonction de Sous-Directrice générale de l'administration. Tout cela a beaucoup contribué à mettre l'UNESCO sur la voie de la réforme.

(18.4) Je l'ai déjà dit pendant la session du Conseil exécutif, mais je voudrais le répéter encore : je vous suis reconnaissante d'avoir toujours maintenu une position cohérente et rigoureuse sur la question du respect du mandat et des responsabilités de chaque organe directeur de l'UNESCO et de m'avoir appuyée dans tous mes efforts. Ce soutien est d'autant plus important quand il faut résister dans les périodes difficiles comme celle que nous traversons actuellement, quand il est impératif que nos actions soient comprises. C'est un élément essentiel de la confiance et du respect mutuel, qui sont aussi des forces motrices de la réforme.

(18.5) Madame la Présidente, votre mandat à la tête du Conseil exécutif est un point de plus sur la liste déjà longue de vos engagements au service de l'intérêt général. Vous avez été députée à la Douma d'État, auditrice à la Cour des comptes de la Fédération de Russie, première Vice-Ministre des affaires étrangères, Sous-Directrice générale de l'UNESCO et Présidente du Conseil exécutif. Mais votre impressionnante carrière professionnelle ne s'arrête pas là, puisque vous allez présider le Comité du patrimoine mondial. Ce sera, selon moi, un autre témoignage de reconnaissance de vos services dans l'accomplissement du mandat confié à l'UNESCO, notamment dans le domaine de la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel.

(18.6) Je me félicite que vous ayez pu apporter à cette Convention votre autorité et votre sens de l'intérêt commun dans un moment décisif pour le renforcement de la confiance envers cette instrument normatif majeur, et bien sûr pour le maintien de sa réputation et de son attrait. Permettez-moi, chère Eléonora, de citer Victor Hugo, vibrant poète et humaniste universel, qui a dit : « Le plus beau patrimoine est un nom révérend ». Votre nom est révérend, et je crois que nous pouvons tous méditer ces paroles.

(18.7) Avec votre permission, Mesdames et Messieurs, et en témoignage de ma reconnaissance pour tout ce que vous avez accompli, Madame Mitrofanova, pour entretenir et renforcer le prestige de l'UNESCO, j'aimerais-vous remettre cette médaille à l'effigie de ce génie bouillonnant que fut Victor Hugo. Je vous souhaite un plein succès dans vos futures activités.

*La Directrice générale remet à Mme Bokova une médaille d'or.*

19. **The President:**

*Merci.* Thank you very much. *Shukran.* Thank you for everything again, thank you. Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our work for this morning. We will meet promptly at 3 p.m., please, to examine the reports of the Culture Commission, the Administrative Commission, and the Joint Meeting of Commissions, and to adopt the Appropriation Resolution. We will also have a special closing session. So enjoy your lunch and I look forward to seeing you here at 3 p.m. sharp – it will be a long afternoon. Thank you very much.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 45*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45*

*Заседание закрывается в 12.45*

*رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٢,٤٥ بعد الظهر*

*会议于 12 时 45 分结束*

# Seventeenth plenary meeting

Thursday 10 November 2011 at 3.25 p.m.  
President: **Ms Bogyay** (Hungary)

# Dix-septième séance plénière

Jeudi 10 novembre 2011 à 15 h 25  
Présidente : **Mme Bogyay** (Hongrie)

# Decimoséptima sesión plenaria

Jueves 10 de noviembre de 2011 a las 15.25  
Presidente: **Sra. Bogyay** (Hungría)

# Семнадцатое пленарное заседание

четверг 10 ноября 2011 г. в 15.25  
Председатель: г-жа **Бодяи** (Венгрия)

# الجلسة العامة السابعة عشرة

الخميس ١٠ تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١١، الساعة ٣,٢٥ بعد الظهر  
الرئيسة: السيدة **بوغياي** (المجر)

# 第十七次全体会议

2011年11月10日星期四 15时25分  
主席：Bogyay女士（匈牙利）

**Tribute to the President of the 35th session of the General Conference**  
**Hommage au Président de la 35<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale**  
**Homenaje al Presidente de la 35ª reunión de la Conferencia General**  
**Выражение признательности Председателю 35-й сессии Генеральной конференции**

إشادة برئيس الدورة الخامسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

**向大会第三十五届会议主席致敬**

**1.1 The President:**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, as we are looking forward to a long but very interesting afternoon, with a kind of surprise towards the end, for as you see there is a piano on the stage already, I declare open the seventeenth plenary meeting which is the last of this 36th session of the General Conference.

1.2 We still have some work to do. Before we can go back to our respective countries and delegations, we need to examine the remaining reports of commissions and committees and adopt the Appropriation Resolution. But first, I suggest that we pay tribute to the President of the 35th session of the General Conference, Mr Davidson Hepburn. The General Committee, at its last meeting, on Tuesday, acknowledged the wisdom and panache with which Davidson presided over the Conference and it therefore recommended that the plenary adopt the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/PLEN/DR.3.

1.3 Dear colleagues, if you so permit, I will read the text of this resolution. "Tribute to the President of the 35th session of the General Conference. *The General Conference, Mindful of the fact that H.E. Dr Davidson L. Hepburn concluded his term of office as President of the General Conference at the opening of the 36th session, Noting with appreciation the efforts deployed by him to enhance the image and visibility of UNESCO by challenging Member States to "think outside the box" and dare to take risks in the implementation of their decisions, Recognizing his constant adherence to the ideals of UNESCO and his significant contribution towards the pursuit of the Organization's objectives, Recalling the importance he has attached to effective working relations between UNESCO's three organs, Emphasizing the singular contribution he has made to encourage greater participation by small nations and particularly small island developing States (SIDS) in the decision-making of UNESCO, Acknowledging the wisdom, forthrightness, diplomatic savoir-faire and panache with which he has carried out his responsibilities, Conveys its high esteem and gratitude to H.E. Dr Davidson L. Hepburn for the invaluable services and contributions he has rendered to UNESCO.*"

1.4 Ladies and gentlemen, I believe I may take it that the General Conference adopts this resolution by acclamation.

(Applause)

1.5 *It is so **decided**.* I would like to ask you, Mr Hepburn, if you would like to say a few words or are you happy?

2. **Mr Hepburn** (Bahamas) (President of the 35th session of the General Conference):

You know that I am a man of few words and all I want to say is thank you very much for everything that I have experienced here. May God bless you.

**Draft resolutions recommended to the General Conference (continued)**

**Projets de résolution recommandés à la Conférence générale (suite)**

**Proyectos de resolución recomendados a la Conferencia General (continuación)**

**Проекты резолюций, представленные Генеральной конференции (продолжение)**

مشروعات القرارات التي أوصت اللجان المؤتمر العام باعتمادها (تابع)

向大会建议的决议草案 (续)

**Report of the Culture Commission (CLT) (36 C/74)**

**Rapport de la Commission Culture (CLT) (36 C/74)**

**Informe de la Comisión de Cultura (CLT) (36 C/74)**

**Доклад Комиссии по культуре (CLT) (36 C/74)**

تقرير لجنة الثقافة (CLT) (٧٤/م٣٦)

文化委员会 (CLT) 的报告 (36 C/74)

**3. The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, let us now examine the report of the Culture Commission which is contained in document 36 C/74. His Excellency Mr Nureldin Satti who chaired the Commission will now present this document. Sir, the floor is yours.

٤,١ السيد ساتي (السودان) (رئيس لجنة الثقافة):

شكراً سيدي الرئيسة. السيدة الرئيسة، أعضاء المؤتمر الموقرين، يسعدني أن أقدم إليك، سيدي الرئيسة، تقرير لجنة الثقافة في المؤتمر العام السادس والثلاثين لمنظمتنا. واسمح لي بادئ ذي بدء أن أتقدم بشكري وتقديري إلى أعضاء اللجنة الموقرين لمشاركتهم الفعالة والتزامهم التام ومعاونتهم لي على إكمال أعمال لجنة الثقافة في الوقت المحدد لها. كما أود أن أعبر عن شكري وتقديري لأعضاء المكتب الذين تم انتخابهم في الجلسة الأولى للجنة، وهم السيدة سينا بايدور من تركيا، والسيدة سافيتري سوانساتيت من تايلاند، والسيد مارثيلو فاسكرز - بيرمودز من الإكوادور، والسيد جان - ماري أدوا من الكونغو، كنواب لرئيس اللجنة، والسيدة أولكساندرا كوفالوفا مقرر اللجنة.



(4.1) **Mr Satti** (Sudan) (Chair of the CLT Commission – Culture) (*translation from the Arabic*):

Thank you, Madam President. Distinguished members of the General Conference, I am pleased to present to you, Madam President, the report of the CLT Commission at the 36th session of the General Conference. Allow me at the outset to offer thanks and appreciation to the distinguished members of the Committee for their effective participation and full engagement and cooperation with me in completing the work of the CLT Commission within the time allotted to it. I should also like to express my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Bureau, who were elected at the first meeting of the Commission: Ms Sina Baydur of Turkey, Ms Savitri Suwansathit of Thailand, Mr Marcelo Vásquez Bermúdez of Ecuador, and Mr Jean-Marie Adoua of Congo, as Vice-Chairs, and Ms Oleksandra Kovalova as Rapporteur.

*(The speaker continues in English)*

4.2 Madam President, at its first meeting the Commission had the opportunity to listen to Mr Miika Tomi, representative of the Youth Forum, who presented the Forum's recommendations relating to Major Programme IV. By warmly welcoming the recommendations of the Forum, the Member States fully endorsed the observations and the recommendations made in their deliberations. Youth delegates were commended for the quality and soundness of their proposals. The key role that youth can play in the promotion of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and culture of peace was also acknowledged.

4.3 The examination of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, item **4.2**, was introduced by the representative of the Director-General, Mr Hans d'Orville, Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, and Mr Francisco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture. The Forum provided an overview of the general framework and the strategic relevance of draft document 36 C/5. The Assistant Director-General for Culture recalled that the Culture Sector is committed to advocating the pivotal role of culture for development, social cohesion and dialogue through the recognition and promotion of cultural diversity and cultural heritage in its multi-form manifestations.

4.4 During the first and second meetings of the Commission, a total of 50 Member States, one observer and one international non-governmental organization took the floor and delivered their general statements on draft document 36 C/5 for Major Programme IV. All Member States reiterated their support for the zero nominal growth draft programme as reflected in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 presented in document 36 C/5 Addendum. Member States also stressed the importance they attached to the implementation of all seven UNESCO conventions making up the Organization's standard-setting framework in the field of culture. They emphasized the relevance of the conventions as a unique vector of social and economic development, reaching far beyond their statutory mechanisms, touching also upon the role they play in fostering greater international cooperation. Many delegates acknowledged the efforts deployed by the Director-General in promoting the role of culture for development and called for a greater accent to be placed on such programmes and projects that fall under the effective implementation of the comprehensive international standard-setting framework covered by the Culture Sector of UNESCO.

4.5 As regards the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, a number of Member States underlined the significance of the upcoming 40th anniversary of this landmark instrument and called for greater involvement of local communities in the protection and management of world heritage properties. While expressing their concerns about the large number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List – let us recall that we are fast approaching the 1,000th inscription – some speakers stressed the need to strengthen the List's balance, representativeness and overall credibility by encouraging inscriptions from under-represented regions and categories. This would eventually ensure the establishment of a more representative and balanced List.

4.6 Regarding the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, numerous delegations highlighted the importance of capacity building for its implementation at the national level, with particular emphasis on three priorities: (i) the identification of intangible heritage elements; (ii) developing appropriate legislative and administrative frameworks; and (iii) the design of appropriate educational modules.

4.7 The majority of the delegates who took the floor commended the Director-General for bolstering UNESCO's initiatives aimed at ensuring more effective implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. A number of Member States also noted that the celebration of that Convention's 40th anniversary helped build a momentum that greatly enhanced its visibility as well as global awareness of the fight against the trafficking of cultural property. In this regard, some concern was expressed by delegates about the need to ensure adequate resources for the 1970 Convention.

4.8 Many delegations underlined the relevance of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and its key role in fostering creative industries as drivers of social cohesion and sustainable local development. Reference was made to the importance of providing technical assistance to Member States in developing legal, institutional and human capacities to promote cultural industries and design innovative cultural policies and strategies.

4.9 A number of Member States expressed their support for the "Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education", and reiterated the importance of implementing the recommendations and the roadmap issued by the World Conferences on Arts Education. They also strongly recommended concerted intersectoral cooperation between the Culture and Education Sectors, in order to incorporate arts education into the development of ad hoc curricula and training modules. UNESCO's key role in strengthening cooperation among teachers, artists, researchers, associations and community networks was also highlighted.

4.10 Most of the speakers recalled the pivotal role of multilingualism as an invaluable tool for fostering intercultural dialogue and ensuring the promotion of cultural diversity, especially in consideration of the ever-growing homogenization of cultural expressions. Many Member States called upon UNESCO to strengthen its action to promote linguistic diversity and preserve indigenous and endangered languages.

4.11 Several Member States felt that UNESCO should strengthen its efforts to address Africa as a global priority and to support the African continent in the enhanced implementation of the cultural conventions, notably the 1972, 2003 and 2005 conventions. Broad support was voiced for the *General History of Africa* as a crucial pedagogical tool for facilitating closer exchanges and joint international research projects on the African diaspora.

4.12 In his reply after the general debate, the Assistant Director-General for Culture noted increasing evidence in the international arena that the fundamental principles of UNESCO's culture programme (cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and the promotion of cultural heritage and creative industries) were making a significant contribution towards the building of more peaceful, prosperous and cohesive societies, while addressing the needs of marginalized groups including women, youth and indigenous peoples. Mr Bandarin appreciated the overwhelming support expressed by the Member States for UNESCO's efforts to further explore the contributions of the cultural conventions to sustainable development, through activities fostering innovative national development policies. He acknowledged the alignment between the Director-General's proposals and intentions in respect of the Draft Programme and Budget and those expressed by the majority of Member States as regards the reinforcement of the 1970 and the 2005 conventions, taking note of the indications formulated by a significant number of delegations to further reinforce the two conventions.

4.13 Following the exchange of views, the Commission proceeded to examine and approve eight draft resolutions on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) submitted by Member States. This was done in the light of the recommendation of the Executive Board on document 36 C/6 and 36 C/6 Add. and the observations of the Director-General contained in document 36 C/8/CLT. You will find the recommendations of the Culture Commission on these draft resolutions in the written report of the Commission (document 36 C/74) which takes into account statements made by a number of delegations.

4.14 In accordance with and following the approval of draft resolutions 49 and 54, it was decided to transfer resources amounting to \$700,000 from main lines of action (MLAs) 5 and 6 to MLA 2, and \$800,000 from MLA 5 to MLA 4. This is not reflected in the appropriation paragraph appearing in the resolution, since, according to decisions taken by the General Conference, the appropriation at the main line of action level is reflected in Volume II of the C/5 document. But, as stated in the report, these draft resolutions were approved with strong support by the Commission and, should the General Conference adopt the present report now, the Director-General will reflect, in Volume II of document 36 C/5 Approved, the corresponding changes in the appropriation of the different main lines of action of Major Programme IV resulting from these decisions.

4.15 The Commission then moved to the consideration of item **5.13** on the implementation of the "Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education", the outcome document of the Second World Conference on Arts Education. Twenty-six Member States took the floor and expressed overwhelming support for the implementation of the Seoul Agenda and the roadmap resulting from the World Conferences on Arts Education. It warmly thanked the Republic of Korea for facilitating the implementation of such an important process and welcomed the organization of the Third World Conference. While reiterating the importance of high-quality arts education for all and with a view to strengthening cooperation among the various stakeholders, the Commission acknowledged the role of the networks of UNESCO Arts Education Observatories and Chairs and DREAM Centres. It also proclaimed the fourth week in May International Arts Education Week, welcomed as a full-fledged initiative to promote arts and creativity for the well-being of individuals and communities.

4.16 The Commission concluded its first debate by recommending that the General Conference approve the budget provision of \$52,213,200 for Major Programme IV, corresponding to \$15,708,400 for total programme activities and \$36,504,800 for staff costs, as indicated in the relevant paragraph of document 36 C/5 Add. for Major Programme IV, taking into account what I have previously stated regarding budget transfers between MLAs. It was specified that the indicated amount is subject to adjustment in the light of the decision taken by the General Conference on the budget ceiling and by the joint meeting of the Programme and Administrative Commissions.

4.17 In its second debate, the Commission examined items **5.9** and **5.29**. The Commission considered the relevant proposals for the establishment of the following five centres/institutes as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO upon recommendation of the Executive Board at its 186th and 187th sessions: the International Centre for Women Artists, in Amman, Jordan; the International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies, in Turin, Italy; the International Language Centre in Reykjavik, Iceland; the Regional Centre for Contemporary Art, in Doha, Qatar; and the International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention, in Spain.

4.18 No debate took place on these items and the Commission recommended to the General Conference at its plenary session the adoption of the draft resolutions in document 36 C/29, Parts VII, VIII, IX, XIII and XVI.

4.19 As regards item **5.29**, on the Proclamation of International Jazz Day on 30 April of each year, the representative of the United States of America took the floor and emphasized that the proclamation of this Day would raise awareness of the role of jazz music in spreading the universal values related to UNESCO's mandate. No debate took place on this item, which the Commission adopted by acclamation.

4.20 In its third debate, the Commission considered two agenda items: Proclamation of an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022) (item **5.19**), together with an additional resolution pertaining to the same item; and item **5.20** on the Universal Forum of Cultures – Naples 2013.

4.21 On item **5.19**, the representatives of 39 Member States and of one non-governmental organization took the floor, nourishing a very rich debate on the potential links of such a decade with other framework activities related to a culture of peace and to intercultural dialogue. A number of Member States from Latin America and the Caribbean emphasized the importance of the African legacy in shaping their cultures and societies and proudly underlined their historical and

ancestral links with Africa. While several delegations recognized that the proclamation of the decade would further foster international cooperation and enhance intercultural dialogue, other speakers pointed out the possible overlap with the relevant activities implemented within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), and noted that the human rights dimension was not explicitly highlighted. A few delegations expressed their wishes that youth be fully involved in activities of the decade. Many pointed out the religious dimension of the decade, as well as the dimension of multilingualism. It was also pointed out that both the *General History of Africa* and the *General History of the Caribbean* should be integrated into the decade, thus better reflecting the legacy of African civilization and its consequences for the history and cultural identity of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela announced that it would fund the Spanish translation of the *General History of Africa* and the United Republic of Tanzania offered its expertise for the translation of the collection into Swahili.

4.22 While the majority of Member States expressed their support for the proclamation of the decade, a number of delegates voiced their concern about the lack of a clear action plan and implementation strategy. Some speakers, while acknowledging the role that such initiatives can play in fostering intercultural dialogue and the principle that inspired the initiative, considered that a decision on this matter was premature without clear indications on the timeframe, financial implications, scope and distribution.

4.23 In their statements, several delegates also expressed their views on item **5.20** on the Universal Forum of Cultures to be held in Naples, Italy, in 2013. Building on the achievements of previous universal forums of cultures (Barcelona 2004, Monterrey 2007 and Valparaiso 2010), the event will focus on the themes of sustainable development, knowledge management, cultural expressions and a culture of peace. All the Member States which took the floor welcomed the proposal submitted by Italy and recommended to the General Conference at its plenary session the adoption of the relevant draft resolution without amendment.

4.24 In our fourth debate, the Commission examined item **8.1** – Proposal concerning the desirability of a standard-setting instrument on the historic urban landscape and item **8.2** – Preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of a possible international standard-setting instrument for the protection of indigenous and endangered languages, including a study of the outcomes of the programmes implemented by UNESCO relating to this issue.

4.25 Forty-one Member States commended the quality of the text of the proposed recommendation, as it would support Member States' efforts in developing policies and good practices for the management and effective conservation of their historic urban areas. Such policies and practices could then be adapted to each national context.

4.26 The delegations appreciated the integrated, inclusive and forward-looking nature of the text, which would serve to guide Member States in their challenging task of safeguarding historic cities in an era of unprecedented globalization, urbanization and climate change. Some delegates reminded us that this instrument is very timely in light of the fact that more and more countries and cities will be affected by floods of various kinds owing to global warming and uncontrolled development. It was further noted that traditional knowledge about natural phenomena and coping with climate change and natural disasters in a sustainable manner should be a part of every region's culture. It was approved by acclamation.

4.27 Sixteen Member States and one international governmental organization took the floor on item **8.2**. After a rich debate, most of the delegations agreed on the need to take urgent action to promote multilingualism and to urgently preserve indigenous and endangered languages. A few delegates reiterated that UNESCO should concentrate on the implementation of the existing instruments in favour of endangered languages, rather than creating new ones, and supported the adoption of the original text of the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/24. However, it was noted that no international normative instrument dealing specifically with languages exists at the present time.

4.28 After the clarification provided by the Legal Adviser on the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and on the status of the preliminary study in the process of preparation of a normative instrument, a consensus emerged in favour of a broader and more encompassing study that should also address multilingualism and other related issues "that are affecting and threatening the survival of endangered and indigenous languages". The Commission accordingly recommended the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/24, as amended.

*(The speaker continues in French)*

4.29 Madame la Présidente, le cinquième débat portait sur deux points de l'ordre du jour : la protection et la promotion du patrimoine et des collections des musées (point **5.16**) et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, de leur protection et de la lutte contre la piraterie sur Internet (point **5.21**). La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'amender les deux projets de résolution, y compris dans leur libellé. En ce qui concerne le point **5.16**, des opinions et des approches différentes de la définition du patrimoine muséologique ont donné lieu à un vif débat. Il a été décidé, par conséquent, qu'une part de la réunion d'experts proposée dans la résolution serait consacrée à l'examen des pré-supposés contenus dans l'expression « patrimoine muséologique ». Un texte de consensus a été rédigé immédiatement après la clôture de la session. C'est ce texte qui est proposé à la Conférence générale pour approbation.

4.30 En ce qui concerne le point **5.21**, la plupart des délégués, tout en reconnaissant l'importance d'une initiative tendant à explorer les moyens de combattre la piraterie sur Internet et tout en appréciant l'offre généreuse de la Grèce, ont fait valoir que des initiatives de cette nature devaient être envisagées dans le cadre des instances internationales compétentes, en particulier l'OMPI, l'Organisme des Nations Unies spécialisé dans la protection de la propriété intellectuelle.

4.31 Le Secrétariat a rappelé que les activités de l'Observatoire mondial de lutte contre la piraterie avaient dû être suspendues en raison de ressources humaines et financières insuffisantes. Les États membres qui ont pris la parole sont convenus de supprimer la référence explicite à la Convention de 2005 et ont recommandé que la Conférence générale adopte la résolution telle qu'amendée afin de refléter le sens du débat, les participants ayant souligné la nécessité d'une coopération approfondie dans ce domaine.

4.32 Dans le cadre de notre sixième débat, la Commission a pris note des rapports des comités intergouvernementaux des Conventions de 1972, 1970 et 2003, à savoir : le rapport du Comité intergouvernemental de la protection du patrimoine mondial culturel et naturel sur ses activités (2010-2011); le rapport du Comité intergouvernemental pour la promotion du retour de biens culturels à leur pays d'origine ou de leur restitution en cas d'appropriation illégale sur ses activités ; le rapport du Comité intergouvernemental de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel sur ses activités ; le rapport sur les amendements aux Statuts du Fonds international pour la promotion de la culture (FIPC).

