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Quels que soient les termes utilisés dans les textes du présent recueil pour désigner les personnes exerçant des charges, mandats ou fonctions, il va de soi que les titulaires de tous les postes ou sièges correspondants peuvent être indifféremment des femmes ou des hommes.

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16.XIX Création, à Thessalonique (Grèce), d'un centre de gestion intégrée et pluridisciplinaire des ressources en eau

16.XX Création, à Yaoundé (Cameroun), d'un centre d'excellence en microscience (CEM)

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20.VI Application de la Recommandation sur la reconnaissance des études et des titres de l'enseignement supérieur (1993)

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PREMIÈRE SÉANCE

Lundi 12 octobre 2015 à 10 h 10

Président: M. Amr

OPENING OF THE 197TH SESSION

1. **The Chair** declared the 197th session of the Executive Board open.

Inauguration of Room X following its renovation

2. **The Chair** invited the Board to watch a short film showing highlights of the renovation process.

A short film was screened on the renovation of Room X.

٣,١ قال **رئيس المجلس التنفيذي** إنّ الاحتفال بالمناسبات يتيح للمرء دائماً التفكير فيما أنجزه في الماضي وما يتطلع إليه في المستقبل معتبراً الاحتفال بالذكرى السنوية السبعين لإنشاء اليونسكو فرصة للتفكير في كيفية الارتقاء بالمنظمة وتمكينها من مواكبة التطورات، وكذلك في كيفية تمكين المجلس التنفيذي من ممارسة مهامه في ظروف تناسب متطلبات القرن الحادي والعشرين. وذكر المساهمات المالية والعينية التي قدّمها عدد من الدول الأعضاء والشركاء غير الحكوميين والأفراد من أجل تجديد قاعة المجلس التنفيذي، واعتبر تلك المساهمات هدايا تلقتها اليونسكو بمناسبة الاحتفال بالذكرى السنوية السبعين لإنشائها.

٣,٢ وقال رئيس المجلس التنفيذي إنّه كان يشعر حقاً بالفرح عندما كان يهاتف أو يقابل من قرروا المساهمة في تجديد قاعة المجلس التنفيذي عن طريق تقديم مساهمات مالية أو عينية أو حتى بتأييد الفكرة تأييداً معنوياً أو بالحضور لمتابعة أشغال التجديد. وأكّد سروره بكل تلك المساهمات سواء أكانت مادية أم معنوية، إذ تنمّ جميعها عن إيمان كل الدول الأعضاء الراسخ بدور اليونسكو، وعن حرصها على الارتقاء بالمنظمة وتحسين أدائها. وقال أيضاً إنّ تجربة تجديد قاعة المجلس التنفيذي التاريخية وتطويرها مع المحافظة على قيمتها التراثية تثبت أنّ الدول الأعضاء تستطيع فعل الكثير من أجل المنظمة، معتبراً هذه التجربة نموذجاً ينبغي أن يُحتذى به لتجديد سائر قاعات اليونسكو، وداعياً الجميع إلى التآزر فيما بينهم والتعاون مع الأمانة والمديرة العامة من أجل توفير الدعم اللازم لذلك. وتعهّد بمواصلة العمل مع سائر أعضاء المجلس من أجل الوفاء، قدر المستطاع، بالتزامات اليونسكو تجاه العالم الخارجي الذي ما زال ينتظر منها الكثير.

(3.1) **Le Président** dit que la commémoration d'événements offre toujours l'occasion de réfléchir aux réalisations passées et aux aspirations futures, et que la célébration du 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO est donc l'occasion de réfléchir à la façon de développer l'Organisation et de faire en sorte qu'elle soit en phase avec les évolutions du moment, mais aussi à la façon de rendre le Conseil exécutif à même de remplir ses fonctions compte tenu des exigences du XXIe siècle. Il ajoute que les contributions en espèces ou en nature qu'un certain nombre d'États membres, de partenaires non gouvernementaux et de particuliers ont apportées pour la rénovation de la salle du Conseil exécutif sont autant de cadeaux offerts à l'UNESCO à l'occasion des célébrations de son 70e anniversaire.

