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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Remarks

by

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

**on the occasion of the Opening of the Second Meeting of the
SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee**

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

Mr Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education, representative of the Director-General of UNESCO,
Madam Ambassador Dessima Williams, Special Adviser to the President of the United Nations General Assembly for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
Mr Dankert Vedeler, Assistant Director-General, Ministry of Education, Norway, Co-Chairperson of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee
Honourable Ministers, Excellences, Distinguished members of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you on behalf of all Members of the Executive Board of UNESCO, and in my own name, to this second meeting of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee.

In particular, I would like to welcome the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, the Special Adviser for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Ms Dessima Williams, and, of course, the esteemed members of the Education 2030 Steering Committee.

The Executive Board has steadfastly supported the work of UNESCO's Director-General and our colleagues in the Education Sector to ensure that Quality Education For All was fully integrated into the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In this regard, let me reiterate the importance Members gave to both the Incheon Declaration and the Education 2030 Framework for Action adopted by 184 Member States in 2015.

The Board is satisfied that the entire education community mandated UNESCO to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, and we recognize the honour placed in UNESCO to act as coordinator for the implementation of SDG 4.

The Director-General and the Secretariat should be congratulated for the intellectual leadership shown by UNESCO and the excellent work done over the past years, resulting in a strong education goal.

We recognize the importance of working closely together with all UN Agencies and other international and regional Intergovernmental Organizations who are stakeholders and key players in the implementation of all targets to fully achieve the Goal of ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning.

It is important to note that, while we all have a key role to play in guiding and supporting the implementation of the global education agenda, the primary responsibility for its implementation lies with Member States.

This is why I am also very pleased to note that the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, convened by UNESCO, is a multi-stakeholder committee in which Member States form the majority, with three countries representing each of the six regional groups. As representatives, you shall brief Member States on the outcomes of Steering Committee meetings.

The Committee first met earlier this year, in May, and focused on its mandate.

Today, your objective included a discussion on concrete deliverables of the Steering Committee.

In this regard, I look forward to seeing the activities that you will agree upon. As Chairperson of the Executive Board, I will duly convey your decisions to the Executive Board at its coming Spring session in April.

In fact, just the other day during an Intersessional Meeting, Members of the UNESCO community benefitted from a presentation by ADG Tang, during which we were informed that SDG4-Education 2030 will be the priority for UNESCO's Programme during 2018-2021.

We were told that the Education Sector will seek to develop a holistic strategy for the implementation of the global education agenda and plan how to contribute to the achievement of other SDGs together with all other programme sectors.

It is during meetings like this important session of the Steering Committee that your deliberations and discussions will help to greatly contribute to defining UNESCO's programme strategy.

Meeting in UNESCO's Executive Board lends itself well to such a discussion. Its round table seated under a ceiling - held up by one central keystone – facilitates dialogue and a convergence towards consensus...

Thus throughout the next two days, I wish you every success in your deliberations, and look forward to the outcomes of your work.

Thank you for your attention.