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

4.33 Regarding the last report, while recognizing the importance of reactivating the Statutes of the International Fund for the Protection of Culture (IFPC) with an emphasis on its intellectual and operational autonomy, some Member States raised questions regarding the methodology followed by the Executive Board for the revision of the Statutes of the Fund; the respective roles of the UNESCO Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Fund; and the role of the Administrative Council, whose administrative and financial prerogatives must be clearly reaffirmed. I have to say that this was a matter of concern and I promised that the matter would be raised with the Director-General in order to see how the Fund would be relaunched in the best possible circumstances.

4.34 In our final debate, the Commission examined item 5.2 on Jerusalem and the implementation of 35 C/Resolution 49, and item 5.3 on the implementation of 35 C/Resolution 75 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories. Both items were approved by consensus and without debate.

4.35 Madam President, allow me to conclude by thanking all of my colleagues in the Commission once again for the spirit of cooperation and constructive dialogue that prevailed throughout our work. I would also like to express my gratitude to the secretariat of the Commission, under the able leadership of Ms Isabelle Vinson, and to the Assistant Director-General for Culture, the Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, the Legal Adviser and all members of the Secretariat who supported us in this work. And finally, I would like to thank you, Madam President, for your wise leadership of our work. Thank you very much.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Are there any comments or suggestions on document 36 C/74? I give the floor to Mali.

6. **Mali :**

Madame la Présidente, je voudrais remercier le Président de la Commission Culture et toute son équipe pour cet excellent travail et appeler l'attention sur un détail qui nous a échappé à tous, compte tenu certainement de l'intensité des travaux de cette commission. S'agissant de *l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique*, il est dit que « *la Tanzanie a offert son expertise pour la traduction en kiswahili* ». Je pense que l'honorable délégué de Tanzanie a plutôt voulu rappeler, pour montrer l'importance de *l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique*, que son pays « *avait* » offert son expertise pour la traduction en kiswahili, car celle-ci existe déjà. Peut-être faut-il le corriger dans le rapport final. Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président et Madame la Présidente.

7. **The President:**

Thank you very much. We will deal with that according to your wish. Any other comments? France.

8. **France :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. À mon tour, je voudrais remercier le Président de la Commission Culture pour l'excellence de son rapport et la façon tout à fait extraordinaire dont il a conduit nos travaux. Concernant le rapport que nous examinons maintenant, le document 36 C/74, je voudrais corriger ou apporter un élément factuel qui ne me semble pas y figurer, au paragraphe 13 de la page 2 de la version française. À l'alinéa (i) (en chiffre romain) est mentionné le projet de résolution 35 C/DR.54. Je souhaiterais que les spécifications de ce projet de résolution soient reprises dans le libellé, c'est-à-dire qu'on indique bien que le transfert de 800 000 dollars de l'axe d'action 5 vers l'axe d'action 4, qui est l'objet même de ce projet de résolution, a bien été approuvé. Merci.

9. **The President:**

May I ask the Chairperson, please, for his comments? Thank you.

10. **M. Satti** (Soudan) (Président de la Commission Culture) :

Personnellement, je n'y vois aucun inconvénient. J'accueille donc favorablement cette proposition d'amendement.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much. It will be done. Any other comments? Switzerland.

12. **Suisse :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Je dois dire que j'ai exactement le même problème que mon collègue français, mais j'aimerais obtenir une explication supplémentaire. En effet, le paragraphe 14 du document 36 C/74 mentionne la Priorité sectorielle biennale 2 et – à l'alinéa c – on peut lire ce qui suit : « à allouer à cette fin un montant de

15 708 400 dollars pour les coûts d'activité et de 36 504 800 dollars pour les coûts de personnel. On me dit – d'où mon étonnement – que cela ne reflète pas, à mon sens en tout cas, la discussion que nous avons eue au sujet du transfert de ces montants, et on me dit qu'on ne peut insérer cette modification qu'au paragraphe 13, auquel mon collègue français a fait référence. J'aimerais donc, en premier lieu, obtenir à ce sujet une explication d'une personne compétente en la matière et, en second lieu, demander – comme mon collègue français vient de le faire – que soit mentionnée explicitement la modification qui a finalement été approuvée en ce qui concerne le projet de résolution 35 C/DR.49, à l'alinéa (i) du paragraphe 13 (troisième tiret), à savoir qu'un montant de 700 000 dollars doit être transféré des axes d'action 5 et 6 à l'axe d'action 2. Si cela était possible, j'en serais fort aise. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

13. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to the Chairperson, please.

14. **M. Satti** (Soudan) (Président de la Commission Culture) :

Pour le deuxième point, distingué délégué de la Suisse, je ne vois aucun problème. Aussi, comme nous l'avons fait à la demande du distingué délégué de la France, on pourra effectivement insérer le montant à l'endroit souhaité. En ce qui concerne le premier point, je crois que cela dépasse ma compétence en tant que Président de la Commission Culture : il s'agit là, semble-t-il, d'une question statutaire qui relève du Règlement de la Conférence générale et du Règlement financier. D'après ce qui m'a été expliqué, nous adoptons une enveloppe budgétaire globale et il est d'usage de ne pas en refléter le détail sous la forme d'une ventilation du budget. Mais étant donné que je ne suis pas expert en la matière, peut-être le Secrétariat de la Conférence générale pourra-t-il répondre sur ce point. Merci beaucoup.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference. Please, the floor is yours.

16. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Oui, c'est effectivement une question un peu technique qui porte sur la manière dont il est rendu compte de toutes les décisions de la Conférence générale. Je voulais juste rappeler deux ou trois points. Premièrement, c'est la Conférence générale elle-même qui a décidé que les projets d'amendement porteraient sur les textes des projets de résolution contenus dans le volume 1 du C/5. Pour cette raison, il n'est pas possible de refléter explicitement dans le libellé de la résolution adoptée les transferts de ressources financières entre axes d'action que votre Commission est en train de recommander. En second lieu, je voudrais rappeler qu'une fois que cette Conférence aura été clôturée, le travail du Secrétariat ne sera bien sûr pas terminé : il commencera. Non seulement il faudra donner effet à toutes les décisions de la Conférence générale mais il faudra les refléter dans le document C/5 Approuvé. Et c'est dans ce document C/5 Approuvé, qui contiendra les volumes 1 et 2 du C/5, que vous verrez reflétés les transferts que vous recommandez. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

17. **The President:**

I would like to give the floor to my colleague, the Swiss Ambassador. Please, your reply.

18. **Suisse :**

Je veux juste vous remercier pour ces explications très claires.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Mali.

20. **Mali :**

Excusez-moi, Madame la Présidente, mais la référence à ces deux projets de résolution m'amène à évoquer aussi une question qui a été longuement débattue par la Commission, et je voudrais m'assurer que la décision de la Commission a bien été prise en compte. Je ne connais pas les méandres des techniques de prise de décision mais il est important que nous nous assurions que la Commission a bien convenu que les transferts de fonds liés aux deux projets de résolution – en particulier, le DR.44 – ne vont pas avoir de répercussions sur *l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique* ni sur *La Route de l'esclave*. Si cela pouvait être mentionné dans le rapport oral du Président ou dans les documents relatifs aux décisions de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, nous en serions ravis. Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente.

21. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Mr Chairperson, please.

22. **M. Satti** (Soudan) (Président de la Commission Culture) :

Oui, j'ai reçu l'assurance du Secrétariat que cela ne se produirait pas : *l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique* et *La route de l'esclave* ne pâtiront nullement de ces transferts. Cela sera dûment mentionné dans les documents concernés. Merci beaucoup.

23.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much. I assume that the General Conference now wishes to take note of the report of the Culture Commission and adopt the draft resolutions contained therein subject to the decisions that the Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution this afternoon. *It is so decided.*

23.2 Mr Satti, I wish to thank you – you personally and all the members of the Culture Commission – for your commitment, efficiency and work.

**Report of the ADM Commission (Finance and Administration) (36 C/69)**  
**Rapport de la Commission ADM (Finances et administration) (36 C/69)**  
**Informe de la Comisión ADM (Cuestiones Financieras y Administrativas) (36 C/69)**  
**Доклад Комиссии ADM (финансовые и административные вопросы) (36 C/69)**

تقرير لجنة الشؤون المالية والإدارية (٦٩/٣٦)

行政委员会（财务和行政）的报告 (36 C/69)

**24. The President:**

Your Excellencies, let us now examine the report of the Administrative Commission which is contained in document 36 C/69. The Chairperson of the Commission, Ms Alissandra Cummins, will present this document. Ms Cummins, the floor is yours.

**25.1 Ms Cummins (Barbados) (Chairperson of the Finance and Administration (ADM) Commission):**

*Merci, Madame.* Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I submit to you the report on the work of the Administrative Commission of the 36th session of the General Conference included in document 36 C/69. With your permission, Madam President, I shall now summarize our debates on the items considered.

25.2 The following items were considered without debate: item **10.4**, "Scale of assessments and currency of Member States' contributions", item **10.5**, "Collection of Member States' contributions", item **10.6**, "Implications of the application of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for the implementation of the incentive scheme for the prompt payment of contributions", item **11.4**, "Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff" and item **11.5**, "United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund".

25.3 The Administrative Commission examined the proposed draft resolutions on these items and recommended them for adoption by the plenary as amended.

25.4 The Administrative Commission examined item **1.3**, "Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution", at its first meeting and set up a working group on this item comprising Chad, Chile, the Republic of Korea and Lebanon, with the latter chairing the group. It finalized the examination of this item at its sixth meeting, on the basis of the report of the working group. The Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution contained in paragraph 10 of document 36 C/12, as amended. The amendments provided for the granting of voting rights to Sudan, Kyrgyzstan and Somalia while denying the Central African Republic the right to vote at the 36th session. This resolution was adopted by the General Conference at its ninth plenary meeting, on the basis of the Commission's report.

25.5 With regard to item **4.1**, "Methods of preparing the budget, budget estimates for 2012-2013, and budgeting techniques", under the zero nominal growth scenario the Organization would have to absorb \$32 million of re-costing in comparison to the zero real growth proposal. This is expected to be achieved firstly by imposing \$24.5 million of real cuts under various appropriation lines, and, secondly, by increasing the lapse factor from 3% to 5%, the lapse factor being the percentage reduction applied to the staff costs budget due to anticipated turnover of staff and recruitment delays.

25.6 Members of the Commission were assured that the increase of the lapse factor to 5% would achieve a further reduction of \$8.2 million in the staff costs budget, without impacting the staffing structure. Furthermore, it was noted that the level of the lapse factor was an element of the budgeting techniques which had been approved at each session of the General Conference.

25.7 Nonetheless, funding for the major programmes, the Africa Department and the Division for Gender Equality was reinforced and a sum of \$9 million had been allocated for Phase 1 of the field network reform. Regarding the budgeting techniques, a question was raised with respect to the appropriateness of the constant dollar rate of €0.869. In response, the Commission was reassured that a proposal to align the constant dollar rate to more realistic levels would be submitted to the Executive Board at its 190th session.

25.8 Furthermore, with regard to Part V on provisions for anticipated cost increases, the Commission stressed that funds from this reserve should be restructured for staff and activity cost increases which might arise due to inflation, statutory factors and technical adjustments, and should not be used to finance other items such as capital investments. It was noted, however, that in exceptional cases derogations were requested from the Executive Board to use anticipated cost increases for financing other items.

25.9 The Commission welcomed the Executive Board's recommendation to consider the introduction of results-based budgeting in document 37 C/5. While at this stage it was too early to determine whether changes in the current budgeting techniques would be necessary, it was nevertheless noted that other United Nations agencies implementing a results-based budgeting approach had not found it necessary to change their budget techniques. The Commission recommended that an in-depth assessment of these budgeting techniques be conducted and proposals concerning their revision and/or modification for the preparation of draft document 37 C/5 be submitted to the Executive Board at its 190th session.

25.10 After an in-depth debate on this item, the draft resolution was approved as set out in document 36 C/5 Add.2 as amended.

25.11 Under item **4.2**, "Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013", in the course of its examination of the proposed draft resolution on Part I of draft document 36 C/5 Addendum related to General Policy

and Direction, the Administrative Commission considered DR.1 submitted by Egypt and agreed to amend the part related to internal oversight, underlining the need to strengthen internal controls and compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules.

25.12 The draft resolution contained in paragraph 00100 of draft document 36 C/5 Add. was accordingly recommended to the General Conference for adoption as amended, while the draft resolutions in paragraphs 11000, 12000 and 13000 of draft document 36 C/5 Add., as well as Parts IV and V of the draft Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013 and the reserve for reclassifications/merit recognitions, were recommended without amendment to the attention of the joint meeting of the commissions.

25.13 In considering item **4.4**, "Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling", the members of the Commission arrived at a consensus on the zero nominal growth scenario budget ceiling of \$653 million. A separate report on this item has already been presented to the plenary at its seventh meeting. During the debate on the budget ceiling, many Member States expressed concern about the negative impact this budget was having on the funding of the Participation Programme. There was a strong appeal to the Director-General to endeavour to maintain the resourcing of the Participation Programme at a level equivalent to that provided for in document 35 C/5.

25.14 Twenty-seven Member States took the floor on item **6.1**, "Consideration of the decentralization strategy, including of the revised basic criteria for the rational implementation of decentralization". There was general recognition of the need to strengthen UNESCO's capacity to deliver at the level of the Member States and to be more closely aligned with United Nations reform, especially with regard to the policy of Delivering as One. However, some Member States from the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) raised concerns about whether the infrastructure and reporting lines of field offices should be applied in the same way throughout the world. This concern gave rise to a debate on the relevant paragraph 6 of the draft resolution on this item which was amended by the Commission on the basis of 185 EX/Decision 29 of the Executive Board, with a view to achieving consensus on this matter.

25.15 Questions were raised about the cost of the reform, the reporting lines which were regarded as too complex, the staffing procedures and whether the concrete planning would be based on various Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluations and audits.

25.16 It was underlined that the field reform had not been put in place to save funds but rather to significantly enhance UNESCO's delivery capacity in duty stations outside Paris, particularly with regard to quality, efficiency and flexibility. The representative of the Director-General undertook to further simplify the reporting lines. The staffing plans for the field reform were fully aligned with the human resources strategy for 2011-2016, encouraging a new culture of mobility. Special attention is to be paid to the field offices in Africa in order to facilitate the further implementation of the field reform.

25.17 The draft resolution contained in paragraph 70 of document 36 C/27, as amended, was recommended for adoption by the plenary.

25.18 In its consideration of item **10.1**, "Implementation of the action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary funds – report by the Executive Board", the Commission recognized the Complementary Additional Programme (CAP) to have proven to be a useful tool for extrabudgetary resource mobilization. At the same time, the reinforcement of data collection, monitoring of extrabudgetary projects and more capacity building for staff were called for in order to strengthen project delivery and achieve greater transparency in the management of extrabudgetary funds.

25.19 The Director-General was invited to provide a breakdown of extrabudgetary funds by beneficiary country covering the last two bienniums to the Executive Board during the next biennium. It was confirmed that in future reports to the governing bodies more attention would be given to the issue of monitoring extrabudgetary projects. The Commission recommended the continued use of SISTER for that purpose. The importance of mobilizing extrabudgetary resources was acknowledged, although concern was expressed at the same time that donor-led programmes could undermine multilateralism.

25.20 With regard to the draft strategy for cooperation with the private sector, the Commission noted that there should be provision for disengagement as well as engagement in the policy document, in the same way as is provided for in individual agreements. Concern was expressed about the risks linked to working with the private sector and the Director-General was called on to exercise caution in the selection of partners. A list of all UNESCO's extrabudgetary partners was requested. The draft resolution was approved as amended.

25.21 During the debate on item **10.2**, "Financial report and audited financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the financial period ended 31 December 2009 and report by the External Auditor", and item **10.3**, "Financial report and audited financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the year ending 31 December 2010 and report by the External Auditor", the External Auditor stated that the 2008-2009 financial statements were issued with an unqualified audit opinion, although recommendations were made about the necessity to improve the inventory of the works of art, to strengthen the follow-up of equipment purchased using extrabudgetary funds, as well as the necessity to reduce costs incurred by the UNESCO Commissary. He also highlighted the low implementation rate of some extrabudgetary projects.

25.22 With regard to the 2010 financial statements, it was noted that these statements were the first to be prepared under International Public Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Organization was one of only nine United Nations agencies which had been able to implement IPSAS by the agreed date of 1 January 2010. The Director-General was to be complimented for having successfully achieved a clean audit while implementing IPSAS.

25.23 While the Organization had recorded an operating deficit of \$32.1 million for 2010, this was primarily due to unbudgeted expenses in relation to long-term employee benefits liabilities, exchange losses and accounting timing differences. For the first time, Property, Plant and Equipment (PP&E) had been included with a net asset value of \$633.3 million, as well as long-term employee benefits liabilities of \$784.2 million. Nevertheless, both the representative of the Director-General and the External Auditor affirmed that the Organization remained solvent since the liability was not due for payment in the short term; only about \$26 million fell due each year.

25.24 The Commission recommended adoption of the draft resolution for item **10.2** as amended, and of the draft resolution for item **10.3** as recommended by the Executive Board in document 36 C/33 Add.

25.25 In the debate on item **10.7**, "Working Capital Fund: level and administration", Member States wanted to be reassured that there would be no changes in the assessment of the Working Capital Fund for the next biennium. The representative of the Director-General replied that the amount of \$30 million of the Working Capital Fund would remain the same but the contribution of the Member States would depend on their respective assessment rate for 2013. Some Member States might receive a credit while others might be requested to pay more if their assessment rate changed. The draft resolution was recommended as amended by the Commission.

25.26 With regard to item **11.1**, "Staff Regulations and Staff Rules", members of the Commission expressed their concern regarding the proposed reduction of the external advertisement period from two months to one month. It was also recalled that the reduction of the advertisement period from three to two months, in 2003, was already the result of a compromise adopted by the General Conference.

25.27 They stressed the need rather to encourage the submission of applications particularly from under-represented and non-represented States. Streamlining of the recruitment process could be achieved through the enhanced human resources planning provided for in the new human resources strategy.

25.28 Following debate on this issue, the Commission agreed that the minimum time period for advertising posts should be clearly stated and should be part of the Regulations and not the Rules.

25.29 The Commission also requested placing on record the need for the Secretariat to indicate explicitly in the documents submitted for consideration whether prior consultation with the staff unions had in fact taken place concerning staff matters within the Staff Rules and Staff Regulations.

25.30 Accordingly at its last meeting, the Commission returned to the examination of the draft resolution for item **11.1** in respect of a modification to Staff Regulation 4.4. The Commission decided not to retain the proposed modification. However, it was noted that Member States might wish to continue reflection on the issue of the minimum period for internal advertisement of posts during the next biennium. It was finally agreed to modify only Staff Regulation 4.3.2 by adding the word "minimum" to the specified time frame. The draft resolution was recommended as amended by the Commission.

25.31 The Commission then turned to consideration of item **11.2**, "Staff salaries, allowances and benefits". Regarding the approved methodologies used to establish salary scales, allowances and benefits for UNESCO staff members, it was underlined that the measures taken by the Director-General were based on document 35 C/69 authorizing her to apply decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) to UNESCO's staff (with respect to salary scales and post adjustment levels).

25.32 The Commission expressed concern about the increases in salaries and allowances of UNESCO staff members, at a time when many countries were experiencing serious financial difficulties and their national civil services had introduced pay freezes for their employees.

25.33 Confirmation was provided that ICSC was an independent expert body set up by the United Nations General Assembly to regulate and coordinate conditions of service for all United Nations system staff. After having received these clarifications, the Commission recommended the proposed draft resolution for adoption by the General Conference with two minor amendments. The draft resolution was recommended as amended by the Commission.

25.34 Under item **11.3**, "Human resources strategy for 2011-2016", it was highlighted that the human resources strategy focused on three agreed objectives, and was the result of a close and successful dialogue between the Secretariat and the Member States. While the new system would build a culture of trust and accountability, the Director-General was requested to accelerate the development of policies on financial disclosure and gifts.

25.35 The Commission considered the implementation of the mobility concept to be inadequate and asked the Director-General to correct the situation, since there was a need to strike a balance between field and Headquarters staff, to improve geographical distribution, including at the regional level, and to monitor retirement trends.

25.36 The Commission highlighted the importance of an efficient recruitment process and reminded the Director-General of the need to implement the External Auditor's recommendations on recruitment and cessation of service. The draft resolution was recommended, as amended, by the Commission.



25.37 In the Commission's debate on item **11.6**, "Report by the Director-General on the state of the Medical Benefits Fund and appointment of Member States' representatives to the Board of Management for 2012-2013", the current financial situation of the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF), which had displayed an increasing shortfall in income over expenditure over the past three years, was underlined. The increase in expenditure faced by the MBF was due not only to a change in demographics but also to high health care inflation.

25.38 It was stressed that the need for corrective measures to ensure the Fund's sustainability was a matter of urgency. In order to address this deficit in the short term, contributions need to be tied to the projected cost of the MBF. A long-term strategy was to be developed to address the financial sustainability of the Fund. Particular attention should be given to the unfunded after-service health insurance (ASHI) liability.

25.39 It should be recalled that Members of the Executive Board had expressed overall concern with regard to the issue of governance of the Fund, as well as the need to ensure independence and professionalism in the management of the Fund. In this connection, a number of members of the ADM Commission expressed their support for hiring the services of an independent health insurance consulting firm to provide professional and technical expertise, as well as independence to support the management of the Fund.

25.40 Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation for the implementation of the recommendations articulated in the External Expert's report. The proposed change to the cost-sharing model was not supported. The draft resolution as amended was recommended by the Commission.

25.41 The Commission then examined together items **12.1**, "Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex", and **12.2**, "Capital Master Plan for UNESCO Headquarters", and afterwards adopted the draft resolutions separately. The Director-General was obligated to inform the Commission of the actual environmental, security and health situation at Headquarters and risks facing staff and delegations. Thus the Capital Master Plan provided a global vision of the condition of the buildings, without questioning the existing functionality of the Headquarters. The Plan covered the areas not covered under the Belmont renovation plan.

25.42 The need for further development and prioritization within the Capital Master Plan was reiterated together with further exploration of alternative sources for the eventual financing of the plan, i.e. public/private partnerships, voluntary contributions, etc. Some members also requested a review of the future space requirements in view of the human resources and decentralization strategies currently under discussion. Others raised questions concerning the housing of outside entities at Headquarters, in particular non-governmental organizations.

25.43 It was agreed that the Headquarters Committee should undertake a review of its working methods which could improve the transparency of its work and provide better visibility of its functioning. The proposed draft resolutions as amended by the Commission were recommended for adoption by the General Conference.

