



General Conference
35th session, Paris 2009

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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,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Plenary meeting

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21 October 2009
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TRIBUTE TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The General Conference,

Considering that the term of office of Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, will end on 14 November 2009,

Mindful of his deep commitment to the principles which guided the creation of UNESCO, and to which he has sought to give renewed vigour and relevance,

Fully endorses the tribute paid to him by the Executive Board on 23 September 2009, which reads as follows:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling that Mr Koïchiro Matsuura was appointed to the office of Director-General by the General Conference at its 30th session on 15 November 1999 and that his appointment was unanimously renewed by the General Conference at its 33rd session on 15 November 2005 for a second term, which will expire on 14 November 2009,
2. Considering his profound dedication to the ideals of UNESCO, which he has promoted with vigour and resolve, and his devotion to the principles of multilateralism,
3. Recognizing his commitment to an inclusive and participatory form of governance, as shown by the constructive and respectful dialogue he has established with the Executive Board and his willingness to engage frankly with permanent delegations,
4. Recognizing also his determination to restore universality to the Organization, which has resulted in the return of the United States and Singapore and the accession of new members to bring the total membership to 193 countries, together with his constant efforts to extend UNESCO's outreach through partnerships with different stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental, public and private,

5. Noting with satisfaction that under his stewardship UNESCO has gained renewed relevance and purpose by playing to its strengths and focusing on priority areas where it has global-led responsibilities, such as achieving basic education for all (EFA), promoting sustainable freshwater management, addressing the ethical challenges of scientific progress, protecting the world's cultural diversity and championing freedom of expression,
6. Welcoming the special attention he has given to the needs of the most vulnerable populations and countries, in particular the Organization's overarching priorities of Africa and gender equality, and the expansion of UNESCO's work in post-conflict and post-disaster situations,
7. Highly appreciating the increased impetus he has given to UNESCO's role as capacity builder and technical adviser to governments, and the initiatives he has led over the past 10 years to bolster the Organization's functions as catalyst for international cooperation, standard-setter and promoter of ideas and best practices, as evidenced in landmark conferences (such as the world education conferences), major conventions and declarations (such as those on cultural diversity, underwater heritage, intangible heritage, diversity of cultural expressions, bioethics, anti-doping in sport), and benchmark reports (such as the EFA Global Monitoring Report and the World Water Development Report),
8. Applauding the decisive measures he has taken to strengthen the Organization's country-level action, including through rationalizing and reinforcing the field network and working relentlessly to enhance UNESCO's contribution to the United Nations system-wide effort to "deliver as one",
9. Commending his bold efforts to modernize UNESCO, despite severe budget constraints, with the establishment of effective internal oversight, the strengthening of results-based management, the development of a comprehensive set of human resources policies (with, *inter alia*, significant progress in geographical distribution and gender balance) and the introduction of new information and accounting tools,
10. Appreciating his professionalism, humility and integrity, together with the spirit of *wa* – the strong belief in harmony and in working patiently through consensus which he has imparted to the Organization and to all those who have had the honour to work with him over the years,
11. Pays solemn tribute to Mr Koïchiro Matsuura at its plenary meeting on 23 September 2009 and conveys to him its sincere gratitude;
12. Expresses the hope that the coming years will afford him many sources of satisfaction and offer him further opportunities of giving the international community the benefit of his wisdom and his tireless devotion to the great causes of humanity.