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Organización
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Opening Remarks

by

**His Excellency Ambassador Michael Worbs
Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO**

**on the occasion of the Sixth Intersessional Meeting (INX.6)
of the Executive Board Members**

**UNESCO House, Room X
6 December 2016**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you all, Members of the Executive Board, as well as Member States non-Member of the Executive Board as observers with enhanced participation status, to our sixth Intersessional meeting of the year.

I also welcome the Director-General and thank her for participating in today's meeting.

You will recall, while we had originally established a calendar for this year's Intersessional Meetings, and upon my proposal, we agreed that the scheduled December meeting would be an excellent opportunity begin the evaluation process of the utility and effectiveness of the intersessional meetings which have been established on the experimental basis, as initially foreseen in 197 EX/Decision 28 and 44.

However, at its last session, the Board – in 200 EX/Decision 13 part I (paragraph 13) – decided to continue interactive consultations until the end of 2016, on the preparation of the draft 39 C/5, within the framework of the information meetings organized by the Secretariat and these Intersessional Meetings.

For that reason, today's discussion, as well as the meeting we will have on 16 December will be entirely dedicated to the preparation of the draft 39C/5.

Last month, during the Strategic Financing Dialogue discussions, Members had an opportunity to hear from the Secretariat about the current financial situation and how it relates to the implementation of the 38 C/5.

The Secretariat was able to pull together all relevant and up-to-date financial data to provide a snapshot of the funds available. Those November meetings were also an opportunity to gain better insights into the tools that will be at our disposal in the future for the financing of our Organization from a Regular Programme perspective, as well as from the broad spectrum of extra budgetary funding sources available to UNESCO.

As I mentioned in my reminder e-mail sent yesterday, today's meeting is your opportunity to undertake a true exchange with the Secretariat – so that together we may share our expectations with a view to crafting a Programme that will address the Overarching Objectives and Global Priorities as outlined in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014 and 2021, as approved by the General Conference.

Today's discussion should not be seen in the same light at the prioritization exercise the Board undertook in 2013. Time has passed, and things have changed... What occurred then was an ex-post facto necessity to tackle a financial challenge the Organization was facing. What were priorities then, may no longer be so. The international development agenda has changed, we must ask ourselves what we expect UNESCO to deliver during the coming four years and we now have a genuine opportunity to proactively influence the C/5 document that will be presented to the General Conference for adoption in November, PRIOR to it being prepared by the Secretariat in the New Year...

The work ahead of us in our spring and autumn sessions represents a unique opportunity for the Board to contribute our opinions and expectations relating to the next Programme and Budget for the Organization that we want.

I would say that it is the beginning of a New Chapter in the life of our organization, born out the necessity.

Dear Colleagues, in preparation for today's meeting I held consultations with each of the Programme Sector ADGs, BSP and the CFO.

I asked them all to ensure that their interventions during today's meeting – as well as during our meeting on 16 December –concentrate on the preliminary proposals for the 39 C/5.

I have also asked them to share with us their priorities for the coming quadrennium, as well as to highlight the challenges they will face in preparing the draft C/5 document, in light of the financial situation we face, and to share with us some of the ways in which they think they will be able to solicit extra budgetary funding to implement their Programme.

Since the November information meetings, the Director-General has issued budget envelopes for each Sector. So, it will also be an opportunity for the ADGs to share some concrete numbers with us, so that we may begin to understand the financial constraints that the Secretariat is facing.

I believe that our December meetings represent an unprecedented occasion for an open and frank discussion pertaining to the draft 39 C/5 document.

It is also an excellent opportunity for all of us to express our opinions on what our Programmatic expectations are for UNESCO over the coming 4 years.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I mentioned in my email to you last Wednesday, after the Director-General's opening remarks, and our Q&A session with her, I will invite the ADG for Education, Mr Tang to make a short presentation on Major Programme 1.

While time is tight, I do expect that we can conclude our discussion on Major Programme 1 by the end of this morning.

At 3 this afternoon, we will continue with Culture and conclude with CI.

In order to ensure effective dialogue amongst the participating Members and the Secretariat, I encourage you to formulate your questions relative to the elaboration of the draft 39 C/5 of these 3 Sectors, bearing in mind the outcomes of the previous Intersessional meetings that took place in September, as well as the information provided during the three sectoral Information Meetings on the Structured Financing Dialogue for the 39 C/5 last month.

Thank you for your attention.