(3.2) Le Président éprouvait une véritable joie après chaque appel ou rencontre avec ceux qui avaient décidé d'apporter un appui en espèces ou en nature pour la rénovation de la salle du Conseil exécutif, ou de soutenir moralement le projet, ou lorsqu'on venait sur place pour suivre le déroulement des travaux. Sa joie tenait au fait que toutes les contributions – en espèces ou en nature – témoignaient d'une profonde foi, de la part de tous les Etats membres, dans le rôle de l'Organisation ainsi que de leur volonté de développer l'UNESCO et d'améliorer son fonctionnement. L'expérience consistant à rénover et moderniser la salle historique du Conseil exécutif, tout en préservant sa valeur patrimoniale, prouve que les Etats membres peuvent faire beaucoup pour l'Organisation. Cette expérience doit être étendue à toutes les salles de l'Organisation, et c'est pourquoi il invite toutes les parties à unir leurs efforts et à coopérer avec le Secrétariat et la Directrice générale en leur fournissant l'appui nécessaire à cette fin. Pour sa part, il poursuivra son action auprès des Membres du Conseil exécutif pour permettre à l'Organisation, dans la mesure du possible, de tenir ses engagements à l'égard du monde extérieur, qui attend encore beaucoup de l'UNESCO.

3.3 Poursuivant en français le Président fait observer qu'inaugurée en 1968, la salle X n'a fait l'objet, en 50 ans, que de travaux mineurs de rénovation. Il signale que les donateurs présents pourront exposer au Conseil, au moment où l'Organisation s'apprête à fêter son 70e anniversaire, le sens de leur implication dans ce nécessaire projet de rénovation.

3.4 Continuing in English, the Chair described how the project to renovate Room X had come into being and evolved over the course of his mandate, with the encouragement and invaluable advice of three former Chairs of the Board: Ms Alissandra Cummins, Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova and Ms Sonia Mendieta de Badaroux who, together with Mr Olabiyi Yaï, had been his mentors since he had taken office. He wished to highlight an aspect of the renovation project that was no longer visible: the infrastructure work that had brought the wiring up to standard, made the lighting system more energy efficient and incorporated wheelchair accessibility into the design. He had also been supported by the Headquarters Committee, which had authorized him to proceed and to raise over €1 million in extrabudgetary funding from Member States, non-governmental partners and individual donors. The question of funding had, in fact, been a major stumbling block to previous renovation plans, which had been shelved owing to perceived difficulties in securing the necessary amount. Nevertheless, contributions had slowly begun to materialize and further pledges were still being made. In that regard, he expressed appreciation for the latest donation received from Bahrain, whose name would be added to the list of contributors on the plaque outside Room X. The next challenge had been one of time. Against all the odds, and contrary to expectations, the transformation of both Room X and the delegates' lounge had been accomplished in just under three months. A ceremony to inaugurate the lounge, refurbished by the French company Roche Bobois, would take place immediately after the present meeting.

3.5 Expressing gratitude to all those that had played a key role in ensuring a successful outcome to the project, he paid tribute in particular to the Director-General, who had placed competent people at his disposal within the framework of a new type of contract known as a "tripartite agreement", which might prove useful for future renovation works within the Organization; to the Legal Advisor, Ms Anna Segall, and her colleagues in the Office of

International Standards and Legal Affairs for their advice and support; to Ms Khadija Zammouri-Ribes and her team in the Bureau for the Management of Support Services (MSS), especially Ms Marilu Blanco-Borra, Mr Jacques Duflos and the teams of skilled electricians and carpenters, among others, for their professionalism, dedication and amiability in the face of many difficulties; to Ms Ingrid Regien, Mr Gyula Bognár, Mr Alain Joly and their teams in the Division of Knowledge Management and Information Systems (KMI), who had worked until the last minute to ensure that the technology in Room X was working and ready to meet the needs of the Board in time for the opening of the session; to his personal assistants Ms Victoria Moorhead and Mr Frederick Russell-Rivoallan, who had overseen the overall coordination; and to Mr Albert Hazan, who had acted as the focal point for the two dozen team members from six companies in three countries who had worked around the clock to complete the project. There were still three key tasks to be done to make Room X into the space that the Executive Board deserved, and for which further contributions would be required: replacing the window, adding an additional row of seats to increase the room's capacity even more and installing two screens on either side of the room to facilitate the use of paperless technologies.