25.44 Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I remain at your disposal to respond to any questions or comments that you may have. I would like to conclude this presentation by extending my gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Administrative Commission's debates. More particularly, I wish to thank the Vice-Chairpersons, namely the distinguished delegates of Azerbaijan, Egypt and the Republic of Korea, and most particularly I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the fruitful cooperation we have had with the distinguished delegate of Canada, Madame Dominique Levasseur, who was kind enough to act as Vice-Chairperson on several complicated items to allow me some freedom to attend to other duties which required my presence elsewhere. I would like also to express my gratitude to the Rapporteur, the distinguished delegate of South Africa, Mr Brian Figaji, for his excellent work, including his presentation during the adoption of the Report of the ADM Commission during its last meeting on 3 November, and to the Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee, His Excellency Mr Luis Fillipe Carrilho De Castro Mendes, for the excellence of his work, which ensured that the Committee worked in a spirit of transparency and consensus.

25.45 For their invaluable assistance, I would also like to warmly thank the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, Mr Didier Migaud, the External Auditor, and indeed all members of the Director-General's team who really are too numerous to mention right now but as well to their colleagues who provided us with the necessary clarification and support to effectively carry out our work and also deserve our thanks. I am also grateful to the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) staff associations for their highly useful contributions to our debates and the spirit of cooperation with which they participated in our deliberations.

25.46 Madam President, I would also like to pay tribute to my colleagues, members of the ADM Commission and their alternates, for their highly useful and comprehensive contributions. They are dedicated professionals who were determined advocates for their positions while at the same time remaining open to different and varied perspectives. We held highly spirited sessions of pragmatic dialogue which resulted in draft resolutions supported by all delegations and enabled our Commission to reach consensus on all the draft resolutions which are now recommended to you in document 36 C/69.

25.47 I wish to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support and the support they provided me as Chairperson of the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission of the Executive Board over the last two years. In particular, Madam President, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you for your support of the work of the ADM Commission and your wise guidance of the work of the current session of the General Conference. And finally, I would like especially to thank the secretary of the Administrative Commission, Mr Ingo Schroter and his team, Ms Irina

Zoubenko-Laplante, Ms Eunice Ong, Ms Marie-Jeanne Ndiaye and Ms Peggy Julien Chaillier, who showed great professionalism and at all times spared no effort to assist the Commission.

25.48 And my thanks also go out to our excellent interpreters and translators, the document production unit, the conference room clerks and all the technicians and the persons in charge of the support services on whom we depended for the smooth running of our work. I thank you all for your attention. Madam President, thank you.

26. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam. It is always a pleasure to listen to your presentations. Ladies and gentlemen, you will recall that the Director-General in her intervention in plenary yesterday afternoon called for a separate adoption of item **10.7** pertaining to the Working Capital Fund. If this proposal were accepted by the General Conference, we would come to this item after the adoption of the report. So what I am asking now is whether we can adopt this report without item **10.7** and then come back to item **10.7**. Any objections? No objections. *It is so **decided***. I wish really to congratulate again and thank all members of the Administrative Commission for their efficient work. I also wish to thank you, Ms Cummins, and those at your side who successfully chaired the Commission. I would like to tell you, dear colleagues, Your Excellencies, that the Director-General has made some changes to the document and now document 36 C/37 Add.2 has been just printed. In a moment it will be here and circulated so that you can all see it, and we will come back to this item. Thank you very much.

**Report of the joint meeting of commissions (36 C/76)**

**Rapport de la réunion conjointe des commissions (36 C/76)**

**Informe de la reunión conjunta de las comisiones (36 C/76)**

**Доклад совместного заседания комиссий (36 C/76)**

**تقرير الاجتماع المشترك للجان (٧٦/م٣٦)**

**各委员会联席会议的报告 (36 C/76)**

27. **The President:**

And now we would like to continue our work with the report of the joint meeting of commissions, which we now need to examine, though not yet in its final version. The joint meeting was chaired by two Vice-Presidents of the General Conference, Saint Lucia and Lao People's Democratic Republic, as well as by the Chairperson of the Administrative Commission. They will present respective parts of the report contained in document 36 C/76. I would like to give the floor first to Her Excellency Ms Vera Lacoelhe of Saint Lucia who will present the first part of the report. Madam, the floor is yours.

28.1 **Mme Lacoelhe** (Sainte-Lucie) (Co-Présidente de la Réunion conjointe des commissions) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Présidente du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, la Réunion conjointe des commissions, qui s'est tenue du 8 au 10 novembre, a examiné six points au cours de quatre séances. Le résultat des délibérations de la Réunion conjointe est contenu dans le document 36 C/Réunion conjointe/2. Lors de cette réunion, j'ai eu l'honneur de présider l'examen du point **6.2** sur l'Évaluation externe indépendante, tandis que M. Khamliène Nhouyvanisvong, de la République démocratique populaire lao, Vice-Président de la Conférence générale, a présidé la réunion pour les points **4.2**, **5.18**, **3.1** et **3.3**, et Mme Alissandra Cummins, de la Barbade, Présidente de la Commission ADM, l'a présidée pour l'examen des points **4.2** et **4.3**. Avec votre permission, mon rapport oral portera donc uniquement sur les délibérations de la Réunion conjointe au sujet du point **6.2**. Puisque la Commission PRX avait déjà examiné les recommandations relatives aux méthodes de travail de l'Organisation (à savoir l'orientation stratégique 4 « Renforcer la gouvernance » et l'orientation stratégique 5 « Élaborer une stratégie de partenariat »), la Réunion conjointe s'est plus spécifiquement concentrée sur les recommandations liées aux aspects programmatiques contenus notamment dans l'orientation stratégique 1 « Recentrer l'action de l'UNESCO », l'orientation stratégique 2 « Rapprocher l'UNESCO des réalités du terrain » et l'orientation stratégique 3 « Renforcer la participation au système des Nations Unies ».

*(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)*

28.2 Madam President, a total of 15 Member States took the floor on this item. Member States expressed appreciation for the strong collaboration between the Secretariat and the governing bodies in the follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) report. It was acknowledged that the IEE has been instrumental in reinforcing the momentum for reform and that concrete action should be undertaken for its follow-up. There was support for the recommendations of the ad hoc working group as well as the steps already taken by the Director-General to follow up on the recommendations.

28.3 Several Member States commented on the significance of strategic direction 1, and on increasing UNESCO's focus, and underlined the need to streamline the Organization's programmes. A number of speakers also voiced support for the steps being taken to strengthen UNESCO's presence in the field under strategic direction 2, noting the need to continue to work closely with National Commissions and to enhance their capacities.

28.4 The result of our deliberations on item **6.2** is reflected in the written report in the form of two draft resolutions. The first concerns the follow-up to the IEE; the joint meeting adopted the draft resolution already approved by the PRX Commission with an amendment to invite the Executive Board to monitor the follow-up to the IEE in consultation with the President of the General Conference.

28.5 In the second draft resolution, the joint meeting recommends that the General Conference adopt the decision concerning the consultation process recommended by the Executive Board for the C/4 and C/5 documents under the new quadrennial planning cycle.

28.6 Madam President, before concluding my brief presentation, I would like to recall a reservation expressed by Egypt on the lack of clarity concerning the mandate, membership, financial implications and working modalities of the ad hoc group that was established by the Executive Board at its 188th session. The Legal Adviser provided the clarification, however, that since the ad hoc group was established by the Executive Board, it is the prerogative of the Board to define its parameters and this question does not fall under the purview of the General Conference.

28.7 This, Madam President, concludes my oral report for item **6.2** as examined and adopted by the joint meeting of the commissions. Thank you.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to give the floor to His Excellency Ambassador Nhouyvanisvong. Ambassador, Your Excellency, I would like to ask you to present your report. Thank you.

30.1 **M. Nhouyvanisvong** (République démocratique populaire lao) (Co-Président de la Réunion conjointe des commissions) :

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier mes deux co-Présidentes, Mme Lacoëilhe et Mme Cummins, qui ont subi une torture devant les membres de notre Réunion conjointe. Mais avant de vous présenter mon rapport oral, qui présente un caractère administratif et peut-être trop technocratique, je voudrais soumettre à notre réflexion une citation de Socrate : « *Je crois qu'on ne peut mieux vivre qu'en cherchant à devenir meilleur, ni plus agréablement qu'en ayant la pleine conscience de son amélioration* ». Cela pour nous permettre de réfléchir à ce que nous allons faire dans le cadre de l'UNESCO. Madame la Présidente, vous me permettrez de vous remercier de m'avoir désigné pour présider les débats de la Réunion conjointe. Je tiens également à remercier les Présidents des sept commissions qui ont été à mes côtés lors des délibérations et discussions consacrées aux différents points qui figurent à l'ordre du jour de notre Réunion.

30.2 Madame la Présidente, sous ma présidence, la Réunion conjointe avait à son ordre du jour quatre points – Mme Lacoëilhe vous en a donné lecture mais je me permets de le rappeler à la plénière. Il s'agissait du point **4.2**, « Examen et adoption du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013 – Titre II.A : Plates-formes intersectorielles », du point **5.18**, « Changement climatique : élaboration et mise en œuvre de politiques d'atténuation et d'adaptation dans la région des Caraïbes », du point **3.2**, « Préparation du Projet de stratégie à moyen terme (37 C/4) » et du point **3.3**, « Préparation du Projet de programme et de budget pour le prochain biennium (37 C/5) ».

30.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, les points **4.2** et **5.18** ont été examinés au cours d'un même débat et présentés par le représentant de la Directrice générale, le Sous-Directeur général pour la planification stratégique (ADG/BSP). Celui-ci a mis l'accent sur la réduction du nombre de plates-formes intersectorielles par rapport aux exercices biennaux précédents, passant de 12 à 6 dans le Projet de programme et de budget. Il a aussi souligné que 8 % du budget d'activité alloué aux cinq secteurs de programme dans le 36 C/5 Add. seraient affectés aux plates-formes. L'ADG/BSP a également précisé qu'un chapitre du volume 2 du projet de 36 C/5 fournissait des informations sur les stratégies détaillées, les résultats escomptés et les indicateurs de performance et de référence, comme l'avait demandé le Conseil exécutif. Il a particulièrement attiré l'attention sur le programme intersectoriel et pluridisciplinaire pour une culture de la paix et de la non-violence qui guidera les activités de la plate-forme intersectorielle, comme l'avait demandé la Conférence générale à sa 35<sup>e</sup> session.

30.4 Au cours du débat qui a suivi, 10 délégués ont pris la parole. Ils ont unanimement souligné l'importance de l'intersectorialité pour l'UNESCO et noté que les plates-formes intersectorielles étaient des outils décisifs qui permettaient à l'Organisation d'accroître les synergies entre secteurs de programme, de réduire les redondances et de renforcer l'impact de son action. Les intervenants ont également félicité la Directrice générale pour ses efforts visant à réduire le nombre de plates-formes intersectorielles et accueilli favorablement l'allocation d'un budget spécifique à ces plates-formes, ce qui leur conférerait une plus grande autonomie et serait la garantie d'une transparence accrue. Un délégué a souligné que les priorités globales de l'UNESCO – Afrique et Égalité des genres – devraient être reflétées dans toutes les plates-formes intersectorielles. Quant à la plate-forme intersectorielle sur une culture de la paix et de la non-violence, elle a été accueillie favorablement par les délégués, qui ont fait valoir qu'il était important de forger des partenariats stratégiques, de s'assurer de l'impact des activités envisagées avant leur mise en œuvre et d'améliorer les résultats escomptés. Un délégué a insisté sur l'importance de la plate-forme intersectorielle pour le soutien aux pays en situation de post-conflit ou de post-catastrophe, en particulier en ce qui concerne l'assistance fournie et la contribution inestimable de l'Organisation dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la culture et des médias dans les pays souffrant de conflits ou de catastrophes naturelles.

30.5 Plusieurs délégués ont fait savoir qu'ils appuyaient le projet de résolution présenté par Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis au titre du point **4.2**, soutenu par nombre de pays de la région des Caraïbes, concernant le changement climatique et visant à l'élaboration et à la mise en œuvre de politiques d'atténuation et d'adaptation dans la région des Caraïbes (36 C/Réunion conjointe/DR.1 Rev.). Ils ont souligné combien il était important de lancer de tels travaux, qui pourraient être menés également dans d'autres régions, en particulier le Pacifique. Un délégué a cependant exprimé son inquiétude quant aux possibles incidences financières de certaines parties de la résolution. Dans sa réponse, le représentant de la Directrice générale a remercié les intervenants du large soutien des États membres aux plates-formes intersectorielles et assuré les délégués que leurs commentaires seraient pris en compte dans l'élaboration des activités prévues au titre des différentes plates-formes intersectorielles et dont les modalités de financement seraient fixées par

les comités de direction. Il a aussi mentionné les efforts constants de l'UNESCO pour perfectionner la gestion axée sur les résultats dans le cadre de sa programmation.

30.6 En outre, l'ADG/BSP a précisé que les activités proposées dans le projet de résolution sur le changement climatique pourraient être entreprises sur la base du projet de budget de la plate-forme intersectorielle sur le changement climatique pour le prochain exercice biennal. Enfin, il a indiqué qu'aucun effort ne serait ménagé pour délimiter clairement les activités qui seraient menées au titre des plates-formes intersectorielles sur les petits États insulaires en développement et sur le changement climatique, afin d'éviter tout chevauchement.

30.7 S'agissant du projet de programme et de budget pour les plates-formes intersectorielles au titre de 2012-2013, la Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'approuver le projet de résolution – qui figure au paragraphe 07000 du document 36 C/5 Addendum, volume 1 –, qui prévoit un budget total de 7 123 700 dollars pour les coûts d'activité. En outre, la Commission a pris note du paragraphe 53 du document 36 C/6 sur les plates-formes intersectorielles. Enfin, le projet de résolution 36 C/Réunion conjointe/DR.1 Rev. a été approuvé tel qu'amendé.

30.8 J'en viens maintenant au point **3.2**. Le Sous-Directeur général pour la planification stratégique a présenté le document 36 C/11 sur la préparation du Projet de stratégie à moyen terme (37 C/4). Il a rappelé que la Commission PRX avait déjà adopté les recommandations formulées par le Conseil exécutif à la suite de l'Évaluation externe indépendante en ce qui concerne les ajustements proposés pour la préparation des principaux programmes et budgets de l'UNESCO, en particulier les propositions tendant à faire passer la durée du cycle du C/4 de six à huit ans à compter du document 37 C/4 et à maintenir caractère ajustable de la Stratégie à moyen terme de l'UNESCO. Il a rappelé que, dans son rapport sur les aspects opérationnels du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante, la Directrice générale avait souligné qu'il était important de centrer la stratégie sur un nombre limité d'objectifs stratégiques. Enfin, il a souligné que les documents 36 C/INF.19 et 36 C/INF.20, contenant respectivement le résumé des délibérations du Forum des dirigeants et du Forum des jeunes, qui se sont tenus pendant la présente session de la Conférence générale, présentaient également un intérêt direct pour la préparation du prochain document C/4.

30.9 En outre, le Président de la Commission ED a présenté les conclusions du débat organisé dans le cadre de la Commission concernant les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous après 2015. Il a souligné que de nombreux pays n'atteindraient pas les objectifs de l'EPT en 2015. La Commission a recommandé que, dans le cadre de l'Éducation pour tous, on mette davantage l'accent sur la qualité, ajoutant que l'éducation devait continuer à faire partie des objectifs de développement après 2015.

30.10 Mesdames et Messieurs, en guise d'introduction à la partie relative au C/4 et au C/5, je voudrais citer Tagore. Voici ce qu'il a dit : « *Ce n'est pas dans le firmament étoilé, ni dans la splendeur des corolles que se voit dans toute sa perfection la révélation de l'infini dans le fini, qui est le motif de toute création – c'est dans l'âme de l'homme* ». En effet, la Réunion conjointe des commissions avait également inscrit à son ordre du jour trois projets de résolution concernant la préparation du projet de Stratégie à moyen terme (37 C/4) : le 36 C/Réunion conjointe/DR.2 ; le 36 C/Réunion conjointe/DR.4 ; le 36 C/Réunion conjointe/DR.6. La Commission a cependant été informée par ses auteurs du retrait du projet de résolution DR.2, qui n'a donc pas fait l'objet d'une discussion. La Réunion conjointe a procédé à l'examen successif des deux projets de résolution restants. Au cours d'un débat fructueux, les délégués ont accueilli avec satisfaction le document 36 C/11, qui met l'accent sur les principaux aspects à considérer par la Conférence générale, en particulier en ce qui concerne le suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de l'UNESCO, qui a recommandé la définition d'un nombre limité d'objectifs stratégiques, ce qui permettrait de renforcer durablement la concentration, la pertinence, l'impact, l'intersectorialité et la visibilité de chaque programme. Plusieurs délégués ont souligné qu'il était encore trop tôt pour déterminer le nombre exact de ces objectifs, mais ont reconnu qu'il était pertinent d'y réfléchir.

30.11 S'agissant du mandat de l'UNESCO, les délégués ont réaffirmé sa pertinence dans le contexte actuel, mais souligné qu'il importait d'en définir plus précisément la portée afin de mieux le traduire dans les faits et d'assurer une totale synergie avec l'ensemble de nos partenaires, en particulier les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies. Nombre de délégués se sont dit favorables à la proposition tendant à placer les droits de l'homme au cœur de la nouvelle déclaration de mission de l'UNESCO. Tout en considérant la prise en compte des droits de l'homme comme essentielle pour l'exécution du mandat de l'UNESCO, certains délégués ont cependant observé que la formulation proposée semblait restreindre de façon excessive la portée de ce mandat et les champs d'action de l'Organisation, dont fait également partie la promotion de la paix et du développement durable. De nombreux délégués ont aussi reconnu la pertinence des cinq fonctions de l'UNESCO, tout en reconnaissant le besoin de les repenser à la lumière de la pratique, peut-être de façon différenciée en fonction des régions et selon les modalités et les niveaux d'intervention de l'Organisation, dans le but de rendre ses programmes mieux ciblés.

30.12 Les délégués se sont accordés à reconnaître le rôle central des jeunes en tant qu'agents de changement et d'innovation. De ce fait, plusieurs délégués ont proposé que la jeunesse soit désignée comme l'une des priorités globales de l'UNESCO dans la prochaine Stratégie à moyen terme, aux côtés de l'Afrique et de l'Égalité des genres. Néanmoins, d'autres ont pensé qu'un examen plus approfondi de la question était nécessaire. Il a donc été décidé de demander à la Directrice générale de considérer la nécessité et d'examiner la faisabilité et les implications de la désignation de la jeunesse en tant que nouvelle priorité globale et de déterminer pour ce faire des modalités idoines dans le prochain C/4.

30.13 En ce qui concerne le point **3.3**, relatif au prochain Programme et budget 2014-2017 (document 37 C/5), le Sous-Directeur général pour la planification stratégique a présenté le document 36 C/7 en faisant ressortir les aspects principaux de la préparation de ce document. Il a rappelé qu'en application de la décision prise récemment par la Commission PRX, le prochain C/5 couvrirait un cycle de programmation de quatre ans et un cycle budgétaire de deux ans.

30.14 Il a ensuite été procédé à l'examen des deux projets de résolutions relatifs à ce point (36 C/Réunion conjointe/DR.3 et 36 C/Réunion conjointe/DR.5). Les délégués ont fait valoir qu'il importait de délibérer davantage pour trouver un équilibre satisfaisant entre les activités normatives et opérationnelles de l'UNESCO et ses activités globales, régionales et nationales. Beaucoup ont insisté sur le fait qu'il serait nécessaire, lors de la préparation du prochain document C/5, de prendre en considération l'impact de la crise économique et financière globale et la situation financière difficile de l'UNESCO. Certains délégués ont déclaré à cette occasion que la situation de l'UNESCO avait été encore aggravée par les décisions unilatérales prises par certains États membres. L'alignement des ressources extrabudgétaires sur le programme ordinaire a été perçu comme un outil important à la disposition de l'Organisation pour accroître l'impact et la portée de son action, en particulier au niveau des pays. Les deux projets de résolution ont été adoptés tels qu'amendés.

30.15 Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'aimerais, en conclusion, remercier les distingués délégués qui ont participé aux travaux de cette Réunion conjointe des commissions et enrichi le débat de leurs idées, de leurs propositions, de leur opposition même, mais surtout de leur collégialité. Je crois que nous avons accompli là un grand pas qui sera suivi, certainement, de beaucoup d'autres. Comme l'écrivait le grand poète allemand Goethe – je le cite : « Ce n'est pas assez de faire des pas qui doivent un jour conduire au but, chaque pas doit être lui-même un but en même temps qu'il nous porte en avant ». Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, Madame la Directrice générale, je souhaite également remercier le représentant de la Directrice générale ainsi que le Secrétariat pour leur assistance efficace et leurs conseils, qui ont été décisifs pour le succès des travaux de cette Réunion conjointe des commissions. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

**31.1 The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now, ladies and gentlemen, there are some documents which have been just printed. This is the case of Part III of this report and also of the Director-General's document. So what I am proposing now is that you adopt the first two parts, Part I and Part II, which have just been presented by Saint Lucia and Lao People's Democratic Republic. And then I will give you a little time and we will meet again at 5.30 p.m. I would like you to also have time to read the Director-General's new proposal. So by the time we get back by 5.30 p.m., if you agree, you will have all the documents in hand. I do not want to engage in any discussion until you have read them. I am now proposing to adopt Part I and Part II just presented by Saint Lucia and Lao People's Democratic Republic. Are there any comments? I see none. So, ladies and gentlemen, *Parts I and II are adopted.*

31.2 We will, then, meet again at 5.30 p.m., by which time I hope that all the documents will have been printed and circulated and that you will also have had time to discuss the new version of the Director-General's document. Thank you very much.

*(The meeting is suspended at 5.05 p.m. and resumes at 5.50 p.m.)*

**32. The President:**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your patience. I really thought it was important for everybody to have written versions of the document we are talking about. Now we have the third part of the report of the joint meeting of commissions, and we are going to continue our work with the discussion of this third part. I would like now to give the floor to Ambassador Cummins. The floor is yours. Thank you.

**33.1 Ms Cummins (Barbados) (Co-Chairperson of the joint meeting of commissions):**

*Merci, Madame.* Thank you. Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I shall now present to you the summary of the debates of the joint meeting of all seven commissions on the following draft resolutions submitted by Member States on item 4.2: draft resolution related to the recommendations of the Executive Board on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5), contained in document 36 C/6 Addendum, including the recommendations of the PRX Commission on the Participation Programme); 36 C/DR.46 with budgetary implications, involving two or more commissions; 36 C/DR.8, DR.9 and DR.10 transmitted to the joint meeting from the SHS, CLT and CI Commissions.

33.2 With regard to the draft resolution in document 36 C/6 Addendum, the debate focused on the recommendation by which the Executive Board invited the Director-General to maintain the resources of the Participation Programme at a budgetary level equivalent to that provided for in document 35 C/5. The joint meeting took note of the support of the ADM and PRX Commissions for this Executive Board recommendation requesting the Director-General to use the funds remaining after the closure of the accounts for the 2010-2011 biennium - the "carry over" - for the implementation of the Participation Programme.

