



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Welcoming Remarks

Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO

H.E. Ambassador Michael WORBS

on the occasion of the celebration of the 200th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO

UNESCO House – Room X – 7 October 2016

Excellences, Mesdames et messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte cette session du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO.

Etant donné qu'il s'agit de la 200^{ème} session, j'ai souhaité opter pour un format un peu plus différent qu'à l'habitude afin de marquer ce moment spécial.

Ainsi, alors que nous nous apprêtons à étudier la façon dont l'UNESCO peut mettre en œuvre l'agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, et à fixer les priorités de l'Organisation pour les années à venir (2018-2021), il m'a semblé opportun de faire un voyage dans le passé afin de nous inspirer de nos prédécesseurs.

To celebrate the 200th session, we have prepared a booklet¹ that looks back on the way that the Board has changed over the past 71 years. It is a memento of the Board's past achievements. It should give us all a sense of pride in the institution for which we are so passionately engaged.

A short film has also been produced in celebration of today's meeting.

Let us now take a moment to walk down memory lane by watching this clip, which, I think captures the essence of the Board's work – and how it has evolved in an ever-changing world.

Introduction to the video² celebrating the 200th Session of the Executive Board

One of UNESCO's three organs, including the General Conference and the Secretariat, the Executive Board has a constitutional mandate "to ensure the effective and rational execution of the [Organization's] Programme".

We are entrusted by the General Conference, to carry out the day-to-day supervision of the implementation of the Programme – and we do so in collaboration with the Director-General and her team.

¹ Link to booklet: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002461/246133m.pdf>

² Link to video: <https://youtu.be/KmgoubJWXNI>

Of course, the mandate of UNESCO is at the heart of our work, mindful of the experiences gained and wisdom received from our predecessors throughout the past seventy years.

In nineteen forty-five our fledgling Organization was founded by thirty-seven Members. Everyone was ready to adhere to our ambitious motto: to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men and women.

Seventy years later, UNESCO has grown into the most universally-representative UN Organization with one-hundred and ninety-five Member States and ten Associate Members.

Throughout the years, the scope of our work has changed and membership in the Executive Board has grown. Initially the Board was comprised of eighteen Representatives – renowned individuals, nominated in their personal capacity from amongst the Member States of the Organization.

Today – as you know – we are 58 colleagues who act as Representatives of Member States, a subtle change that occurred in the early 1990s, following the major reform of its membership initiated by Japan.

Le monde dans lequel nous vivons aujourd'hui a considérablement changé - mais notre objectif conserve toute sa pertinence au XXI^e siècle.

Cette vidéo capture l'essence du travail du Conseil exécutif, prouvant son utilité et sa pertinence dans ce monde en constante évolution.