4.1 **The Director-General**, speaking at the invitation of the Chair, said that the inauguration of Room X was a special moment for the Executive Board and the entire Organization in view of the room's mythical status as the setting for debate and decision-making on the work and future of UNESCO by great humanists, intellectuals and political figures, and the fact that it was the place where Board Members spent a good deal of their time. The impressive renovation project, including the refurbishment of the delegates' lounge, deserved to be applauded for providing the Board with a modern, innovative, functional yet beautiful space in which to conduct its business. Commending the Chair on his vision and leadership in bringing the project to a successful conclusion in three months, as well as on the conviction he demonstrated in mobilizing the support of Member States and non-governmental partners, she expressed appreciation to the former Chairs of the Executive Board, the various donors, and the contractors for their role in carrying the project forward.

4.2 La Directrice générale, poursuivant en français, affirme que la rénovation de la salle X, qui coïncide avec la célébration du 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, est un beau symbole. Presque toutes les salles de réunion correspondent à une étape de l'histoire de l'Organisation et conservent la mémoire des pays et des donateurs qui leur ont laissé une empreinte. Dans le monde sous pression d'aujourd'hui, le rôle de l'UNESCO n'a jamais été aussi essentiel, et les discussions menées au sein du Conseil, comme les décisions qui y sont adoptées, revêtent une importance capitale. Aussi la Directrice générale adresse-t-elle de nouveau ses remerciements au Président du Conseil, à tous les États membres et aux partenaires qui ont participé à cette belle aventure.

5. **The President of the General Conference**, speaking at the invitation of the Chair, expressed his personal satisfaction at the completion of the long-awaited renovation of Room X and congratulated those whose tireless efforts had helped to mobilize the necessary resources and the Member States that had responded by providing generous contributions. In his own name and on behalf of the Member States, he expressed deep appreciation to the Chair of the Executive Board for his enthusiasm, persistence and dedication in working through the summer, while others were on vacation, to ensure that the newly renovated room was ready in time for the session of the Board that coincided with the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Its inauguration should be regarded as an opportunity to give the Organization renewed impetus to fulfil its mandate of building peace in the minds of men and women, and to contribute to the recently adopted sustainable development goals. Room X was a place of friendship, cooperation, solidarity and development and he wished the Board every success for the meetings that would be held there.

6. **The Chair** thanked the Director-General and the President of the General Conference for their kind words. Commending the donors for their generosity and engagement, he paid tribute in particular to those that had been unable to attend the inauguration: Ms Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan; Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani, Chairman of Al Faisal Holding; Mr Wafic Rida Saïd, Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Mr Zurab Tsereteli, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador; and Hisense Co. Ltd., which had provided the screens. He invited representatives of States Members of the Board and of other Member States to take the floor.

7. Le représentant de l'**Angola** dit que la décision du Président de la République angolaise de contribuer à la rénovation de la salle X est le signe de la détermination du Gouvernement angolais à servir les objectifs de l'UNESCO, malgré les contraintes financières liées au prix du pétrole à l'échelle mondiale. Il ajoute que son pays s'engage en faveur de la consolidation de la culture de la paix, de la démocratie et du pluralisme politique et, dans la mesure de ses possibilités, du rôle de l'UNESCO dans le monde.

8.1 The representative of **Azerbaijan** said that it had been an honour for his country to be part of the team of donors supporting and accompanying UNESCO in the task of renovating an historic symbol of cooperation and dialogue. He commended the Director-General on her active support for the project, expressed his gratitude to fellow donors and thanked the Chair of the Executive Board for his dedication and constant optimism in making his idea a reality. He then read out a message from the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Ms Aliyeva, in which she conveyed her best wishes on the inauguration of Room X, which embodied the principles of cooperation, solidarity and dialogue among nations that UNESCO had fostered and defended for seven decades, as well as her hope that all future decisions made there would be guided by the Organization's high moral values of peace and mutual respect.

8.2 Poursuivant en français, le représentant de l'Azerbaïdjan rappelle que, dans le contexte mondial actuel souvent troublé et violent, alors que les attaques contre les valeurs que défend l'Organisation sont quotidiennes, les États membres doivent afficher collectivement, par leur action, une foi intacte dans le dialogue et la paix afin de se montrer dignes des fondateurs de l'UNESCO. C'est en ce sens que l'Azerbaïdjan entend contribuer à la coopération internationale, à la solidarité et à la défense des valeurs de l'Organisation.