33.3 Eight delegates took the floor on this issue. Many of them, who were in support of the recommendation made by the PRX Commission, declared that in the light of the current difficult financial situation of UNESCO and the explanations presented by the Director-General yesterday in the plenary on the shortfall in the Organization's cash flow, they were ready to withdraw their amendments. Other delegations stated, however, that any "carry over" budget remaining at the end of the current biennium should be allocated to the Participation Programme. One Member State emphasised that developed and emerging countries should refrain from submitting Participation Programme requests in favour of least developed and developing countries.

33.4 In conclusion, the joint meeting recommended the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/6 Addendum as amended. Thus, sub-paragraphs 1 (b) and 1 (c) of paragraph 10100 of the draft 36 C/5 Addendum Volume 1 are recommended for adoption without any change.

33.5 The joint meeting continued with the examination of 36 C/DR.46. Five delegates took the floor and expressed unanimous support of the proposal contained in the draft resolution to reinforce the financing of the programme of the

Education Sector by transferring resources from Parts I and III of the Draft Programme and Budget. With regard to the concrete amount of transfers, the joint meeting supported the amendments proposed by the Director-General as contained in document 36 C/8.

33.6 The joint meeting also considered draft resolutions 8, 9 and 10 submitted by Egypt. Following a brief debate, these draft resolutions were not retained.

33.7 This finalizes the summary of the debates of the joint meeting on the draft resolutions which are recommended for adoption by the plenary in document 36 C/76.

33.8 The joint meeting then proceeded with the examination of item 4.3 entitled "Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013". The recommendation of the joint meeting on this item is contained in document 36 C/46 and will be presented in my oral comments on the debates of the joint meeting in plenary during the examination of this item.

33.9 Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to express my deep gratitude to all the distinguished delegates who participated in the debates of the joint meeting of commissions for their excellent contributions and for the spirit of consensus which prevailed throughout our discussions. I thank most particularly my colleagues the Chairpersons of all the Commissions who attended our meetings. Finally, let me also express my thanks to the representative of the Director-General, as well as to the Secretariat of the joint meeting, for their unwavering support in the course of our work. Thank you for your attention.

34. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to propose the adoption of the third part of this document, which is the report of the joint commissions. As you remember, we have adopted Part I and Part II. Thank you very much, Ms Cummins. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? There being no comments, I take it that *it is so decided* and that *Part III is adopted*. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

35. **The President:**

Now I would like to go back to item 10.7, recalling that the Director-General requested yesterday that that item be discussed. So now I would like to give the floor to the Director-General before we discuss the new text in detail. Thank you very much for your patience.

**Item 10.7: Working Capital Fund: level and administration (continued)** (36 C/37 and Add., Add.2 and Add.2 Rev.2)

**Point 10.7 : Fonds de roulement : niveau et administration (suite)** (36 C/37 et Add., Add.2 et Add.2 Rev.2)

**Punto 10.7: Fondo de Operaciones: cuantía y administración del Fondo (continuación)** (36 C/37 y Add., Add.2 y Add.2 Rev.2)

**Пункт 10.7: Фонд оборотных средств: уровень и управление (продолжение)** (36 C/37 и Add., Add.2 и Add.2 Rev.2)

البند ١٠,٧: رأس المال العامل: مقدار وإدارته (تابع) (٣٦/م٣٦ وضميمة ٢ وضميمة ٢ معدلة ٢)

项目 10.7: 周转基金: 数额和管理 (续) (36 C/37 and Add., Add.2 and Add.2 Rev.2)

36.1 **La Directrice générale :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. Mesdames et Messieurs, Excellences, comme je l'ai dit hier, l'UNESCO fait face à une situation difficile. Je dirais que nous sommes à un tournant de notre histoire. Depuis une semaine, hier et encore ce matin, j'ai mené des consultations avec l'ensemble des groupes pour vous alerter sur nos problèmes et y répondre de façon collective. Je vais aller plus loin : je dirais que c'est un test pour notre Organisation. Un test de courage, un test de volonté politique, un test pour la réforme et même un test de sang-froid. L'adoption du budget tel que proposé est une première décision positive, et courageuse. Il est le résultat d'un équilibre fragile, d'un long processus de consultation. Nous avons maintenant un document de référence qui va être notre boussole pour les deux prochaines années. Nous savons que ce sera difficile mais la situation peut évoluer au cours de l'exercice biennal. Et nous allons tout mettre en œuvre pour relever ce défi.

36.2 Et je passe maintenant à notre problème le plus immédiat. Avant la fin du mois de décembre, nous devons faire face à un déficit de trésorerie de 65 millions de dollars. Ce déficit correspond à la somme restant à verser par les États-Unis au titre de l'année 2011. Nous savons que les États-Unis ont l'habitude de payer leur contribution à la fin de l'année, pour des raisons liées à leur calendrier budgétaire. Et cette somme, comme je l'ai dit hier, nous ne la percevrons pas. C'est donc un problème que nous devons régler tout de suite. Nous avons six semaines devant nous, c'est très court. Cela signifie que nous devons prendre des mesures radicales, et que nous devons les prendre rapidement. J'ai parfaitement conscience qu'il est difficile de traiter cette question à si brève échéance. Je mesure également les obligations administratives, financières, juridiques à respecter avant tout versement. Elles sont légitimes, toutes ces considérations, elles sont normales. Je ne demande aucune mesure d'exception mais je vous demande de prendre la mesure de la situation et de contribuer comme vous le pouvez.

36.3 Depuis une semaine, l'équipe de direction passe déjà en revue toutes nos activités prévues pour novembre et décembre afin de dégager des économies et de combler le déficit prévu. J'ai interrompu temporairement certaines activités pour en revoir le coût. L'UNESCO tourne maintenant au ralenti. Notre urgence est d'examiner l'ensemble des programmes dans tous les secteurs, y compris les engagements contractuels, les voyages du personnel, les publications, les coûts de communications, les réunions et le reste – pour couper, reporter, suspendre, interrompre. Avec toutes ces mesures, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous estimons pouvoir dégager une économie de 35 millions de dollars. J'aurai des chiffres plus précis, avec une ventilation détaillée dès la semaine prochaine. Nous regardons également du côté de notre Fonds de roulement (*the Working Capital Fund*) qui s'élève actuellement à 30 millions de dollars. Il représente 4,5 % de

notre budget total, il nous laisse de trois à quatre semaines d'autonomie. C'est un niveau très bas comparé à d'autres organisations du système qui se situent plutôt autour de 10 à 12 %. L'intégralité de cette somme, 30 millions de dollars, sera également injectée pour combler le déficit. Avec les 35 millions d'économies que nous réaliserons, je l'espère, d'ici à la fin de cette année et les 30 millions du Fonds de roulement, nous espérons pouvoir combler notre déficit le plus immédiat de 65 millions de dollars en 2011. Mais cela signifie que nous finirons l'année sans aucune, aucune réserve, dans une situation dangereuse.

36.4 Cette situation est d'autant plus périlleuse que nous allons devoir faire face, à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier, à un autre problème. Au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2012, nous ferons face à un déficit de 143 millions de dollars qui correspond à une perte de contribution de 22 % du budget que nous venons d'adopter. Et à ce moment-là, nous n'aurons plus aucun fonds de roulement. *I'm speaking about the Working Capital Fund.* Il sera à zéro. Nous allons devoir prendre des mesures radicales. Ces mesures, nous allons devoir y réfléchir soigneusement. On ne peut pas couper 22 % de façon transversale dans l'ensemble des activités. Il va falloir faire des choix, et parfois des choix difficiles. Et chacun devra prendre ses responsabilités. J'affirme solennellement que je prendrai les miennes, au nom de l'intérêt supérieur de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais remercier tous les États membres qui souhaitent me donner des marges de manœuvre supplémentaires dans les mouvements de fonds entre les secteurs et à l'intérieur des secteurs – et qui avaient lancé hier un appel pour éviter à l'Organisation de tomber dans la microgestion. J'aurai besoin de cette souplesse mais je sais très bien que cette situation est aussi l'occasion d'accélérer la réforme. Je suis totalement prête à réviser l'ensemble de notre action, nos modalités de fonctionnement, nos structures au sein du Secrétariat. Je sais très bien que nous pouvons encore réduire encore nos frais administratifs, établir des priorités parmi nos activités, et mieux répondre aux attentes des États membres. Nous pouvons et nous allons, je l'espère, le faire ensemble. Dans ce moment difficile, j'en appelle au consensus, car nous avons plus que jamais besoin d'unité pour faire face à la situation. Nous venons par exemple d'adopter un plan d'action complet, avec 87 mesures précises, à partir des conclusions du groupe de travail du Conseil exécutif, elles-mêmes inspirées des recommandations issues de l'Évaluation externe indépendante. Mais nous allons faire beaucoup plus. Dans l'immédiat, nous avons besoin d'un signal fort, de la part de tous les États membres pour régler notre problème de déficit.

*(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)*

36.5 Ladies and gentlemen, as we have been discussing yesterday and today, I seek your support for proposals that will help UNESCO move through this time of serious difficulty. Reflecting these discussions, I have circulated a new amendment to the document we discussed yesterday. Please allow me to take this opportunity to be very clear about each of these proposals that I dealt with briefly yesterday.

36.6 The first proposal is to defer the payment of the current incentive scheme to Member States for consideration at the 37th session of the General Conference.

36.7 For information, to be very clear about what we are talking about, in concrete terms, this is currently forecast at between \$1 and \$3 million, depending on currency fluctuations.

36.8 I would strongly appeal to all Member States to support this, I would say, modest decision that we can take now and I appeal for a consensus on this decision that will send a very strong political signal about unity and about engagement of Member States to support the Organization in these difficult times.

36.9 The proposal I am making to you does not require any additional contribution by Member States at this particular moment. My modest proposal to you is to discuss this issue, not to take action on it during 2012 but to discuss it at the next session of our General Conference in 2013. I believe that this simple and modest decision, which I would ask you to support by consensus, will be a very strong political signal about the unity of Member States in their wish to support the Organization in these difficult times.

36.10 The second and most important measure would be, as an immediate urgent solution, to secure a temporary increase of our Working Capital Fund for the year 2012-2013.

36.11 As I mentioned previously in the French part of my intervention, our Working Capital Fund is at the level of 4.5% of our budgetary contributions. It is much lower than that of practically all, if not all the other organizations in the system. The usual recommendation is that we have it at the level of 12%. Others have it at the level of 10%, between 10% and 12%. I know that it is a complicated issue that you might have to deal with through your parliaments, going through the complex parliamentary and administrative procedure.

36.12 Still, I do believe that this Working Capital Fund should be increased to 10% of the global budget ceiling. As I said, I understood and I listened, I heard your message, which you expressed yesterday and today during the numerous consultations that I have had with very many Member States. The discussion was for me quite, I would say, revealing and quite instructive. I am keenly aware of the difficulties that many governments face today against the backdrop of the economic and financial crisis.

36.13 In the circumstances, I appeal to Member States to make voluntary advances, to those Member States which can afford to, to make voluntary advances to complement the Working Capital Fund for a period of two years that could be renewed at the next General Conference according to the financial situation of the Organization at that time.

36.14 Let me, ladies and gentlemen, be perfectly clear – Member States are invited to make an entirely voluntary contribution to the Working Capital Fund to the extent they consider it possible. Since the Working Capital Fund is yours, we are not talking about the usual contributions to the budget of this Organization. These advances will be refunded to the Member States concerned by deduction from their assessed contributions at the time of repayment.

36.15 Given the short notice, I believe it necessary to request the General Conference to delegate authority to the Executive Board to examine, and if appropriate decide upon this question, at its 189th session, determining a new level of the Working Capital Fund to be supplemented entirely by voluntary contributions. And let me mention something which emerged during our consultations in the different regional groups and also in the other discussions that we held today. The Working Capital Fund, as I mentioned, is made up of contributions, assessed contributions by Member States, to cushion certain risks in our Organization. This is your money, the \$30 million of the Working Capital Fund that we will use by the end of this year to fill the hole that we hope in the future will be replenished once the regular funds to this Organization start flowing back. When we speak about using this Working Capital Fund this year, and using the savings by the end of this year, it means that by doing so we will fill the cash-flow hole that we now have in the budget. The new voluntary contributions that may accrue to the Working Capital Fund will be kind of a loan that your governments will give to the Organization in order to make up a shortfall at this time of risk. But this will be given back to you whatever the future General Conference decides about the Fund's level one way or the other. I think that this is extremely important for you to understand: that when I ask you to make voluntary contributions to the Working Capital Fund, this is neither an extrabudgetary trust fund, nor some kind of other contribution to the regular budget. This is a voluntary contribution to the Working Capital Fund that stays here at the Organization and it stays with you. In the future the General Conference may decide on what the ceiling of this Working Capital Fund may be for the future spending of the Organization.

36.16 But since we have to deal with an imminent problem now, I strongly appeal to those Member States who consider they are in a position to contribute to the Working Capital Fund to do so because it will be of enormous help to the Organization.

36.17 And once again, as I said yesterday, I know this is not a long-term solution. Nor is it a substitute for the loss of 22% of its budget. However, it would provide the Organization with some breathing space to plan rationally under the new circumstances and new conditions that we have to deal with today. And let me also say that time and space are vital today – they will be absolutely essential on 1 January 2012 when we will have to deal with zero working capital at this Organization and will have spent all our savings and other resources. I believe also that the idea that emerged during the consultations yesterday and today with many Member States that a working group be established with Member States which will be open to everybody under the presidency of the General Conference and of course with my personal contribution is an extremely valuable one. Because I do believe that the financial stability of the Organization is a problem not only for me as the Director-General. It is a problem that all of us in this Organization, and especially the Member States, have to deal with.

36.18 So ladies and gentlemen, I will appeal also for a strong consensus, a strong decision, a strong consensus decision on this important point when we come to the text.

36.19 Third, I wish to make an appeal to all governments to provide their assessed contributions as early as possible in 2012. Some governments, and I very much appreciate their statements, have already expressed their readiness to do so. And I will of course seek the support of all Member States in this respect.

36.20 Lastly, as I mentioned yesterday, I would like once again to reiterate that I have decided to launch an emergency multi-donor fund for core priority programmes and the reform initiative. This emergency fund will be open to all donors – from Member States to public institutions, foundations and individuals.

36.21 I am pleased to inform you that, since 2 November, there has been an unprecedented outpouring of support for UNESCO, coming from individuals, associations and private corporations from all corners of the globe. I see these expressions of support as clear recognition of the good that UNESCO does in the world. These are very concrete indicators of success.

36.22 I am pleased to announce that we are launching today a new online donation tool that will make it easier for people to contribute. And I guess what we have now on the screen is the webpage, also with an indication of the launching of this special fund.

36.23 Again, ladies and gentlemen, let me be clear. This is not simply another extrabudgetary fund – it will be directed to supporting our core activities so that our core activities are not affected by the difficult financial situation. So before moving to the actual document and text, is there anything that needs explaining on this webpage? I think it is fine. Before moving to the actual document, allow me to say a few more words. All these decisions are not decisions of choice. They are decisions of urgency. Unfortunately, I do not believe that we have time to wait or that these are decisions we can postpone. If we take these measures now, this will give us time to consider the necessary long-term policies we must adopt in a process of open and inclusive consultation.

36.24 As I said yesterday, there is no single solution to resolve all of our current and predicted difficulties. We need to build a package of measures -- some of which are already under way, others which must be taken very soon. This package must reconcile immediate imperatives with the programmatic implementation of our mandate. It must balance urgency with foresight.

36.25 This is a time for unity, a time for all of us to pull together. Together, I am convinced we can overcome the difficulties we face. I use the word "difficulties" deliberately. I still do not believe this is a crisis. This is a new situation and I would like us not to compare this to the crisis the Organization underwent in the past – the conditions, the starting point and the modalities are not the same.

36.26 We must rally, first of all, first and foremost, around our values in this time of difficulty. We need to find consensus as we move forward. And, if you will allow me, there is a classical Latin word of wisdom which goes: *Festina lente*. Make haste slowly.



36.27 I do believe, ladies and gentlemen, that we have to be deliberative but we also have to be very decisive. We have to act now. I would propose tomorrow to the first meeting of the new Executive Board that it convene a session of the new Executive Board earlier than we normally do. I believe that the urgency of the situation compels us not to delay and to discuss the financial situation of the Organization along with the other items on the agenda and that we convene not later than the end of February and the beginning of March. I believe that we will have to take important decisions and I would like also to have the Executive Board as a partner so that I can share with the Executive Board, and report to it, all the decisions that I will have taken by that time on the cost savings to be made under the different programmes and savings in the administrative expenditures of this Organization.

36.28 Madam President of the General Conference, I would now like us, if possible, to move on to the discussion of the document that I have proposed, 36 C/37 Addendum 2. As I have extensively elaborated on the different proposals, allow me now to draw attention to one particular point, namely the Working Capital Fund, which has been extensively discussed today. After very careful, very extensive deliberations, I believe that we have come to a consensus text that will shortly be appearing on the screen. But before that, I would suggest, Madam President, that maybe you take up the document from the very beginning. And when it comes to paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, I want to report to the General Conference, to the plenary, that the wording you will see on the screen is a result of very, very careful, deliberate consideration, taking into account all the concerns of different Member States, and I believe strongly that when it comes to paragraph 7, we can take this by consensus. Thank you very much.

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Ladies and gentlemen, I would now like to give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference, to make it entirely clear what we are talking about because we have a document on our table which is Addendum 2, but according to what we have just heard from the Director-General, there have been some further changes made to that document, too. And that is the version that will appear on the screen. So I am now giving the floor to the Secretary.

38.1 **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Madam President. Yes, I would just like to recall that the first version of the corresponding draft resolution was dealt with in the Administrative Commission and it was contained in document 36 C/37 Addendum. And as a result of the work of the Administrative Commission, the draft resolution proposed by the Administrative Commission was contained in paragraph 24 of the written report of the Administrative Commission, document 36 C/69.

38.2 Yesterday, the Director-General issued another addendum to the original document. That was 36 C/37 Addendum 2. As a result of the preliminary discussions yesterday, a revised version of that new document was issued this afternoon – 36 C/37 Add.2 Rev.2.

38.3 That is the same document reproduced with new changes. The changes in the draft resolution contained in that document referred to paragraphs 1-4 which are new paragraphs as compared to the text that was considered in the Administrative Commission. And also paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, which were new paragraphs compared to what was considered in the Administrative Commission. All the rest of the text is unchanged.

38.4 And now, on the screen, behind you, as the Director-General has just told you, as a result of further consultations, there are further changes to paragraph 7. I am going to read paragraph 7, at dictation speed, in the new version so that you can all hear in the six languages of this conference how the new paragraph 7 now reads:

“Paragraph 7:

*Decides to delegate to the Executive Board the authority to examine and, if appropriate, decide upon at its 189th session, a new level of working capital required to ensure the financial stability of the Organization with inputs from a working group composed of Member States from all electoral groups convened by the President of the General Conference and open to all Member States. Should the Executive Board find it necessary to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund, its implementation will be on a voluntary basis. Further decides to provisionally suspend Financial Regulation 6.2 until the 37th session of the General Conference.”*

38.5 That is the final text of paragraph 7 of this new proposal for the resolution on the Working Capital Fund. Thank you, Madam President.

39. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now ladies and gentlemen, I would like to open the floor for comments, and I see the plate of Norway.

40.1 **Norway:**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, delegates, dear friends of UNESCO, I did not have the opportunity because I had no instructions yesterday to take the floor, so I would like to make a general remark on the situation and also comment on the paper.

40.2 Norway is a strong believer of a multilateral system. We believe in and advocate for an efficient United Nations system. Norway is the seventh largest contributor to the United Nations system as a whole and the fifth largest extrabudgetary donor to UNESCO. We firmly believe in UNESCO's peace mandate and its convening power. Norway will argue that all Member States of UNESCO should meet their obligations fully. When the Director-General appeals for support in a difficult situation, Norway will respond positively.

40.3 There is a liquidity crisis hitting the Organization by the end of this year. According to the Director-General, we are left with zero cash. Nil euros, nil dollars when we go from 2011 to 2012. It is not a question of economic

technicalities. It is actually an existential question of the future of the Organization, a political issue we need to address seriously and it cannot be postponed, and I underline, it cannot be delayed.

40.4 Norway has, for a long time, advocated slimming and trimming the Organization. But this needs to be done strategically. A liquidity crisis is not the tool we need. It will not do. We can ill afford to make cuts and savings that will seriously impact on the Organization's ability to deliver. The results may be to lose young talents just because their employment contracts are weak. Not to be present in critical United Nations coordination meetings. Not to be able to meet the Member States' urgent need for assistance, be it Afghanistan or South Sudan, because the money bag is empty. This is not in our common interest.

40.5 Norway is aware of the revision done and the amendments made today. This may elicit a consensus but I am afraid to say that it will probably not solve the problem. Norway would support the proposed increase of the Working Capital Fund and primarily we think it is a decision belonging to the General Conference but are willing to delegate authority to the Executive Board, if that is seen as a one-time measure. We will advance our contribution, our 2012 contribution, to January and we will consider the request from the Director-General to make voluntary contributions when we have more information and the modalities are clearer. We fully support the United Kingdom Ambassador's strong message to delegate to the Director-General the necessary latitude to use the resources in a flexible way, in the best interests of the Organization, our Organization. Thank you very much.

41. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to the Ambassador of the United Kingdom.

42.1 **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you very much, Madam President. And Madam Director-General, thank you for the spirit in which you have done everything you have tried to do for this. I think when we are deliberating on this, we need to remember a number of things: you are not asking us to pay more into the Organization. You are not asking us to surrender resources right now. You are asking us to postpone things that might come back to us. You are asking us to put our trust in you, to give you a bigger cushion.

42.2 I am very struck by the fact that we are talking partly about the Working Capital Fund, and in a sense we should have been talking about this at the General Conference anyway. We should have been talking about this because the level is just not enough. When any other institution has 10%-12%, why do we have only 4.5%? In your own life, a financial adviser will always tell that you should have a salary cushion of the equivalent of 3 months. UNESCO has three weeks. That is not even enough between the day we know we have an emergency and the day we can convene an emergency General Conference session to deal with it. So the Working Capital Fund in the end is definitely going to have to increase.

42.3 I want to commend the efforts you have made to make savings. I want to commend the spirit in which you have done all of this. You have done it by seeking to enable any of us to support you in a way that suits our individual circumstances. You have made it as voluntary as possible.

42.4 So all I would say is I very much hope that when we get to paragraph 7 we can adopt it by consensus. I mean, let us be brutally honest here. What we are asking for is permission for a possible, temporary, voluntary increase in the Working Capital Fund. A possible, temporary, voluntary – it does not get any less compulsory than that. So we have done everything we possibly can to help everyone in the room have a paragraph they can sign up to and you have done it in exactly the right spirit possible. You said you wanted the Executive Board to be your partner in solving this problem and going forward. All I can say, Madam Director-General, is that, as a newly elected Member of the Executive Board, we are proud to be your partner.

43. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to France.

44.1 **France :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. La France voudrait s'associer aux propos qui ont été tenus à l'instant par l'Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni et vous apporter, Madame la Directrice générale, toute sa confiance. Comme première preuve de cette confiance, je souhaite d'ores et déjà indiquer que la France – qui s'est battue, comme vous le savez, pour le maintien du système d'incitation au paiement rapide, et qui est l'un des pays qui en bénéficient le plus – est tout à fait favorable, compte tenu des circonstances, à la proposition que vous avez faite, à savoir différer le paiement de ce qui est versé au titre de ce système à une date ultérieure, lorsque la situation se sera améliorée. Donc nous sommes en faveur de la proposition que vous avez faite, tendant à surseoir à l'application de ce système d'incitation au paiement rapide. Et j'appelle d'ailleurs tous ceux qui, parmi les États membres, bénéficient également de ce système à faire de même dans les circonstances présentes. Je crois que c'est un signe de confiance et d'engagement fort en faveur de notre Organisation.

44.2 Vous nous avez aussi demandé, Madame la Directrice générale, compte tenu des circonstances, une marge de manœuvre accrue. Là aussi, nous vous soutenons. Nous souhaitons que vous puissiez bénéficier de cette marge de manœuvre accrue. Je rappelle – j'ai eu l'occasion de le dire et de l'indiquer hier – que lorsque, dans nos pays, il y a des circonstances qui sont exceptionnelles, qui n'étaient pas prévisibles, notamment des circonstances financières exceptionnelles, eh bien, il est de coutume et il est de bonne pratique que nous accordions à nos dirigeants des pouvoirs accrus, des prérogatives accrues lorsque cela est nécessaire. Eh bien, je crois que le moment est venu aussi de vous accorder cette facilité, cette marge de manœuvre, et c'est un second témoignage de notre confiance.

44.3 Enfin, pour le Fonds de roulement et la rédaction du paragraphe 7 du projet de résolution que nous allons devoir adopter et examiner, vous avez, je crois, répondu aux inquiétudes qui s'étaient manifestées. L'ensemble des États membres seront étroitement associés au débat qui aura lieu sur le Fonds de roulement grâce à la création – que nous approuvons – du groupe de travail. Vous appelez à la collaboration de tous les États membres sans vouloir imposer quoi que ce soit. Je crois qu'en effet, les termes de la rédaction de ce paragraphe 7 ont été pesés, largement discutés et débattus au préalable et nous soutiendrons l'adoption de ce paragraphe sans modification. Merci.

45. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to Congo.

46. **Congo :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, aujourd'hui même, cet après-midi, le Groupe africain a tenu une réunion extraordinaire au cours de laquelle il a examiné, entre autres, la situation financière actuelle de l'UNESCO. Il n'y a pas eu de décision formelle de ce Groupe. Cependant, je me permettrai de dire ceci : au vu du tableau d'évaluation des contributions financières au budget de l'UNESCO, l'Afrique est très loin d'occuper les premiers rangs. En réalité, la part de l'Afrique ne représente que quelques gouttes dans un verre d'eau. C'est pourquoi j'en appelle à la compréhension, à la bonne volonté et à la générosité des pays qui contribuent le plus au budget de l'UNESCO pour qu'ils viennent en aide à cette illustre Organisation dans l'intérêt de nous tous, certes, mais surtout de l'Afrique, de l'égalité des genres et de la jeunesse, reconnues par tous comme des priorités de cette Organisation dans le cadre de ses programmes axés sur l'éducation, la science et la culture, éléments indispensables du développement. Certes, l'UNESCO n'est pas l'organisation de la Directrice générale, mais c'est elle qui souffre le plus, à en juger par cet appel pathétique qu'elle vient de nous lancer ici. Ainsi donc, venir en aide à l'UNESCO, c'est venir en quelque sorte aussi en aide à la Directrice générale, et lui donner les moyens d'agir. En attendant, Madame la Directrice générale, vous pouvez compter sur le soutien de l'Afrique, qui tire un grand profit de son appartenance à l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to Gabon.

48.1 **Gabon :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale. Excellence Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Excellence Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, le Gabon, par ma voix, souhaite d'abord vous féliciter pour toutes les explications que vous nous avez fournies, pour tout le travail que vous avez accompli pour nous mettre au fait de la situation financière de notre Institution. Nous nous félicitons de la qualité des mesures que vous et toute votre équipe avez suggérées pour faire face à la difficulté présente. Madame la Directrice générale, nous souhaitons donc vous remercier pour votre brillante intervention sur la situation financière de notre Organisation consécutivement à l'admission de la Palestine comme 195<sup>e</sup> État membre à part entière de notre Organisation. Cette décision historique a entraîné l'arrêt immédiat et brutal de la contribution de certains pays. Madame la Directrice générale, en ma qualité d'Ambassadrice, déléguée permanente de la République gabonaise auprès de l'UNESCO, j'ai immédiatement informé les plus hautes autorités de notre pays, en tête desquelles S. E. M. Ali Bongo Ondimba, Président de la République gabonaise, Chef de l'État, de la présente situation. J'ai donc, Madame la Directrice générale, l'immense plaisir de vous annoncer que S. E. M. Ali Bongo Ondimba, Président de la République gabonaise, Chef de l'État, a décidé, au cours d'un Conseil des ministres tenu ce jour, d'accorder à l'UNESCO une contribution exceptionnelle de deux millions de dollars des États-Unis.

48.2 Je vous ferai parvenir dans les meilleurs délais le détail des modalités du transfert de ladite somme, contribution de notre pays, le Gabon, au règlement de la présente situation, à laquelle nous faisons face ensemble. Madame la Directrice générale, le Gabon, en sa qualité de nouveau membre élu du Conseil exécutif, sera toujours à vos côtés pour vous soutenir. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I would like to give the floor to Madagascar.

50. **Madagascar :**

Madame la Présidente, Madagascar tient à réaffirmer son soutien sans faille à la Directrice générale et son approbation du budget à croissance nominale zéro. Madagascar estime que pour faire face aux difficultés financières actuelles, la Conférence générale doit accorder à la Directrice générale les marges de manœuvre nécessaires pour qu'elle puisse aussi conclure des protocoles d'accord avec un maximum de partenaires du secteur privé. Madagascar appuie, de ce fait, le projet de résolution figurant dans le document 36 C/35 et qui, en son paragraphe 11, renouvelle l'autorisation accordée à la Directrice générale de contracter des emprunts à court terme. Madame la Présidente, Madagascar approuve aussi la délégation au Conseil exécutif du pouvoir d'envisager et d'arrêter, à sa 189<sup>e</sup> session, le relèvement du plafond du Fonds de roulement, avec le concours d'un groupe de travail ouvert à tous les États membres. Madagascar appuie sans réserve le projet de résolution proposé dans le document 36 C/37 Add.2 Rev.2. Merci de votre attention.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Senegal.

52. **Sénégal :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. La délégation du Sénégal s'associe à la déclaration du Président du Groupe africain. En outre, le Sénégal pense que la difficile situation que notre Organisation vit en ce moment découle d'une décision souveraine de la Conférence générale et que, par conséquent, les États membres que nous sommes devons

en assumer les conséquences solidairement. Et en ce qui nous concerne, et au stade actuel – je dis bien : au stade actuel – notre délégation soutient fortement les solutions préconisées par la Directrice générale et appuie le paragraphe 7 du projet de résolution qui nous est soumis actuellement en attendant de voir éventuellement ce que notre pays peut faire à l'instar du Gabon. Merci.

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Zimbabwe.

54.1 **Zimbabwe:**

Thank you very much, Madam President. We welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to this very critical issue. Madam President, the sombre mood and the sense of uncertainty that face our Organization today at a time when we are concluding what has by and large been a productive General Conference are downright depressing. We Member States and staff are naturally concerned about what the future holds for our Organization as a result of the decision by some Member States not to respect their freely assumed financial obligation to this Organization. We hold the view that whatever we may agree on to deal with the current emergency does not absolve them of those obligations. So far in the discussion on this issue, we have not heard anyone say they are ready to see UNESCO fall into inexistence. None. None whatsoever. Everyone has explicitly or implicitly expressed their commitment to the continued existence of UNESCO. And not only that, but also to its role as an invaluable and effective global player in its areas of competence. Would we not be hypocritical and unrealistic to expect it to do so while at the same time we deny it the resources it needs to achieve those lofty objectives? We have all expressed confidence in what the Director-General is doing to ensure that UNESCO delivers efficiently on its mandate. We have pledged to support her as she undertakes the responsibilities we have reposed in her but should this support and confidence remain only at the level of rhetoric and high-sounding words? I believe not. In brief, let us do as we say. Let us put our money where our mouths are. On the part of my country, in spite of our many financial and economic challenges, we will do everything possible to pay our regular contributions for 2012 early in the year. The moment I receive that invoice, we will make sure that we pay it. We support the Director-General's proposal on the deferment of the payment of the incentive scheme and on the Working Capital Fund. We would have preferred a compulsory, not voluntary, contribution to assure certainty of cash flow. When we say this, in the light of past experience, it is because in the past voluntary contributions have not met expectations. We hope this time it will be different.

54.2 If you permit me, Madam President, I just want to refer to this document 36 C/37 Add.2 Rev. On page 4 of the English version, paragraph 5, subparagraph (c), in the last sentence, should it read "translation" or "transaction" gains ? I thank you.

55. **The President:**

Thank you very much. The term is "translation gains". Are you asking for an explanation? I give the floor to Zimbabwe.

56. **Zimbabwe:**

What does "translation gains" mean? I thought it was "transaction gains". Thank you.

57. **The President:**

I would like to give the floor to the Chief Financial Officer. Thank you very much.

58. **Ms Wozencraft** (Chief Financial Officer):

The term refers to currency transactions for contributions, where both the realized and the unrealized differences in currency gains are recorded in an account so that we can track them, a split-level assessment system for contributions being currently in operation.

59. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your words. I would like to give the floor to Italy now.

60.1 **Italie :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Je n'évoquerai pas les conditions difficiles dans lesquelles notre Organisation se trouve aujourd'hui parce qu'elles ont fait l'objet de multiples interventions, si éloquentes, de la Directrice générale. Il n'est pas besoin de rappeler – mais je le ferai quand même – le soutien ferme et convaincu de l'Italie à notre Institution, elle qui se place au premier rang des contributions extrabudgétaires et au sixième pour les contributions ordinaires. Je me limiterai à deux observations factuelles. La première, c'est que nous avons, en effet, plus que jamais besoin, dans ces moments difficiles, d'une direction dans laquelle nous puissions avoir toute confiance – et nous avons la plus grande confiance en ses capacités au service du bien de notre Organisation. Et vous me permettrez d'user d'une métaphore marine : « *Tout marin sait qu'il ne faut jamais douter du capitaine par gros temps* » et nous avons plus que jamais besoin aujourd'hui de notre capitaine et son équipe, si compétente et motivée, à la tête de notre navire.

60.2 L'autre observation est une observation factuelle. Nous avons émis – notre délégation – des doutes sur quelques points du document qui avait été soumis hier – non pour remettre en cause leur bien-fondé, mais plutôt du point de vue de la faisabilité technique. Or, il nous semble que la nouvelle version du projet de résolution, tel qu'il figure dans le document révisé, est un compromis tout à fait acceptable et expose très clairement la finalité du document tel qu'il nous a en plus été explicité par la Directrice générale. Donc cette délégation est prête – et appelle les autres délégations à la suivre – à approuver par consensus l'ensemble du projet de résolution, y compris le point 7, tel qu'il est désormais libellé. Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente.

61. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to close the list of speakers and I am asking the Secretary to read the list out now.

62. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Madam President. Mexico, Namibia, China, Colombia, Cuba, Pakistan, Uganda, Gambia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Cameroon, Germany, Peru, Bahamas, Egypt, Sudan, Benin, Belgium.

63. **The President:**

Thank you. I am giving the floor to Mexico now.

64.1 **México:**

Gracias, señora Presidenta, trataré de ser lo más breve posible. México es un país que tiene también, como mis colegas aquí presentes, un compromiso histórico con los objetivos y propósitos de la UNESCO. Frente a la situación compleja que enfrenta la Organización, reiteramos nuestra disposición de cumplir puntualmente con nuestras obligaciones y contribuir en tiempo y forma nuestras contribuciones como siempre lo hemos hecho. Esta encrucijada que enfrenta la Organización es también una oportunidad para reiterar nuestra confianza en el liderazgo de su Directora General y ratificar nuestro apoyo a su gestión. Estamos conscientes de que la situación que se ha presentado necesariamente nos llevará a acelerar una serie de reformas y adecuaciones a la estructura y funcionamiento de la Organización. Estas reformas están en curso, han sido largamente discutidas y la señora Directora General y su equipo nos han dado muestras de su decisión de continuar adelante con ellas.

64.2 Estamos de acuerdo en acompañar el consenso en este proyecto de decisión en la inteligencia de que, tal y como lo mencionó hace unos momentos nuestro colega del Reino Unido y es también mi interpretación, no se trata de cubrir cuotas adicionales ni se trata tampoco de suplir cuotas de otros Estados que no están ahora en capacidad de cubrirlos. Se trata con seriedad y flexibilidad de buscar opciones y alternativas que permitan a nuestra Organización salir adelante en esta encrucijada. En ese contexto, nosotros queremos manifestar nuestra disposición e interés de formar parte de este grupo de trabajo abierto y además cuando esta cuestión se presente en el Consejo Ejecutivo (y aprovecho para agradecer a las delegaciones que nos han dado la confianza porque formaremos parte del nuevo Consejo Ejecutivo), estaremos listos también para con toda seriedad y flexibilidad ver las mejores maneras de poder encontrar una solución a estas cuestiones.

64.3 Le ruego, señora Presidenta, que la Secretaría de esta Organización consigne en actas las intervenciones que estamos realizando en estos momentos por lo que se refiere a la delegación de México. Así es nuestro interés. Muchas gracias.

(64.1) **Mexico** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Madam President; I will try to be as brief as possible. Mexico is a country that also has, like my colleagues present here, a historical commitment to the objectives and purposes of UNESCO. Faced with the complex situation the Organization finds itself in, we reaffirm our willingness to comply promptly with our obligations and make our contributions in a proper and timely manner, as we have always done before. The crossroads that the Organization is facing also gives us the opportunity to reaffirm our confidence in the Director-General's leadership and our support for her management. We are aware that the situation that has arisen will necessarily lead us to stepping up the series of reforms and adjustments to the structure and functioning of the Organization. These reforms are under way. They have been discussed at length, and the Director-General and her team have informed us of their decision to continue with them.

(64.2) We agree to join the consensus on this draft resolution, it being understood that, as our colleague from the United Kingdom rightly stated a few moments ago, there is no need to make additional contributions or make up for the contributions of other States that are not currently able to pay them. We need, nonetheless, to be conscientious and flexible as we seek the options and alternatives that will enable our Organization move beyond this crossroads. In this context, we would like to show our willingness and interest in taking part in the aforementioned open working group. Furthermore, when this matter comes up at the next meeting of the Executive Board (I would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegations that showed their confidence in us by electing us to the next Executive Board), we will also be ready to consider the best ways of finding a solution to these problems with the utmost conscientiousness and flexibility.

(64.3) I request, Madam President, that the Secretariat of this Organization take note of the remarks currently put forward by the Mexican delegation. Thank you very much.

65. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Namibia.

66. **Namibia:**

Thank you, Madam President. Like many other Member States, Namibia applauds the Director-General for her swift reaction to the challenging situation the Organization is going through. As has been stated by some countries and by the Director-General herself yesterday, UNESCO belongs to us, the Member States. We acknowledge and appreciate the value of UNESCO. UNESCO's action has made a difference in the lives of many people around the globe. As such, we have a keen interest in seeing to it that UNESCO prevails and continues its noble work. This is our collective responsibility. We have communicated the Director-General's proposal to our national authorities and Namibia is exploring the ways and means of making a humble contribution to a speedy recovery from this current cash-flow difficulty that is facing the Organization. This includes the early payment of our 2012 financial contribution as soon as we have received the notice letter and our acceptance of the postponement of the incentive scheme. Once more, Madam Director-General, you have our full support and our trust and we are confident that, with the collective efforts of the Member States, we can overcome the current challenge. Thank you, Madam President.

67. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to China.

68. **中国:**

谢谢主席女士，总干事女士。在成员国经济紧缩、财政面临困难的情况下，36 C/5 调整为名义零增长方案已经是无奈之举。现在又出现了新的不确定因素，对本组织正常工作造成困难，这个局面是我们不愿意看到的。因此我们支持大会通过总干事的名义零增长的预算方案。我们对总干事针对目前面临的困难，特别是周转资金不足的问题，所采取的对策和付出的努力，加强同会员国磋商并保持整个过程的透明，表示赞赏。在本文件第 4 段中，关于 incentive scheme 这个问题，我们支持总干事关于 incentive scheme 的建议方案。关于周转基金的问题，我有以下四点意见：第一，本文件，即 Addendum 2 中，为保持本组织正常工作的进展，我们初步倾向于这个文件里所提的备选方案 2——扩大周转基金的数额，由成员国预付周转基金，并在日后从其分摊的会费中予以返还。但我的代表团还没有来得及向首都报告，在向首都报告后，我们会确定最后的立场；第二点意见，中国代表团积极支持总干事在本组织内部所采取的措施，进一步提高秘书处的工作效率，压缩非必需的开支，适当延缓非优先项目的实施，坚决终止与本组织核心业务无关的活动，坚决停止与联合国其他机构主管的业务领域相重叠的活动，并请执行局就本组织短期内的的工作排列出优先顺序，但前提是我们必须确保与非洲优先有关的项目不压缩，确保对最不发达国家（LDC）的支持不能减少，这是我的第二点意见。第三，我还有个建议，鉴于本组织现有的预算外资金和信托基金的数量可观，建议总干事与有关国家进行磋商，对相关的合同进行适当修改，做出灵活安排，以解决当前的燃眉之急。我的最后一点意见：我们支持建立开放性工作组，共同努力，找到解决问题的可行方法。中国政府将一如既往地支持本组织的各项工作，与全体会员国一道共克时艰。我们也在支持总干事的呼吁，所有成员国都要切实履行对本组织承担的法定义务，对不履行义务的成员国，我们支持总干事要求其改变立场，并承担造成这一困难局面的责任。谢谢各位。

(68) **China (translation from the Chinese):**

Thank you, Madam President and Madam Director-General. Since Member States were facing economic austerity and financial difficulties, document 36 C/5 had to be adjusted with a zero-nominal growth (ZNG) policy. We are sorry to see new uncertainties arise, causing even more difficulties for the Organization's normal work. Hence, we support the General Conference in adopting the zero nominal growth budget that the Director-General has proposed. We appreciate the Director-General's response to the current difficulties, particularly the insufficiency of working capital, and her efforts to promote consultations with Member States and to ensure the transparency of this process. In regard to the issue of the "incentive scheme" in paragraph 4 of this document, we support the Director-General's proposed option for the scheme. As far as the Working Capital Fund is concerned, we have four observations. Firstly, concerning 36 C/37 Addendum 2 Rev.2, we are in favour of Option 2, to augment the level of the Working Capital Fund by inviting Member States to make advances, which will be refunded by deduction from their assessed contributions at the time of repayment. However, my delegation has yet to report to our government for further instructions before we confirm our final position. Secondly, the Chinese delegation actively supports the Director-General's measures within the Organization, so as to further improve the Secretariat's efficiency, reduce unnecessary expenses, appropriately postpone the execution of non-priority projects, and resolutely terminate activities that are not related to the core operations of the Organization or that overlap with the fields of competence of other United Nations bodies. We would also like to invite the Executive Board to list the Organization's recent work in the order of priority, under the condition that no projects related to Priority Africa are abolished and that there is no reduction in assistance to least developed countries. Thirdly, given the considerable amount of the Organisation's extrabudgetary resources and Funds-in-Trust, we suggest that the Director-General, after consultation with the States concerned, revise their contracts as appropriate, and make flexible arrangements to address the current urgency. Finally, we support the creation of an open working group to act collectively to find a feasible solution. The Chinese Government supports all actions of the Organization, as it has done in the past, and will address current difficulties together with all the other Member States. We would also like to support the Director-General's appeal for all Member States to comply in full with their statutory obligations to the Organization. To those who fail to do so, we support the Director-General's request that they change their position and be held accountable for the difficult situation they have caused. Thank you.

69. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to Colombia now.

70.1 **Colombia:**

Gracias, señora Presidenta. Agradecemos y aplaudimos la rápida respuesta que la Directora General nos ha presentado con un claro y conciso balance de la situación financiera de la Organización, por eso nos sumamos a los países que nos han precedido y le damos toda nuestra confianza en favor de la Organización. Queremos darle el margen de maniobra que ella necesita y merece en estas circunstancias excepcionales, por eso apoyamos el DR tal y como usted lo presenta.

70.2 Colombia reitera su compromiso con la Organización y espera que estas medidas nos lleven a soluciones concretas en el corto plazo buscando la sostenibilidad financiera de la institución. Gracias.

(70.1) **Colombia (translation from the Spanish):**

Thank you, Madam President. We thank and applaud the Director-General for her timely response and the clear, concise balance she has drawn up of the Organization's financial situation. For this reason, we join the countries that spoke before us, giving her our full confidence regarding the Organization. We would like to grant her the leeway she requires and deserves in these exceptional circumstances, so we support the draft resolution as submitted to us.

(70.2) Colombia reaffirms its commitment to the Organization. We hope that these measures will lead us to concrete, short-term solutions as we seek financial sustainability for this institution. Thank you.

71. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to Cuba.

72.1 **Cuba:**

Muchas gracias. Señora Presidenta, señora Directora General: la delegación de Cuba desea señalar que no somos responsables de la situación actual en que se encuentra la Organización. Va contra toda norma democrática que la mayoría sea castigada por una minoría que no acepta las obligaciones legales que asumen todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización. Por otra parte, no es la primera vez que esta Organización enfrenta una situación similar. En el pasado hubo tiempos muy difíciles, pero la UNESCO sobrevivió y continuó adelante. Hoy no va a ser diferente. Consideramos que en estos momentos corresponde en primer lugar buscar ahorros en el funcionamiento de la Organización, ser más eficientes y eficaces, eliminar gastos superfluos y puestos y contratos innecesarios, y concentrar los recursos de que disponemos en aquellos programas prioritarios con una mayor focalización. También creemos que en tiempos difíciles corresponde, como se ha señalado, otorgar un voto de confianza a la Directora General, que tiene toda la capacidad y liderazgo para sacarnos de esta situación delicada. Cuba reitera su apoyo y compromiso con la Directora General y con la UNESCO y haremos cuanto esté a nuestro alcance y según nuestras posibilidades para coadyuvar al logro del objetivo que nos anima.

72.2 En cuanto a la nueva versión del proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento 36 C/37 Add.2 Rev.2 que estamos considerando, mi delegación puede respaldarlo y considera apropiada la propuesta contenida en el párrafo 7 del mismo, que estamos dispuestos a suscribir. Asimismo, estimamos de buen juicio adelantar la 189ª reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo para el mes de febrero, como ha sido propuesto por la Directora General. Muchas gracias.