٩,١ أعربت ممثلة **البحرين** عن تضامن بلدها مع منظمة اليونسكو التي اعتبرتها حصناً جامعاً وفضاءً مشتركاً للتربية والعلم والثقافة، وأشادت بالجهود الخيّرة والعديدة والمتنوعة التي تضطلع بها المنظمة في مجالات اختصاصها. وذكرت أن مملكة البحرين حرصت أن تكون ضمن الدول المتبرعة لإعادة

toujours, le Royaume de Bahreïn est tout à fait disposé à contribuer à toute mesure prise en faveur de l'éducation, de l'enseignement, des sciences et de la culture.

10. Le représentant du **Cameroun** félicite chaleureusement le Président du Conseil pour son initiative et la qualité des travaux de rénovation réalisés. L'histoire du Cameroun, sa foi en l'UNESCO et en ses idéaux, la vision qu'a son Président de la solidarité internationale et son soutien aux ambitieuses réformes engagées par la Directrice générale sous-tendent l'implication du Cameroun dans ce projet. Le pays a été parmi les premiers à soutenir la Directrice générale dans sa volonté de réforme, dont les effets positifs commencent à se faire sentir au Siège et sur le terrain, notamment en Afrique, et dans la mise en œuvre de laquelle le Conseil a un rôle crucial à jouer. La volonté politique du Président du Cameroun en termes de contributions volontaires s'était déjà illustrée lorsque l'UNESCO avait dû faire face à certaines difficultés financières et le Cameroun s'enorgueillit d'avoir répondu favorablement à l'appel du Président du Conseil en vue de la réfection de la salle X et du salon des délégués.

11. The representative of **Cambodia** said that the debates held and decisions made in Room X had had an impact on many people across the world. He hoped that his country's humble contribution to its renovation would help to enhance the efficiency of the Board and the capacity of UNESCO as a whole to fulfil its mission.

12. Le représentant du **Tchad** indique que lorsque le Président du Conseil a lancé un appel à la solidarité aux fins de la rénovation de la salle X et du salon des délégués, il a personnellement relayé l'information auprès du Président de la République tchadienne, qui n'a pas ménagé ses efforts pour soutenir financièrement le projet. Fier de la contribution de son pays, il félicite également les autres délégations ayant participé à cette belle aventure humaine. Insistant sur l'importance de la solidarité et de l'union fraternelle entre les peuples et les nations, il affirme que des actions solidaires renforcées sont nécessaires pour donner de la grandeur à la mission de l'UNESCO, majestueux temple du savoir.

13. **中国代表**对十号厅装修后重新启用表示非常高兴。中国首先感谢执行局主席的付出，同时也感谢大会主席和总干事女士对这次装修的支持，以及所有以不同形式支持十号厅装修的会员国、组织和个人。十号厅是执行局的办公场所，在本组织的工作中起着举足轻重的作用。正值本组织庆祝成立七十周年之际，这次装修不仅更新了设备，还突出了十号厅的设计初衷，有助于成员国更加平等深入地参加本组织的治理工作。中国这次有幸为十号厅的装修做出贡献力量。这体现了中国政府一直坚持的原则：支持教科文组织的工作，维护教科文组织的宗旨，积极参加教科文组织的各种活动。相信在我们大家的共同努力下，本组织在业务领域内的全球影响力会不断提高。

(13) La représentante de la **Chine** est très satisfaite de l'inauguration de la salle X rénovée. La Chine voudrait d'abord remercier le Président du Conseil exécutif de tous ses efforts. Elle souhaite aussi remercier le Président de la Conférence générale et la Directrice générale de leur soutien, ainsi que tous les États membres, organisations et personnes privées qui ont contribué de diverses façons à la rénovation de la salle X qui, étant le lieu de travail du Conseil exécutif, joue un rôle symbolique important dans l'Organisation. À l'occasion du

تأهيل قاعة المجلس التنفيذي بفضل الدعم الكريم الذي قدمه صاحب الجلالة، الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة، الذي لم يتأخر أبداً عن المشاركة في أي مبادرة تخدم المنظمة، تعبيراً منه على ما يكنه لها ولمسؤوليها ورسالتها الإنسانية من تقدير واحترام.