(72.1) **Cuba** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much. Madam President, Madam Director-General, the delegation of Cuba wishes to point out that we are not responsible for the situation in which the Organization currently finds itself. It is against every democratic law that the majority should be punished because of a minority that does not accept the legal obligations with which all the Member States of this Organization must comply. Furthermore, it is not the first time that this Organization has faced such a situation. In the past, there were very difficult times, but UNESCO survived and kept going. Today will be no different. We consider that, in such times, the first thing to do is to identify operating expenditure savings for the Organization, to be more efficient and effective, to eliminate needless expenditure and jobs, to rescind unnecessary contracts and really focus the resources we have on high-priority programmes. We also believe that in difficult times it is necessary, as mentioned by other Members, to give a vote of confidence to the Director-General, who has all the ability and leadership we need to get us out of this difficult situation. Cuba reiterates its support and commitment for the Director-General and UNESCO. We will do everything we possibly can to help achieve our common goal.

(72.2) As to the new version of the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/37 Add.2 Rev.2 that we are examining, my delegation supports it and endorses the proposal contained in paragraph 7 of the document. Furthermore, we consider it wise to move the 189th session of the Executive Board forward to the month of February, as proposed by the Director-General. Thank you very much.

73. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to Gambia.

74. **Gambia:**

Thank you, Madam President. I wish to join the previous speakers in applauding the Director-General for the swift response to this crisis. This is a challenge for the Organization but it is a challenge that is not insurmountable because, if we unite as she rightly said in her statement, we should be able to address the problem and face the challenges squarely. In that regard, I want to say that the Gambia supports the draft resolution and in particular paragraph 7, and wish to say that we will increase our contribution. We will double our contribution beginning January and we will make sure that we pay in a timely manner, and wish also to say that we will give our continued support to the Director-General to make sure that she attains the objectives that we have all set ourselves as an organization. I thank you very much.

75. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor now to Guatemala.

76.1 **Guatemala:**

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta. Guatemala reconoce y agradece el esfuerzo que la Directora General hace en este momento difícil. Guatemala, señora Directora, le da un voto de confianza a su gestión y aboga por otorgarle más autoridad y flexibilidad en el manejo de la crisis y desea expresarle, señora Directora General, que usted no está sola, estaremos a su lado quienes creemos en esta Organización y, sobre todo, quienes queremos salvar el multilateralismo como la mejor y más civilizada forma de relacionarnos entre los Estados. La UNESCO somos todos y todos juntos saldremos de esta compleja situación sin menoscabar nuestros principios. Los principios no tienen precio, son nuestro patrimonio común. Esta crisis pone de manifiesto que más que una reforma administrativa, que es una más de una larga cadena de reformas, lo que necesitamos es una refundación de la UNESCO sobre la base de la gran misión intelectual y ética de la Organización. Hoy más que nunca es fundamental la misión ética que puede dar y orientar esta gran casa. Deseamos, pues, regresar a los orígenes y como ha expresado el Premio Nobel de la Paz Alfredo Pérez Esquivel: "Cuando no sepas adónde ir, para y mira de dónde vienes".

76.2 Guatemala, país post-conflicto y post-catástrofe, que paga regularmente sus cuotas hará un esfuerzo para adelantar el pago y para aumentar voluntariamente su cuota correspondiente, por ello apoyamos el proyecto de resolución presentado delegando al Consejo Ejecutivo la autoridad para examinar esta decisión. Muchas gracias.

(76.1) **Guatemala** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Guatemala recognizes the effort that the Director-General is making in this difficult time and is grateful. Madam Director-General, Guatemala gives your management a vote of confidence and is in

favour of granting you more authority and leeway in your handling of this crisis. Guatemala wishes you to know, Madam Director-General, that you are not alone and that all those who believe in this Organization will be at your side and, especially, all those who wish to save multilateralism, the best and most civilized kind of relations between States. Together, we are all UNESCO, and together we will find a way out of this complex situation without compromising our principles. Principles are invaluable and are our common heritage. This crisis makes it clear that rather than undergoing an administrative reform, which would just be one more in a long series, UNESCO needs to be redesigned, using the Organization's great intellectual and ethical mission as a foundation. Today, the ethical vocation that this great house can inspire and lead is more crucial than ever before. We wish, therefore, to return to UNESCO's roots. As the Nobel Peace Prize winner Alfredo Pérez Esquivel stated: "When you do not know where you are going, stop and look where you have come from."

(76.2) Guatemala, a country that has emerged from conflicts and catastrophes and that regularly pays its contributions, will make an effort to advance its payments and to increase the amount voluntarily. We support the draft resolution submitted to us and delegate the authority to the Executive Board to examine the decision. Thank you very much.

77. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am now giving the floor to Pakistan.

78. **Pakistan:**

Thank you, Madam. I would like to say that UNESCO was one of the first organizations to respond to the desperate call of Pakistanis during the devastating floods in 2010. We believe in UNESCO. We believe in you, Madam Director-General. We have faith in your leadership and appreciate your having steered us through difficult situations. We thank you for the information you have provided and assure you of our full cooperation. And also as a Member of the Executive Board, you will have our full support.

78.2 We strongly support the solution presented by you and we will see what we can do on an immediate basis to support the important tasks carried out by UNESCO. It is said that when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. And I would quote the poet and my mentor Allama Muhammad Iqbal: "Don't be scared of the fast-blowing wind, it only helps an eagle to fly higher." And we believe that you will fly even higher and take the Organization out of its present situation. Thank you.

79. **The President:**

Thank you very much. And now I am giving the floor to Uganda.

80. **Uganda:**

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, hard times call for hard decisions, and the decisions and guidelines the Director-General has just presented to us are one such example. Uganda fully supports the proposals the Director-General has made and we will go all the way to stand with her in these very hard times. Since we will not have direct financial contributions to make, we would like to commit ourselves to regular and timely payment of our regular contributions and also, as a beneficiary of the incentive fund, we would like to agree with her to the suspension of the scheme for now and would also like to propose that, for our part, we would even prefer that the Ugandan component of the fund go directly to the Working Capital Fund. We would not want that money even when the time comes. This would be our small way of showing our contribution to the need for the children of this world to have an education, to claim their rights and to enjoy their culture in a free and peaceful society. Madam Director-General, we stand with you. Thank you.

81. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Argentina now.

82.1 **Argentina:**

Señora Presidenta: Argentina quiere también sumarse a todos los que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, y desea ratificar el apoyo a la Directora General en estas circunstancias excepcionales y también nuestro compromiso con la UNESCO. La crisis que afecta actualmente a la Organización debe ser abordada conjuntamente entre los Estados Miembros y la Secretaría con un espíritu constructivo. Pensamos que se deben realizar todos los esfuerzos que estén a nuestro alcance para preservar los programas.

82.2 Las crisis ofrecen oportunidades, y en ese sentido estimamos que este momento es el punto de centrarnos en las prioridades esenciales de la UNESCO y en el espíritu realmente que debe guiar nuestros trabajos. Pensamos también, en ese sentido, que todo lo que acaba de decir la Directora General es muy valioso. Pensamos también que la racionalización de los gastos, tal como ella acaba de decir, es realmente muy importante, ya que implica adoptar un carácter preventivo ante unas circunstancias realmente muy difíciles para evitar la afectación de los programas y para mantener su personal.

82.3 Nosotros estamos en condiciones de apoyar esta enmienda tal como la presentó la Directora General y realmente queremos desearle y manifestarle todo nuestro apoyo en estas circunstancias difíciles. Muchas gracias.

(82.1) **Argentina** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Madam President, Argentina would also like to join those who spoke before in adding a few words. We wish to reaffirm our support for the Director-General in these exceptional circumstances, as well as our commitment to UNESCO. The crisis that is currently affecting the Organization must be tackled jointly by the Member States and the Secretariat, in a constructive manner. We think that every attempt must be made to maintain the programmes.

(82.2) Crises provide opportunities and, accordingly, we consider that this is the time to focus on UNESCO's main priorities and on the mind-set that should truly guide our work. Let us also bear in mind that everything the Director-General has just said is of great value. We too think that rationalizing expenditure, as she said, is extremely important, because it implies adopting a preventative attitude to circumstances that are really very difficult, in order to maintain the programmes and staff.



(82.3) We support this amendment as submitted by the Director-General and we give her all our support in these difficult circumstances. Thank you very much.

**83. The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Canada.

**84.1 Canada :**

Madame la Présidente, le 31 octobre dernier, la Conférence générale a voté en faveur de l'adhésion à l'UNESCO de l'Autorité palestinienne. La décision a été prise en toute connaissance des conséquences financières qui allaient en résulter. La Directrice générale doit administrer l'Organisation avec un budget annuel amputé de 72 millions de dollars. En gestionnaire responsable, elle a immédiatement cherché à identifier les économies possibles à l'intérieur des ressources existantes. Nous la remercions. Nous demandons à la Directrice générale de poursuivre ses efforts et de faire rapport à la 189<sup>e</sup> session du Conseil exécutif sur les possibilités d'économies identifiées. Nous attendons également que la Directrice générale tienne les États membres au courant de manière régulière d'ici là.

84.2 Madame la Présidente, nous avons examiné les amendements proposés par la Directrice générale cet après-midi. La position du Canada est claire : nous sommes fermement opposés à toute proposition qui impliquerait que les États membres doivent apporter une contribution financière supplémentaire pour faire face aux conséquences du vote du 31 octobre. Pour cette raison, nous demandons la suppression du paragraphe 4 portant sur le mécanisme d'incitation rapide au paiement des contributions. Nous ne croyons pas qu'il soit opportun que la Conférence générale revienne lors de la présente session sur une résolution prise antérieurement avec l'accord de tous les États membres. Enfin, nous appuyons les efforts déployés par la Directrice générale pour recueillir des contributions volontaires et invitons les États qui le peuvent à fournir de telles contributions. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

**85. The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Saudi Arabia.

٨٦ المملكة العربية السعودية:

السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرية العامة، نتفهم تماماً قلقك على استمرار هذه المنظمة بفعاليتها المعهودة بسبب هذه الأزمة ونشاركك القلق. ونحن من جانبنا، في المملكة العربية السعودية، نؤيد كافة الإجراءات التي تم الإعلان عنها، إذ نؤيد زيادة رأس المال العامل المتدني مقارنة بالمنظمات الأخرى، ونوافق على اقتراحك الخاص بتأجيل الحوافز، والتعجيل بتسديد الاشتراكات. وسنعمل على تسديد اشتراك المملكة العربية السعودية في شهر كانون الثاني/يناير القادم. وسنشجع، في المملكة العربية السعودية، المؤسسات والأفراد على الإسهام في صندوق المساهمات الطوعية عرفاناً بمكانة اليونسكو وجهودها الإنسانية. وستتابع مع حكومتنا بحث الصيغة المناسبة لدعم اليونسكو في مواجهة هذه الأزمة، ليس على الصعيد المالي فقط بل وعلى الصعيدين السياسي والمعنوي أيضاً. وستتحرك على المستوى الإقليمي والخليجي تحديداً للتشاور مع الدول الخليجية الشقيقة لوضع صيغة وموقف موحد لدعم المنظمة. ونقترح إضافة الجملة التالية: "يقرر أيضاً وقف العمل مؤقتاً بالمادة ٦,٢ من النظام المالي حتى الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام" إلى النسخة العربية، إذ أضيفت هذه الجملة باللغة الإنجليزية ولم تُضف باللغة العربية. وأكرر مجدداً دعمنا وتأييدنا الدائم لك ولليونسكو في المسار الإنساني النبيل الذي تسلكه المنظمة. السيدة المديرية العامة، قبل عامين أعطتك الدول ثقتها وقامت بانتخابك مديرة عامة للمنظمة. وهذه الظروف الصعبة التي تمر بها المنظمة، وردود الفعل الإيجابية من قبل الأعضاء تمثل تأكيد الثقة فيك وفي الدور الذي تقومين به. فتحية كبيرة لك ولفريق العمل المساند. وشكراً.

**(86) Saudi Arabia (translation from the Arabic):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, we understand very well your concern about the ability of this Organization to continue to function with its customary effectiveness because of this crisis, and we share your concern. For our part, we in Saudi Arabia support all the measures that have been announced, and we are in favour of increasing the level of the Working Capital Fund, which is quite low in comparison with that of other international organizations, and we agree with your proposal to postpone incentives and to accelerate the payment of assessed contributions. We will endeavour to pay Saudi Arabia's contribution as soon as next January. And we in Saudi Arabia will encourage institutions and individuals to contribute to the voluntary donations fund in recognition of the standing of UNESCO and its humanitarian endeavours. And we will follow up with our government the discussion of the appropriate form for our support to UNESCO in helping it to face this crisis, not only at the financial level, but also at the political and ethical levels. We will move at the level of the Arab region and more specifically the Gulf region to consult with our fellow Gulf States in order to devise a unified stance and position to support the Organization. We suggest adding the following sentence: "Also decides to suspend provisionally Article 6.2 of the Financial Regulations until the 37th session of the General Conference." I reiterate our constant support and backing to you and to UNESCO in the noble humanitarian course the Organization is pursuing. Madam Director-General, two years ago, the Member States gave you their confidence and elected you Director-General of the Organization. These difficult circumstances through which the Organization is passing and the positive reactions from the Member States constitute an affirmation of our trust in you and in the role which you have performed. We extend a hearty salute to you and your team. Thank you.

**87. The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Cameroon.

**88. Cameroun :**

Madame la Présidente, merci. Je pense que la question dont nous débattons est d'une très grande importance et qu'il ne faut pas s'y soustraire. Je voudrais tout d'abord relever que Mme la Directrice générale, depuis son arrivée à la tête de l'Organisation, a fait preuve de beaucoup de courage pour réformer l'Institution. Actuellement, cette dernière fait face à une situation critique qui appelle, de la part des États membres, beaucoup de compréhension et un soutien appuyé à la Directrice générale afin de l'aider à atteindre les objectifs qu'elle s'est fixés. Madame la Présidente, mon pays a toujours fait preuve de sollicitude à l'égard de l'UNESCO et s'est régulièrement acquitté de ses contributions statutaires. Le Cameroun est très sensible à l'appel lancé par Mme Bokova et voudrait saluer encore, au passage, sa lucidité et son sens de la gestion, qui nous permettront de sortir de la crise actuelle. Ma délégation prend l'engagement de transmettre à son Gouvernement les propositions qu'elle a soumises au débat. Pour ce qui est du paragraphe 7,

alinéa (a), de la résolution, nous en rendrons compte, comme il vient d'être dit, à notre capitale. Je suis convaincu qu'avec les explications que nous lui fournirons, elle ne manquera pas de consentir un effort supplémentaire pour accroître la contribution du Cameroun. Madame la Présidente, nous tenons à assurer la Directrice générale de notre solidarité et de nos encouragements. Je vous remercie.

89. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Peru.

90.1 **Perú :**

Gracias, señora Presidenta. El Perú aprecia la manera como la señora Directora General se ha referido a nuestra Conferencia para hacernos saber que debemos adoptar una respuesta colectiva a la situación que estamos viviendo, y nos ha dicho que estamos frente a un test de nuestra voluntad política y de nuestra capacidad de reforma. Nos ha dicho también que solicita ante esta situación un margen de maniobra para poder hacer frente a estas dificultades. Y yo quiero responderle sí a estos tres pedidos: a la respuesta colectiva, a la voluntad política y al margen de maniobra.

90.2 El Perú es un país que debe mucho a la UNESCO por el reconocimiento de su patrimonio, por la mejora de su sistema educativo y por la valorización de su diversidad cultural. Por esa razón estamos previendo que nuestro país entregue su contribución lo más tempranamente posible, pero que, además de eso, organice una colecta que muestre hasta qué punto el pueblo peruano, y no solamente nuestro Estado, quiere apoyar a la UNESCO y quiere apoyar sobre todo la gestión valiente de su Directora General. Muchas gracias.

(90.1) **Peru** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Madam President. Peru appreciates the way Madam Director-General addressed our Conference, encouraging us to adopt a collective response to the situation we are currently experiencing. She also told us that our political willpower and our capacity to carry out reforms are being tested. Furthermore, in the light of the situation, she requested leeway to face these difficulties. I wish to grant those three requests: the collective response, the political will and the additional leeway.

(90.2) Peru is a country that owes much to UNESCO: recognition of its heritage, improvements to its education system and enhancement of its cultural diversity. For this reason, we foresee that Peru will make its contribution as soon as possible and will organize fundraising in order to show the extent to which the Peruvian people, not just the Government, supports UNESCO and especially the courageous management of its Director-General. Thank you very much.

91. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Germany.

92.1 **Germany:**

Thank you, Madam President. Madam Director-General, I think there are some people who know that I have quite a romantic side but I will not show it here now, so forgive me for not sending flowers. But I do think it is good that we sit here on the last day of the conference to discuss what we have to do, to realize how difficult the situation is, that it is far more difficult than we may realize today because we all read the newspapers and the overall economic situation is also difficult throughout the world. So we have the very best intentions here. I think every single one in this room, and no one excluded, is a fan and follower of UNESCO and wants to do their very best to see UNESCO flourish. Every single one of us in this room has worked in the last two years to get UNESCO on the reform track under your very, very able leadership and we are so proud to be where we are now, because two years ago it seemed almost impossible to do this in a short time-frame. Now we have presented and prepared all the necessary documents in the commissions. We have done that on a zero nominal growth budget which was very responsible because we are under keen scrutiny from parliaments and now we cannot change it and go through it again but we are very, very happy to have heard you, Madam Director-General, say yesterday that you would do everything to economize, see where we have inefficiency in structures and see how we can work on a basis that is lower, rather than pretending that we have everything unless our friends help us with the trust fund and get the money quickly.

92.2 Germany thinks that the working group is a very well-established mechanism. We had fabulous experiences with the last one and we would be very happy to take a very active role in this one. And we hope that it will have you, Madam Director-General, and that we may help you in this working group to find alternative ways of financing. It will not be easy but we will try that and we know ourselves to be in the best hands, also with our President of this session of the General Conference.

92.3 I think that we have to make sure that we all understand that this is not the time for the finance issue to cause a split in UNESCO and our work, because that would hamper our system. Germany like many others here is a very devoted multilateralist. This is how we gained peace in our region and how we gained peace in the world and try to contribute to it. But we have to be realistic and we have to be tough and we may have to make tough decisions and this we can only do together.

92.4 On the incentive scheme, I must say that I understand the problems that Canada mentioned because I am a bit afraid. If we proceed that way, it will not only be UNESCO funds that decide on financial matters. Sometimes there are split responsibilities for transfers of money and if you take away an incentive scheme, it may lead to countries paying later than all of us here would wish for.

92.5 It does not necessarily happen that way, but it might. I wonder whether we could skip it and then allow you to write to the countries that pay early and ask them to accept a deferral which would make it a bit softer and more political but would perhaps have the same effect or a better effect to assure early financing. So with all of this, we will try to do our best and I think the important thing is that we all try to do our best. Thank you so much.

93. **The President:**  
Thank you, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to Bahamas now.

94. **Bahamas:**  
Thank you, Madam President, for giving me the floor. John Donne said that no man is an island entirely unto itself. Each is a part of the main. Every man's death diminishes me. Therefore, do not seek to find out for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee. I am stealing a phrase from something I heard before, that if UNESCO did not exist, we would have to invent it. I know that I apologize to all of my colleagues for even taking the floor to reiterate what I think has been beautifully said by most of you, but I thought that it would have been remiss of me if I did not take this time to express my sincere gratitude to the Director-General for the clear and comprehensive report she has given to us on the current crisis of the Organization. And I am also heartened by the very positive remarks made by my colleagues. It goes without saying that my delegation has implicit trust in the leadership of the Director-General and strongly supports the appeal. Even though my delegation's contribution is rather small, I offer here moral support and I believe that, under the circumstances, every little bit helps. So, in addition to encouraging my government to make a timely obligation payment, I am going to appeal to the small developing States in my region to work together to assist the Director-General in implementing her reform programmes. I am convinced that this could be done through unanimous support of the resolution we have before us, and in particular paragraph 7. Thank you.

95. **The President:**  
Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to Egypt.

٩٦ مصر:

شكراً سيدتي الرئيسة، وشكراً لك يا حضرة المديرية العامة على سرعة تقديم الحلول التي تبرهن على وجود معرفة تقنية عالية لدى المديرية العامة ومعاونيتها. وشكراً لك أيضاً سيدتي المديرية العامة على الأخذ بهذا المنهج القائم على التشاور مع كافة المجموعات والدول في تقديم هذه الاقتراحات. سيدتي الرئيسة، إن مصر من الدول المؤسسة للمنظمة، وقد ساهمت في صياغة ميثاقها التأسيسي إيماناً منها بالدور الذي تستطيع هذه المنظمة أن تقوم به في حياة شعوب العالم. واليوم تواجه المنظمة صعوبة، وليست هذه المرة الأولى التي نواجه فيها صعوبات في تاريخ هذه المنظمة، ولكن تأتي الصعوبة هذه المرة - وأنا هنا أحبيك مرة أخرى سيدتي المديرية العامة على استخدام هذه العبارة - بعد أن قامت منظمنا باتخاذ قرار، وهو قرار سيادي وديمقراطي للدول الأعضاء. إن اليونسكو هي منظمة المثل والقيم، وهي ضمير منظومة الأمم المتحدة، وهذا ما ضمن استمرارها إلى اليوم. إننا في المنطقة العربية لنا مثل يقول: إنما يولد العظماء في أوقات المحن أو في الأوقات الصعبة. وبناءً على ذلك، فأنا على ثقة بأن منظمنا ستخرج أكثر قوة مما كانت عليه قبل هذه الأزمة وأكثر عزماً على تحقيق أهدافها لصالح شعوب العالم كلها. سيدتي، إن مصر والدول العربية التزمت دائماً بدفع اشتراكاتها، وسنكون من أوائل الدول التي تبادر إلى دفع اشتراكاتها لعام ٢٠١٢. مرة أخرى سيدتي الرئيسة، سيدتي المديرية العامة، لك كل الدعم والتأييد فيما قدمته، ونحن ندعم ونؤيد الفقرة ٤ والفقرة ٧ من مشروع القرار المقدم. وشكراً لكم.

(96) **Egypt (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you Madam President, and thank you, Your Excellency, Madam Director-General, for your rapid submission of these solutions, which demonstrates the high degree of technical knowledge that you and your colleagues have. Thank you, also, Madam Director-General, for adopting this approach of consultation with all groups and countries in putting forward these proposals. Madam President, Egypt is a founder Member of the Organization, and helped to draft its Constitution, confident in the role that this Organization could play in the life of the peoples of the world. Today the Organization is in difficulty; this is not the first time we have faced such difficulties in the history of the Organization. But this time, the difficulty - and I once again salute you, Madam Director-General, for having used this expression - the difficulty came from the Organization's adoption of a resolution, a sovereign and democratic resolution by the Member States. UNESCO is an organization of ideals and values; it is the conscience of the United Nations system, and this is what has ensured its continued existence down to today. We in the Arab region have a saying: "great individuals are born in times of trial and difficulty." On this basis, I am confident that our Organization will emerge from this crisis stronger and more determined than before to achieve its objectives for the benefit of all the peoples of the world. Madam, Egypt and the Arab States have always been committed to paying their contributions, and we shall be among the first countries to pay our dues for 2012. Once again, Madam President, Madam Director-General, we pledge all possible support to you for your proposals, and we support paragraphs 4 and 7 of the draft resolution submitted. Thank you.

97. **The President:**  
Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to Sudan.

٩٨ السودان:

شكراً جزيلاً للسيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، أود باسم وفد بلادي أن أشكر السيدة المديرية العامة. ونشيد بالبيانات الضافية التي أدلت بها أمام المؤتمر العام لشرح أبعاد الوضع المالي الحرج الذي سيكتنف مسيرة هذه المنظمة خلال الفترة المقبلة نظراً للظروف المعروفة بالنسبة للجميع. وعليه فإنني أود أن أؤكد باسم وفد جمهورية السودان تضامناً ومساندتها التامة للسيدة المديرية العامة وللخطة والمقترحات التي عرضتها أمامنا من أجل الخروج من هذا الوضع الصعب بأعجل ما تيسر. وسوف ننظر في المستقبل القريب، بإذن الله، في الكيفية التي يمكن أن يساهم بها السودان من أجل مساعدة اليونسكو لتجاوز هذه الظروف الاستثنائية، وذلك على الرغم من الظروف الاستثنائية التي تمر بها بلادنا ذاتها في الوقت الراهن كما يعلم الجميع. وإننا على ثقة بأن ما وصفته السيدة المديرية العامة بالصعوبات، هذه الصعوبات من شأنها أن تفتح آفاقاً جديدة للمنظمة وأن تكون عاملاً محفزاً لإجراء الإصلاحات التي ظلت تبشر بها منذ فترة. وإننا نعتقد بأن من شأن فتح الباب أمام التبرعات والهبات من المؤسسات والأفراد أن يفتح أيضاً آفاقاً جديدة أمام مجموعات واسعة من المستفيدين في مختلف مجالات عمل اليونسكو. وشكراً جزيلاً.

(98) **Sudan (translation from the Arabic):**

Thank you very much, Madam President of the General Conference. I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to thank the Director-General. We commend the detailed information she has provided to the General Conference in explanation of the various aspects of this delicate financial situation, which will affect the course of the Organization in the coming period in view of the circumstances that are well known to all. I should therefore like to express, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Sudan, our solidarity and full support to the Director-General for the plan and proposals she has submitted to us in order to get out of this difficult situation as rapidly as possible. In the near future, we will consider, God willing, how Sudan may

help UNESCO to overcome these exceptional circumstances, despite the exceptional circumstances that our country is itself experiencing at present, as is well known to all. We are confident that what the Director-General has described as difficulties are likely to open new horizons to the Organization and to be an incentive to undertake long overdue reforms. We believe that opening the door to donations and gifts from institutions and individuals will also open up new horizons for broad groups of beneficiaries in UNESCO's various fields of endeavour. Thank you very much.

99. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to Benin.

100. **Bénin :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Madame la Directrice générale, je voudrais vous renouveler mon entière confiance. Le Bénin a confiance en vous. Je voudrais également marquer mon accord avec la distinction conceptuelle que vous faites entre « crise » et « difficulté ». Nous sommes devant des difficultés surmontables mais l'Organisation n'est pas en crise. Chacun a réaffirmé sa pertinence et la nécessité de préserver son universalité. Le Bénin vous félicite, Madame la Directrice générale, pour la rapidité et l'efficacité avec laquelle vous avez réagi face à ces difficultés et nous approuvons toutes les mesures que vous avez prises. Chers collègues, devant une situation telle que celle que nous connaissons, le maître mot est « solidarité ». Tout effort, d'où qu'il vienne, sera utile. Et, de même qu'à l'UNESCO il n'y a pas de petit pays, il n'y aura pas de petite contribution. Le Bénin pense aussi que les secteurs géographiques qui sont désignés comme prioritaires à l'UNESCO devraient donner l'exemple de la conscience la plus aigüe face à ces difficultés. Or, comme vous le savez, l'Afrique est une priorité. Il est donc attendu d'elle, de nous, Africains, que nous ayons une conduite de solidarité exemplaire. D'ailleurs, une voix plus autorisée que la mienne s'est exprimée à ce sujet : le Président de la République du Bénin, M. Yayi Boni, que vous avez rencontré hier, Madame la Directrice générale, vous a promis d'alerter ses frères et sœurs, chefs d'État africains. Je me souviens d'ailleurs qu'il a mentionné le Président Bongo et je me réjouis de la prompte réaction du Gabon, que je félicite au passage, en espérant que cet exemple fera des émules en Afrique. Enfin, Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, le Bénin soutient fermement la résolution qui nous est présentée, et particulièrement son paragraphe 7, et nous nous portons volontaires pour faire partie du groupe de travail et travailler main dans la main avec tous les États qui le désirent. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

101. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Belgium.

102.1 **Belgique :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. N'ayant pas eu l'occasion, hier, de prendre part au débat, je souhaite transmettre un message à Mme la Directrice générale et lui dire à quel point nous tenons à la féliciter pour l'esprit dans lequel elle gère la crise de liquidités que nous rencontrons. Dans l'immédiat, je pense effectivement que pour clôturer l'année, vous n'avez pas beaucoup de choix. Vous nous avez présenté les options possibles. Je pense qu'il faut aller de l'avant. Ce ne sera pas facile mais vous avez évidemment notre soutien. Pour le moyen terme, je crois qu'il faut vous faire confiance et vous donner des marges de manœuvre pour pouvoir agir et gérer les choses dans l'intérêt de notre Organisation et dans l'intérêt général, comme vous l'avez dit. Très clairement, les propositions qui nous sont présentées et que nous nous apprêtons à approuver sont, à notre avis, tout à fait acceptables, et nous ferons de notre mieux pour nous acquitter de notre contribution le plus tôt possible en 2012. Et, bien que nous soyons, contrairement à d'autres pays ici présents, des pays bénéficiaires du système d'incitation au paiement rapide au cours de l'année, nous pourrions toujours soutenir la proposition qui figure au paragraphe 4.

102.2 Quant au paragraphe 7, il nous semble effectivement que le document qui nous est présenté est, par rapport à la version d'hier, peut-être celui qui recueille le plus de soutien suite aux larges consultations que vous avez menées ; nous pourrions donc, bien évidemment, nous y rallier, mais nous pensons également comme, je crois, mon collègue du Royaume-Uni, qu'il faudra probablement mener à moyen terme une réflexion sur un renforcement de ce Fonds de roulement pour l'Organisation. Voilà, Madame la Directrice générale, ce que je voulais dire au nom de la Belgique. Je vous remercie.

103. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I am giving the floor to India.

104. **India:**

Thank you, Madam President. There have been 10 days of fast-moving developments and inevitably most of us have been in contact with our capitals and headquarters. I have a message to convey through you to the Director-General from my government, which is confident of support and support that will continue through this difficult period. I am not going to cover again the ground that has been covered so well over the last hour and more. We support paragraphs 4 and 7, we support the draft resolution. This is a minimalist package very efficiently put together in a participative way. We do believe, however, that this crisis is also an occasion for opportunity, one that will allow us to bring about a more efficient and responsive UNESCO. We would urge at this time, at this juncture, that we also look at prioritization. We support the efforts, the continuation of efforts, for Africa, to SIDS, the LDCs. We support the kind of administrative measures that the Director-General is contemplating but, more importantly, we urge a return to the primary tasks of UNESCO - education, science and culture - and we warn of the dangers of a creeping mandate of duplication, of going beyond that to areas that we believe are either the domain of other agencies or could more efficiently be done by others. So we would urge that this crisis be utilized to sharpen the priorities, bring about efficiency which is not just administrative. Encouragingly, this evening we have listened to countries that have spoken of the financial, economic difficulties we have gone through, or they are going through, or the world is going through, but I would like to reiterate and bring to your the notice the courage of conviction and the strength of the convictions of those countries which, despite their difficulties, despite their economic circumstances, have chosen to step up this evening and say they will

contribute more. Madam President, we work through our parliamentary budgetary and democratic processes and we would no doubt take the message back to our governments that we would work with other countries to find ways to make UNESCO stronger, less dependent on a few, and enlarge the areas of its support. Thank you, Madam President.

105. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your words. I am giving the floor to Kazakhstan.

106. **Kazakhstan:**

Thank you, Madam President. Kazakhstan joins previous speakers in welcoming and appreciating the efforts of the Director-General to resolve this difficult situation. We believe that the options proposed by the Director-General are relevant in the circumstances. We fully recognize the necessity of the urgent measures to be taken. Therefore, we support the proposed document as it stands. Thank you, Madam President.

107. **The President:**

Thank you very much, and I now give the floor to Mali.

108.1 **Mali :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. Madame la Présidente, le Mali voudrait tout d'abord saluer toutes les délégations qui ont précédemment pris la parole pour soutenir Mme la Directrice générale dans cette situation difficile que traverse notre Institution, dont elle assure aujourd'hui la haute direction. Le Mali est également solidaire de la déclaration prononcée par le Président du Groupe Afrique. Hier, nous avons immédiatement manifesté notre soutien, dès la présentation par Mme la Directrice générale de la réalité de la situation. Le Mali redit aujourd'hui qu'il apprécie hautement la réactivité salutaire de Mme la Directrice générale, qui a toute notre confiance quant à sa capacité de relever, avec le large appui des États membres, les défis auxquels l'UNESCO fait face. Vous l'avez dit, Madame la Directrice générale, l'heure est à l'unité. Il est temps pour nous de tirer tous ensemble dans la même direction. Nous sommes convaincus, malgré la gravité de la situation et les incertitudes qui demeurent, qu'ensemble nous trouverons les voies les meilleures pour conserver à cette vénérable Institution son rôle unique de conscience de la communauté internationale et de gardienne ultime de la paix dans le monde. Le Mali est donc très sensible au message courageux, historique et digne que vous nous lancez. En ce qui concerne nos obligations statutaires, notre pays a déjà réglé une partie de sa contribution pour 2012 et, en attendant de rendre compte à nos plus hautes autorités de la situation que l'UNESCO traverse aujourd'hui, nous nous engageons à faire accélérer le versement du reliquat de notre contribution pour 2012.

108.2 Quant à la résolution proposée, le Mali, bien évidemment, la soutient fermement, en particulier le paragraphe 7, dans lequel il se reconnaît pleinement. Nouveau membre du Conseil exécutif, mon pays se réjouit de la perspective de développer un partenariat dynamique avec vous, Madame la Directrice générale. Vous pouvez compter sur le soutien intellectuel et moral du Mali.

109. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I am giving the floor to the Netherlands.

110.1 **Netherlands:**

Thank you, Madam President. The Netherlands has always been a staunch supporter of UNESCO. If we have made critical comments in recent weeks, or recent years even, these were always made in the spirit of commitment and involvement. To illustrate this, in 2010, taking into account voluntary contributions, the Netherlands was the fourth largest contributor to UNESCO. We have always made our contribution early in the year and will do so in 2012 as well, which entitles us to benefit from the incentive scheme. We will, however, not oppose a temporary suspension of this scheme.

110.2 Madam President, we would have preferred to have this debate earlier in the General Conference and on the basis of more detailed information on possible savings and budget revisions. We now feel somewhat in a pressure cooker and that is not a very comfortable feeling to tell you the truth. We cannot help wondering if the Secretariat could not have started preparatory work to this end immediately after the Executive Board voted in favour of admission of Palestine because that made the scenario quite likely.

110.3 In addition to that, we regret very much the developments that led to the situation we now find ourselves in and in this regard, I would like to support what was said by the Canadian delegate earlier this evening. As for the Working Capital Fund, we should indeed, like the United Kingdom delegate said, have addressed this issue before. Although this might not have been adequate, we would not have been faced with this situation only now and could have dealt with it in a more relaxed and calm manner than under the present circumstances.

110.4 Having said that, the Netherlands does not object to the proposal made in paragraph 7, which was revised several times and improved upon, but we would like to stress that our consent to this paragraph is on the understanding that the voluntary nature of the contributions will remain and will not be changed in the course of time. Thank you.

111. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am giving the floor to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

112.1 **República Bolivariana de Venezuela:**

Gracias, señora Presidenta. Deseamos en primer lugar expresar nuestros profundos sentimientos de solidaridad a la Directora General frente a la grave crisis que hoy atraviesa la UNESCO. Venezuela, fiel a sus obligaciones de pago con esta Organización y consciente de la difícil situación de déficit por la cual atraviesa la UNESCO, hará los esfuerzos necesarios para adelantar el pago de sus contribuciones. Queremos felicitar a la Directora General por las medidas de austeridad que acaba de anunciar en los gastos administrativos de personal y suntuarios y por ello le damos nuestro voto de confianza.

112.2 Consideramos que todos los miembros deben cumplir con sus compromisos y responsabilidades a fin de que esta Organización pueda cumplir con su noble misión. Por tal razón, lamentamos que las decisiones unilaterales tomadas por algunos países se conviertan en una sanción económica contra la UNESCO e imputable a sus Estados Miembros. La actual crisis económica también es sistémica. En este sentido, nos preguntamos qué UNESCO necesita el mundo en el siglo XXI. La crisis económica mundial, el surgimiento de un mundo multipolar, el movimiento de los indignados y las grandes transformaciones sociales nos conducen en este momento histórico a impulsar sin vacilación la refundación de la UNESCO para responder a los grandes desafíos mundiales.

112.3 Finalmente, Venezuela se suma al consenso y apoya los numerales 4 y 7 del proyecto de resolución presentado por la Directora General, así como su propuesta de adelantar al mes de febrero la celebración de la reunión 189ª del Consejo Ejecutivo. Muchas gracias.

(112.1) **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Madam President. First, we would like to express our deepest solidarity to the Director-General regarding the grave crisis UNESCO is currently going through. Venezuela, faithful to its obligations of payment to this Organization and aware of the deficit that UNESCO must overcome, will make the necessary efforts to advance the payment of its contributions. We welcome the austerity measures announced by the Director-General concerning administrative staff costs and sumptuary expenses and, accordingly, we give her our vote of confidence.

(112.2) We consider that every Member should honour its commitments and assume its responsibilities so that this Organization can accomplish its noble mission. Consequently, we deplore that the unilateral decisions taken by some countries have become an economic sanction for UNESCO, one that is imputable to its Member States. The current economic crisis is also systemic. Thus, we wonder what UNESCO needs in the twenty-first century. The global economic crisis, the rise of a multipolar world, the grassroots Indignant movement and great social transformations lead us, in this historical moment, to unhesitatingly push for redesigning UNESCO in order to overcome the great challenges of today's world.

(112.3) Finally, Venezuela joins the consensus and supports paragraphs 4 and 7 of the draft resolution submitted by the Director-General, as well as her proposal to bring forward the 189th session of the Executive Board to February. Thank you very much.

113. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Now I am giving the floor to Nigeria.

114. **Nigeria:**

Thank you, Madam President. Madam Director-General, my delegation aligns itself with the statement of Congo on behalf of the Africa Group and also several statements in this room in support of the Director-General and the Organization at this moment in history. Nigeria will continue to support you, Madam Director-General, and your team in all your efforts to deal with this present situation. We are happy that we will be able to actively give that support as a Member of the Executive Board which is being called upon to take very important responsibilities at this moment. Madam President, I can assure you that Nigeria will not stand unconcerned as UNESCO is faced with the present financial difficulties. We will, as we have always done, do all in our power to be meaningful partners to the Organization and in this regard fully endorse paragraphs 4 and 7 as proposed. Let me also assure you that Nigeria will pay its contributions early in 2012 and make whatever additional contributions as directed by our capital. My delegation also wants to congratulate the Director-General for setting up the online tool for contributions to the fund for core activities of UNESCO and we feel assured that periodic updates on the sum so donated will be made available to the Member States. Once again, we thank both the President of the General Conference and the Director-General, and stand ready to work with all our colleagues to ensure that these efforts end in concrete proposals for the good of our Organization. I thank you all.

115. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, so far we have listened to 35 speakers. I see here on my list three more. I will give them the floor and then we will finish and move on. So now I will give the floor to Tonga, then the Democratic Republic of the Congo and finally Niger. So please, that is the end of the list. Tonga, please.

116. **Tonga:**

Thank you, Madam President. I would just like to say how very touched I am by the presentation by the Director-General and the overwhelming support that has been expressed by many Member States. I am also aware of the burden that the Director-General has to shoulder on behalf of our UNESCO family of 195 Member States, and I am sure that this entails a lot of sleepless nights for the Director-General. Most of us look up to UNESCO as a beacon of hope to find solutions to the abuse of human rights, environmental change, and so on. During the General Conference, I have often heard the phrase that UNESCO is the only organization that does this, does that, does this and that. And so, in my opinion, we cannot afford to let UNESCO disappear overnight, just because of a shortage of \$25 million. Tonga's contribution to UNESCO is very small compared to what UNESCO offers to us. There was a climate change crisis in New Zealand and Japan in past years, and my country coordinated collection of donations with schoolchildren and I am sure that we will be able to coordinate a similar activity to help out UNESCO. It may be small but I am sure that UNESCO will treasure that small amount. I have every confidence that the proposals of the Director-General are the best for the Organization during this difficult time and would like to reassure the Director-General of my country's cooperation at all times. Like my brother from the Bahamas, I too will be appealing to the Pacific Member States in my region, 15 of them in the Pacific subregion, for their full cooperation and reaffirmation of their support for UNESCO. And I really feel like standing up and holding hands with my neighbour on the right and left to applaud UNESCO and to reaffirm our solidarity and unity for the work of UNESCO and for its beneficiaries. Thank you, Madam President.

117. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I am now giving the floor to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

118. **République démocratique du Congo :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. La République démocratique du Congo se rallie aux pays qui l'ont précédée et qui ont appuyé le projet de résolution relatif à la situation financière que notre Organisation traverse à la suite des mesures de rétorsion prises à son endroit. Nous nous associons aux déclarations du Président de notre Groupe, formulées un peu plus tôt dans la soirée. Madame la Directrice générale, selon l'adage, « *c'est dans les moments difficiles que l'on reconnaît les vrais amis* ». Mon pays est avec vous, et vous le savez. S'agissant du respect de ses obligations vis-à-vis de l'UNESCO, mon pays a pu faire un effort pour apurer ses arriérés de paiement. À ce jour, sauf avis contraire du service de comptabilité, mon pays dispose d'une réserve pour 2012 et a donc déjà versé une avance à ce titre. Édifié sur la situation actuelle, mon pays n'y est pas indifférent et mettra tout en œuvre pour contribuer à alléger le fardeau financier de l'Organisation. Pour terminer, nous appuyons les paragraphes 4 et 7 du projet de résolution que vous nous proposez. Je vous remercie.

119. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And, finally, I would like to give the floor to Niger.

120. **Niger :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Prendre la parole parmi les derniers devant cette auguste Assemblée constitue bien évidemment un redoutable privilège, mais qu'importe. Nous tenterons malgré tout de relever le défi. Avec votre permission, je voudrais donc commencer mon allocution par une image sportive. Hier soir, nous sommes sortis groggy mais pas K.O. C'est une manière de vous dire, Madame la Directrice générale, combien nous apprécions votre courage mais aussi et surtout vos qualités en matière de communication. Vous avez su communiquer pour montrer avec quelle énergie vous menez la réforme et vous avez montré votre courage pour la faire accepter. Ce sont des choses, disons-le en toute franchise, que nous admirons. Il faut avancer en se souvenant. Il y a quelques mois, dans notre intervention devant le Conseil exécutif, que nous quittons, nous vous avons assurée, Madame la Directrice générale, de notre appui. Eh bien, cet appui demeure. Il demeure parce que pour le Niger, l'UNESCO est un étendard et, comme tous les étendards, il mérite d'être défendu avec énergie, détermination et intelligence. Une intelligence qui demeure l'emblème de notre Institution. Nous savons que nous sommes les plus vulnérables et, de ce fait, il faut encore dire, haut et fort, que nous serons les fantassins de l'UNESCO. J'ajouterai que le mariage des esprits est plus fort et plus beau que celui des corps et encore davantage que celui des sous, qui constituent aujourd'hui, à l'évidence, le nœud du problème. Aussi, Madame la Directrice générale, soyez assurée que le Niger, qui bénéficie et bénéficiera sans aucun doute des programmes de l'UNESCO et, notamment, de certaines stratégies qui nous concernent au quotidien, soutient vigoureusement la résolution proposée. Nous ferons très clairement passer le message à nos autorités – solidarité, cohérence et éthique obligent. Merci d'avoir eu la patience de nous écouter en cette si longue fin de soirée.

121. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. We have not finished this evening yet. We have listened very carefully to 38 speakers and, dear colleagues, I really believe I can say that there is overwhelming support for the Director-General's proposal. I believe therefore that we can proceed to adopt this entire resolution by consensus. However, before we do so, I must note that the only point of minority disagreement seems to be paragraph 4, which Canada has proposed be deleted. Can I ask if there is any Member State which supports Canada's proposal? I see none. I give the floor to Portugal. But is it about deleting or not deleting the paragraph? We are now talking only about this paragraph, please.

122. **Portugal:**

Yes, I know, Madam President. What I will try to do now is to avoid the vote. We have listened very carefully to what our Director-General told us at the beginning of this discussion. We are sensitive to the appeal that she has made to us. And we understand that the only remaining difficulty in approving this draft resolution is paragraph 4. We have conducted consultations with some countries, some delegations, and I think that we are in a position to offer a compromise solution to this paragraph 4. That would entail an amendment which would avoid this vote and to which these concerned States have given their agreement. So I would like to ask if we should, if I should, go ahead with this compromise proposal.

123. **The President:**

Yes, please do, Your Excellency. We would like to hear it very much. Thank you very much.

124. **Portugal:**

Thank you. Well, it is not very difficult. We would simply insert a phrase in the middle of this paragraph. I would rather read out the whole paragraph so that the Secretariat can note it. I will read it slowly. So, paragraph 4: "*Decides, in the event that there may be resources available under the incentive scheme by the end of 2011, to invite each Member State to postpone, on a voluntary basis, the return of funds due to them in accordance with 35 C/Resolution ...*", and the rest remains as it is.

125. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Of course, it is a different meaning here. I would like to give the floor to the Legal Adviser. What would that mean in practice? I mean, "on a voluntary basis". Some will say yes, some will say no.

126. **Ms Vicien Milburn (Legal Adviser):**

Thank you, Madam President. My view is that this is really a matter for interpretation by the Member States. I think that paragraph 4, as it is now, indicates that if there are resources available, the decision of the General Conference would be mandatory and would automatically postpone the implementation of the resolution, and then there would be an obligation to make the resources available to the Organization. Under the proposal, as I have just heard it,

each Member State would be invited to postpone the implementation of the resolution on a voluntary basis, that is to say, there would not be a mandatory order, a decision by the Conference, to do so, but of course, I think that it is for each Member State to decide. Thank you, Madam.

127. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to the Director-General.

128. **The Director-General:**

Madam President, while I appreciate the effort made by Portugal, let me mention that this proposal was discussed during our consultation process and, to my knowledge, it did not meet with the predominant majority of those who participated in the consultations. On one side, it puts the Member States in a different position. On the other side, of course, from my perspective, it does not use this tool which we have currently in the Organization which is very modest, I would say, between \$1 and \$3 million, in order to help with our imminent cash-flow problems. As I explained in my intervention, I am not asking you for any more contributions in proposing to take a decision on this particular issue in the year 2013. I am not asking you to do anything more that already exists in the Organization. What I am asking you is, please, not to take away what we have here and what you have contributed to the Organization, even though you may have the right to take it right now. I would ask you to do it in two years' time. So, of course, it is up to you, Member States, to take a decision on this particular issue. I just wanted to mention the fact that during the consultation, my impression was that the predominant majority of those participating were not in favour of this particular proposal. Thank you, Madam President.

129. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I give the floor to Saint Lucia.

130. **Saint Lucia:**

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to thank Portugal for this effort to find a compromise, but you see the problem is that paragraph 7 is voluntary. So we do not know who is going to pay and when they are going to pay. Now, paragraph 4 was going to allow us – with a very little sum, we have heard that it is only between \$1 and \$3 million – just to deal with emergencies. We have heard that we have a cash-flow problem, and we have just a few weeks. If we adopt the compromise, it means that we are going to wait for each Member State to decide and I am afraid the sense of urgency is not addressed by this compromise. I really urge the Member States to make an effort here. After all the speeches, after everything we have heard, I mean we are just speaking about \$1 to \$3 million. I would like really everyone to accept it and us to adopt it by consensus. Thank you.

131. **The President:**

I give the floor to France.

132. **France :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Je voudrais dire tout l'appui de la délégation française à la déclaration qui vient d'être prononcée par la Directrice générale. Je crois, en effet, que les circonstances sont exceptionnelles et que nous devons en prendre la mesure. J'ai eu l'occasion de le rappeler à cette tribune : la France est très attachée au système d'incitation au paiement rapide mais la formulation qui nous est proposée prend en compte, justement, cet attachement. Ce n'est pas, j'insiste, le système d'incitation que nous remettons en cause en prenant cette décision. C'est uniquement le fait de différer le paiement, le bénéfice qui pourrait résulter d'un paiement rapide des contributions. Je crois que la vertu consiste parfois à s'adapter aux circonstances et que nous devons consentir un effort en ce sens. Mon pays est l'un des principaux bénéficiaires de ce système, je le répète à nouveau. Pour nous, cette décision n'est pas facile à prendre mais elle nous est imposée par les circonstances. Nous n'avons pas d'autre choix. Nous sommes face à une situation d'urgence et il faut que nous en prenions toute la mesure. La vertu consiste aussi, parfois, à changer ses positions. Merci.

133. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I would like to ask you again, listening to all my colleagues, who would be supporting Canada in this issue. Israel? Canada.

134. **Canada :**

Madame la Présidente, êtes-vous en train de faire un appel au vote ? En interrogeant ainsi, individuellement, les pays, selon moi, c'est comme si vous faisiez un appel au vote.

135. **The President:**

As I see it now, if I do not see more than two countries not supporting paragraph 4, I would like to ask who is voting for and who is voting against. So, first, who is voting to adopt this resolution, with paragraph 4? Thank you very much. We need a simple majority here. Who is against? One. Two. Three. Three against. Abstentions? One. Thank you very much. *The amendment is rejected.* Now, ladies and gentlemen, according to the result of the vote, I take it that you wish to adopt the resolution contained in document 36 C/37 Add.2 Rev.2. *It is so decided.*



**Item 4.3: Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013 (36 C/46)**

**Point 4.3: Adoption de la résolution portant ouverture de crédits pour 2012-2013 (36 C/46)**

**Punto 4.3: Aprobación de la Resolución de consignación de créditos para 2012-2013 (36 C/46)**

**Пункт 4.3: Резолюция об ассигнованиях на 2012-2013 гг. (36 C/46)**

البند ٤, ٣: اعتماد قرار فتح الاعتمادات المالية لعامي ٢٠١٢-٢٠١٣ (٤٦/م٣٦)

**项目 4.3: 通过 2012-2013 年拨款决议 (36 C/46)**

136. **The President:**

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Now I would like to continue with the adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013. I would like to ask Ms Cummins, the Co-Chairperson of the Administrative Commission, to present the proposal. The floor is yours.

137. **Ms Cummins (Barbados) (Co-Chairperson of the joint meeting of commissions):**

Really and truly you have dealt with the most difficult issues before you. My presentation of the examination by the joint meeting of item 4.3, the adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013, will be very short. The joint meeting considered the revised draft Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013 in the light of its decision on documents 36 C/DR.46 and 36 C/6 Addendum. Since the modifications did not affect the approved provisional budget ceiling of \$653 million, the joint meeting adopted the revised Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013 as a whole without debate. And I am therefore pleased to submit to you the recommendation of the joint meeting contained in document 36 C/46 for approval. Thank you for your attention.

138. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Ms Cummins. So now you have the document in front of you, 36 C/46. Are there any comments? I see none. May I take it that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the Administrative Commission and adopts the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013 contained in document 36 C/46? *It is so decided.*

**Closure of the 36th session of the General Conference**

**Clôture de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale**

**Clausura de la 36<sup>a</sup> reunión de la Conferencia General**

**Заккрытие 36-й сессии Генеральной конференции**

اختتام الدورة السادسة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

大会第三十六届会议闭幕

139. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, in the absence of any other business, we may proceed with the closure of the session. The Director-General, please.

140.1 **The Director-General:**

Thank you very much, Madam President. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on 2 November, the President of Indonesia, Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, said, outside the walls of this building: "We see the onset of a new world, a world in an uneasy process of rebirth". The President called on all States to look beyond the politics of division, beyond us and them, towards what he called a new "we". This eloquent appeal for unity captures, in my view, the spirit of the 36th session of the General Conference. As we close this session, I thank all Member States for their commitment and dedication. We all know that our mandate is ambitious. To succeed, we need every State to be fully engaged. The participation of heads of State and government, from Indonesia, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Grenada, Benin, Kenya and Palau provided strong impetus. This General Conference saw excellent innovations in the debate of the Leaders' Forum and the Youth Forum. I wish to thank also the observers, the international organizations and the non-governmental organizations for nourishing our discussions. I see three conclusions arising from this General Conference, ladies and gentlemen. The first concerns leadership. We have made a clear all, a call for UNESCO to assume greater leadership across its whole mandate. This starts with education, with our work to support countries in reaching education for all. Much progress has been achieved, but the world is not on track to reach our objectives. UNESCO must lead here and we are leading. With leadership must come focus. We will continue to strengthen the education for all coordination mechanisms and we will target the specific needs of countries. Leadership and focus will also guide our action in culture. Culture must be integrated into development at the global level, and on the ground. We will lead support to Member States in strengthening science, technology and innovation policies. We will help States manage social transformations through human rights and democracy. Societies are more resilient when freedom of expression is vibrant, when knowledge is accessible to all. These are core objectives. I thank States for their strong support for the global priorities Africa and gender equality, which I am determined to take forward.

140.2 A second conclusion concerns innovation. UNESCO must tackle new issues in new ways with new partners. Our roadmap for Rio+20 embodies this innovation. Sustainability cannot rely on green economies alone. We need to build greener societies. I will bring to Rio a roadmap for sustainable development that makes the most of the transformative power of education, the sciences, culture and communication. The blueprint for ocean and coastal sustainability we launched on 1 November exemplifies our contribution. But our green societies, our green future must also be blue. The General Conference saw innovative launches in the sciences, in communication, in education and in culture, many of these undertaken with private sector partners. I thank States for their support to my commitment to develop partnerships with the private sector. Such partnerships are vital for innovative international action to tackle global

challenges. I see the Broadband Commission for Digital Development as a model of innovation. For all these, ladies and gentlemen, we need a stronger UNESCO. This is the third conclusion.

140.3 I will keep up the pace of change and build on the first results of reform. Our mandate is ambitious, and so must be our action. I know that expectations are high and I am determined we must meet them. This means all of us, Member States, our staff at Headquarters and in the field. And in these uncertain times, there is a call for a better UNESCO.

*(The Director-General continues in French)*

140.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO vit aujourd'hui un moment critique de son histoire. Nous sommes à la croisée des chemins. Nos successeurs diront si ce moment a servi de déclencheur positif pour l'UNESCO, ou pas. C'est un test pour notre Organisation. L'UNESCO doit montrer sa capacité à prendre des mesures radicales. À terme, elle en sortira plus forte et plus respectée, j'en suis convaincue. Il y a quelques semaines, nous avons déjà revu notre budget en passant à une croissance nominale zéro. J'avais souligné qu'une réduction de cette ampleur aurait un impact sur la nature et l'amplitude de nos programmes. À cela s'ajoute une perte de 22 % et la suppression des fonds de notre plus important contributeur. Aucune organisation ne peut sortir indemne d'un tel effort. Il va falloir faire des choix. Des choix difficiles. En chinois, cette situation se nomme « *Wei Ji* » – corrigez-moi, Madame l'Ambassadeur, si je ne le prononce pas correctement. C'est une situation qui comporte à la fois un risque (*Wei*) et une opportunité (*Ji*). Les risques, nous les connaissons. Selon moi, le risque le plus dangereux est celui de la division. Le devoir nous commande d'être à la hauteur de la situation, d'être responsables et de coopérer. Mais la situation nous offre aussi l'occasion d'accélérer la réforme de façon radicale, de réduire encore nos frais administratifs, de hiérarchiser nos activités, de mieux répondre aux attentes des États membres. Nous devons nous y atteler ensemble. Entre le 25 octobre et aujourd'hui, j'ai tenu plus de 107 entretiens bilatéraux. J'ai écouté vos préoccupations, vos attentes, votre soutien, vos critiques. J'ai entendu l'immense attente des peuples à l'égard de l'UNESCO. Et je compte poursuivre ce dialogue. Nous avons mis en place plusieurs nouveaux outils pour resserrer nos liens et nous poursuivrons dans cette direction. Notre projet de schéma de travail avec les commissions nationales est bien accueilli ; c'est une piste prometteuse et je m'en réjouis.

140.5 Dans ces moments difficiles, nous avons plus que jamais besoin de tous les membres de la famille UNESCO. Aujourd'hui, j'en appelle solennellement à tous les dirigeants politiques. J'en appelle à l'Administration américaine, au Congrès américain, au peuple américain : je leur demande de soutenir cette Organisation, de lui donner les moyens de remplir son mandat, vital dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. J'en appelle à tous les acteurs de la société civile qui peuvent nous soutenir. Ils sont des millions à travers le monde à vouloir apporter une contribution, petite ou grande. J'en appelle à tous nos réseaux, aux intellectuels, aux clubs, dans les écoles, dans les universités, dans les laboratoires. J'en appelle à tous ceux qui profitent tous les jours de l'action de l'UNESCO, à tous ceux qui comptent sur l'UNESCO pour protéger leur culture, pour accéder à l'éducation. Ils croient en nous. J'en appelle à tous les professionnels, à tous les responsables politiques qui bénéficient des conseils de nos experts, partout dans le monde. J'en appelle à tous les États membres, à leur sens de la responsabilité et de l'unité pour surmonter nos difficultés. Et je me dois de remercier aujourd'hui toutes les délégations qui ont exprimé leur confiance en moi, en l'équipe dirigeante et en l'Organisation. Je suis très touchée par cette confiance. Je ressens un immense sentiment de responsabilité aujourd'hui devant vous. Je remercie également tous ceux qui se sont déjà engagés en faveur de l'Organisation, soit par une contribution financière importante, comme le Gabon, que je remercie vivement, soit par un don ou un soutien plus modeste mais avec un sens immense de la responsabilité politique, comme le distingué représentant des Tonga. Ce soutien est, à mon avis, important et témoigne d'un sens aigu de la responsabilité dans les circonstances actuelles.

140.6 Je me tourne, à présent, vers vous, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale. Tout au long de cette session, vous avez su faire valoir le point de vue de chacun, dans une atmosphère de respect mutuel. C'est le meilleur climat que l'on pouvait imaginer pour aborder les questions difficiles qui nous préoccupent. En signe de notre reconnaissance, permettez que je vous remette ce maillot, avec lequel vous pouvez clôturer notre Conférence générale. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

*La Directrice générale remet un marteau de séance à la Présidente*

*(Applaudissements)*

**141.1 The President:**

Thank you very much. I will use it at the very end. But you see, when you have a piano on the stage, something is going to happen.

141.2 Dear friends, the General Conference has established two important international days: World Radio Day and International Jazz Day, each of them celebrating the art of listening, inspiration, connectivity, free flow of information and free flow of emotion. I remember very well in my youth listening to Radio Free Europe or Radio Luxembourg, or the BBC under the cover of my pillows, like millions of people behind the Iron Curtain, denied their right to free information and hungry for the news transmitted from the free world. And I remember the times as a young broadcaster, using this medium for transmitting important messages, at times hidden between the spoken words to offer comfort and keep the glimmer of hope alive in people's hearts. The proclamation of World Radio Day proposed by Spain is an important gesture and tool for free flow of information. The human quest for freedom often finds expression in music. As you may know, upon the proposal of the United States of America, supported by 17 other Member States, including Hungary, the General Conference proclaimed 30 April as International Jazz Day. Jazz is a liberating experience. It is no wonder that as a gateway to personal freedom, jazz was perceived as a serious threat by totalitarian regimes. I remember again that in many countries, jazz was simply banned or considered dangerous, because it is a tool for free flow of emotion. For me, jazz embodies perfectly the synthesis of different cultures and traditions into a common language of humanity. It is synonymous with the idea of rapprochement of cultures. Before I conclude my speech, I would like to ask my very dear

friend the celebrated jazz pianist, composer, musician, George Vukán, to come to the stage and refresh our souls with the music that he is bringing to us. Ladies and gentlemen, George Vukán.

*(Musical interlude)*

#### 142.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much. The maestro will come back. Madam Director-General, dear friends, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, many of you may remember that in response to my official nomination to this post by the Executive Board, my spontaneous reflections touched upon Sir Georg Solti, the great Hungarian-born conductor of the twentieth century whose life and works the General Conference has decided to celebrate next year. Thank you for that. He established the World Orchestra for Peace in 1995 to inspire leaders and politicians with a living example of international cooperation. Talking in tune was my main aim throughout the incredible few weeks of our General Conference, and talking with dignity to each other, even when our differences held sway, was my main preoccupation in the turbulent moments.

142.2 Indeed the differences were at times pronounced in our opinions and visions, and the spirit of consensus was difficult to bring to bear on some issues. We can have political differences, this is normal. For me, the question is how do we handle them? I would still argue that we handle them through dialogue, through the art of cultured diplomacy, through the art of listening in order to try not to misunderstand each other.

142.3 We need to give a real sense to the notion of dialogue. *Dialogos* is a Greek compound word widely mistranslated and wrongly understood because of the confusion between *duo* and *dia*. It does not mean a conversation between two people or two groups, but an acceptance by two participants or more that they will compare and contrast their respective arguments to the very end. Dialogue is accordingly a perilous enterprise, for it implies a risk that either participant may find his or her argument transformed and thus their very identity put to the test. Dialogue is not designed to lead to a definite conclusion. It retains - even when this is not apparent - a latent conversational quality. And this shines through in its written form. That keeps it alive.

142.4 You will agree with me that we have to renew our commitment to intercultural dialogue, keeping in our hearts and minds verses of Jalal-ud-Din: "*Half of me comes from here, half from everywhere, half of me comes from the pearls of the sea, half from distant shores*". We people of the world are connected to each other globally and today our interdependence is greater than ever. My dear friends, our big family has become bigger. We have acquired two new Associate Members: Curaçao and Sint Maarten, a new Member, South Sudan, and the decision has been made to admit another Member, Palestine, to this Organization. The new Members of our family have rich cultures, histories and fascinating traditions, and they are facing formidable challenges in securing a peaceful future for their children. As with all families the new Members enrich the diversity of UNESCO and compel us to seek ways to resolve the problems that their societies currently face.

142.5 The ability to assist the fledging Members to build open, tolerant and stable societies will serve as a litmus test for the relevance of UNESCO in the rapidly transforming world. We will all have to work in concert to successfully pass this test. The price of failure is prohibitively high. We need to remain true and committed to the mission of UNESCO. Advancing through the educational and cultural and scientific relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind to overcome the existing divisions and to ensure a better future for our children. We should live out the idea of the culture of peace, for as Mahatma Gandhi has warned, if we practise an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, soon the whole world will be blind and toothless.

142.6 Ladies and gentlemen, the real voyage of discovery, Marcel Proust remarked, consists not in finding new land but in seeing with new eyes. The highly engaging and dynamic Leaders' Forum is a good example of an innovative approach that enriched the work of the General Conference with bold ideas expressed directly by world leaders. These ideas, especially as they pertain to a culture of peace and to sustainable development, must be reflected in the strategic documents of UNESCO. I would like to congratulate the Secretariat, and especially the Office of the Director-General and the Bureau of Strategic Planning, for such truly innovative elements of this General Conference.

142.7 The 36th session of the General Conference broke several records in a positive way. At its plenary meetings and within the various commissions and committees, it considered 80 draft resolutions, working tirelessly to fulfil its role as a policy-setter of UNESCO. The General Conference benefited from the high-level engagement of numerous heads of State, presidents, prime ministers, ministers and special guests.

142.8 The General Conference also oversaw the election of the new Members of the Executive Board and members of the various intergovernmental bodies. I congratulate the new members of these important organs of UNESCO, and wish them success in carrying out their important duties.

142.9 Dear colleagues, we also need to remember that the strength of our Organization lies in the internal unity and cohesion of its constituent parts. UNESCO was conceived from the very beginning as a tripartite body with a General Conference, an Executive Board and a Secretariat working in harmony in pursuit of the Organization's constitutional mandate. The close collaboration among the three organs, based on a culture of mutual trust, respect and understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities, will be ever more important for the Organization in the trying times ahead. We the Member States of UNESCO value greatly the dedicated work of the Secretariat towards achieving our noble mission, and look forward to providing the necessary support and guidance. I strongly believe that we need to improve the visibility of the vital work carried out within UNESCO's bodies; we need to raise awareness about their important functions and roles, through all available communication tools, including the Web and other information technologies.

142.10 As I promised earlier, I am here for you with an open heart, to listen to your comments, suggestions or criticisms as attentively as ever, work with you through disagreements, mediate when necessary and seek universally acceptable solutions. We indeed have much to accomplish together, as decreed by the General Conference. The close collaboration expected between the Executive Board, the President of the General Conference and the Director-General in the follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of UNESCO is one good example of our future interaction.

142.11 Distinguished delegates, the efforts required to ensure the successful performance of the General Conference are truly herculean. I have witnessed them during this period, behind the scenes, in the corridors and the offices of the Secretariat. If you, the distinguished delegates, represent an orchestra of the nations of the world, the dedicated staff of the Secretariat truly run the show, making sure that all the conditions are in place for us to produce harmony and avoid cacophony in this hall.

142.12 I have special gratitude to express to the leadership of this Organization, first and foremost to my dear friend the Director-General, wishing her all possible strength, success and wisdom and offering my humble support in the coming journey of this Organization. I wish to salute as well the Deputy Director-General and the Assistant Directors-General. This was an extremely demanding session that you have managed with exceptional skill and professional capacity.

142.13 It was a real pleasure for me to work closely with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the General Conference, Michael Millward and Luis Salamanques. My big thank you goes to my new team, personal assistant Irakli Khodeli and the secretary of the President's office, Inés Mens.

142.14 We all acknowledge the dedicated work of the support personnel – the interpreters and translators who have served with high competence and patience, as well as the printing departments, the security, the telephone and information technology (IT) services, the janitorial staff, and the brilliant medical staff and doctors - all those who spent countless hours making this house a pleasant and welcoming place for thousands of people.

142.15 Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as the 36th session of the General Conference comes to an end, a new phase of our work is beginning, a phase that I consider most critical for all the organs of UNESCO. This is a complex responsibility on which we will have to deliver together, in the spirit of unity and common purpose.

142.16 Let me quote a Hungarian poet, Attila József:

*"I want to work. For it is battle enough  
Having a past such as this to confess.  
In the Danube's waves past, present and future  
Are all-embracing in a soft caress.  
The great battle which our ancestors once fought  
Resolves into peace through the memories,  
And to settle at last our communal affairs  
Remains our task and none too small it is."*

142.17 This poem is inspired by the river Danube, one of the largest rivers in Europe that connects diverse cultures and peoples. As you all know, I see our global cultural space as a source of inspiration and not a burden. Like healthy roots that support colossal trees and their branches, our cultural roots provide us with identities, with inspiration and with the awareness of the richness of other cultures and traditions. I could not possibly demonstrate this message better than through a simple tune by Béla Bartók: "An evening at the village," and ask George Vukán to transform and enrich it by the free spirit of jazz. Thank you.

*(Musical interlude)*

143. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, while we are watching these beautiful pictures we will remember all the moments we experienced together, thinking: all right, that was the moment, I remember. And I would like really to say what a General Conference it was. Thank you very much for all your ideas, for sharing all your experiences, for being so honest. That was a great honour for me. And now, using this beautiful new gavel, I would like to declare that the 36th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is **closed**.

*(Applause)*

*The meeting rose at 9.00 p.m.  
La séance est levée à 21 h 00  
Se levanta la sesión a las 21.00  
Заседание закрывается в 21.00  
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٩,٠٠ مساءً  
会议于 21 时结束*

List of delegates,  
representatives and observers

Liste des délégués,  
représentants et observateurs

Lista de delegados,  
representantes y observadores

Список делегатов,  
представителей и наблюдателей

قائمة بأسماء أعضاء  
الوفود والممثلين والمراقبين

代表团成员、代表及观察员名单

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**Estados Miembros**  
**Государства-члены**  
**الدول الأعضاء**  
**会员国**

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Institutions spécialisées en relation avec l'UNESCO

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ليتوانيا /立陶宛

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ماليزيا / 马来西亚

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Ministry of Women, Family and Community  
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**Maldives/Maldivas/Мальдивские Острова/**

المديف / 马尔代夫

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موريشيوس / 毛里求斯

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**Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée/**

**Papua New Guinea/Papua Nueva Guinea/**

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Mr Jan Van den Akker  
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(*Chef adjoint de la délégation*)

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**République arabe syrienne/Syrian Arab Republic/  
República Árabe Siria/Сирийская Арабская  
Республика/الجمهورية العربية السورية/  
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**République centrafricaine/  
Central African Republic/  
República Centroafricana/  
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**République de Corée/Republic of Korea/  
República de Corea/Республика Корея/  
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**République de Moldova/Republic of Moldova/  
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**République démocratique du Congo/**  
**Democratic Republic of the Congo/**  
**República Democrática del Congo/**  
**Демократическая Республика Конго/**  
جمهورية الكونغو الديمقراطية / 刚果民主共和国

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**République démocratique populaire lao/  
Lao People's Democratic Republic/  
República Democrática Popular Lao/  
Лаосская Народно-Демократическая  
Республика/جمهورية لاو الديمقراطية الشعبية /  
老挝人民民主共和国**

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**République populaire démocratique de Corée/  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea/  
República Popular Democrática de Corea/  
Корейская Народно-Демократическая  
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Irlanda del Norte/Соединенное Королевство  
Великобритании и Северной Ирландии/**

**المملكة المتحدة لبريطانيا العظمى وايرلندا الشمالية**

**大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国**

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Mr. Simon Smith  
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**Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis/Saint Kitts and Nevis/**

**Saint Kitts y Nevis/Сент-Китс и Невис/**

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**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines/**

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**Сент-Винсент и Гренадины/**

**سانت فنسنت و غرينادين / 圣文森特和格林纳丁斯**

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### III

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