٩,٢ وأشارت إلى أن العلاقة بين مملكة البحرين والمنظمة ارتبطت منذ البداية بالعديد من الإنجازات البارزة التي كان فيها اسم اليونسكو حاضراً بقوة، منها تبني المجلس التنفيذي والمؤتمر العام بالإجماع جائزة اليونسكو – الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة لاستخدام تكنولوجيات المعلومات والاتصال في مجال التعليم التي أنهت دورتها الأولى بنجاح وتميّز وأُعيد إطلاقها مجدداً لست سنوات إضافية، وإنشاء مركزين مهمين في مملكة البحرين يعملان تحت رعاية اليونسكو، وهما المركز الإقليمي العربي للتراث العالمي والمركز الإقليمي لتكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال، إضافة إلى التعاون المثمر بين المختصين في المنظمة ووزارة التربية والتعليم من أجل إعداد مناهج التعليم الصناعي باللغة الإنجليزية التي تستفيد منها حالياً ثلاث عشرة دولة، والتي تعد نموذجًا حياً لما يمكن أن تقدمه المنظمة للدول الأعضاء. وقالت إنه لا غرابة أن نكون اليوم في هذا المحفل للتعبير عن تقديرنا لمنظمة اليونسكو وامتنانها لجميع من تبرع لدعمها. وفي الختام، أعربت الممثلة مجدداً عن شكرها لصاحب الجلالة ملك البحرين على هذه اللفتة الكريمة التي من شأنها أن تعزز العلاقة مع المنظمة، متمنية أن تواصل مملكة البحرين مساهمتها في جميع الخطوات الخيّرة التي تخدم التربية والتعليم والعلوم والثقافة.

(9.1) La représentante de **Bahreïn** tient à exprimer la solidarité de son pays avec l'UNESCO, qu'elle considère comme une citadelle et un espace commun dédié à l'éducation, à la science et à la culture. Elle salue les efforts louables, constants et diversifiés déployés par l'Organisation dans ses domaines de compétence, et précise que le Royaume de Bahreïn a contribué à la rénovation de la salle du Conseil exécutif grâce au généreux appui du Roi de Bahreïn, S. M. Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa – que Dieu le protège –, qui n'hésite jamais à appuyer toute initiative pouvant servir les intérêts de l'Organisation afin d'exprimer son estime et son respect pour les responsables et le message humanitaire de l'UNESCO.

(9.2) L'oratrice souligne que les relations entre le Royaume de Bahreïn et l'UNESCO ont été marquées, dès le début, par nombre de réalisations remarquables qui s'articulaient autour du nom de l'Organisation. Par exemple, le Conseil exécutif a approuvé à l'unanimité, tout comme la Conférence générale, la création du prix UNESCO-Roi Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa pour l'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication dans l'éducation, dont le premier cycle s'est achevé avec grand succès et qui a été reconduit pour une nouvelle période de six ans. Par ailleurs, deux centres importants ont été créés à Bahreïn sous l'égide de l'UNESCO : le Centre régional arabe pour le patrimoine mondial et le Centre régional pour les technologies de l'information et de la communication. Il convient également de citer la coopération fructueuse entre les experts de l'UNESCO et le Ministère bahreïnite de l'éducation et de l'enseignement, qui a permis de rédiger et de publier des manuels de formation industrielle en langue anglaise. Ces manuels, dont bénéficient actuellement 13 pays, sont la parfaite illustration de ce que l'Organisation peut offrir aux États membres. Il est donc tout à fait naturel d'exprimer sa gratitude à l'Organisation et de remercier tous ceux qui lui ont apporté leur soutien. Pour conclure, l'oratrice remercie à nouveau Sa Majesté le Roi pour sa magnanimité et son généreux geste, qui ne manquera pas de renforcer les relations avec l'UNESCO. Comme

70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, l'opération de rénovation a non seulement permis de moderniser les équipements de la salle X, mais aussi de revoir sa conception initiale, ce qui contribuera à une participation plus égale et plus profonde de tous les États membres à la gouvernance de l'Organisation. La Chine a l'honneur d'avoir contribué à cette opération, dans la ligne des principes auxquels elle est attachée : soutenir le travail de l'UNESCO, défendre ses objectifs et participer activement à ses activités. Grâce aux efforts de tous, l'UNESCO jouera, dans ses domaines de compétence, un rôle de plus en plus important dans le monde.

14.1 El representante del **Ecuador** se refiere al 70ª aniversario de la UNESCO y recuerda, además, que precisamente ese día, 12 de octubre, se cumplen 523 años de lo que en Occidente se llamó el "descubrimiento" de América, que un gran intelectual uruguayo, Eduardo Galeano, calificó de "encubrimiento" de América. Como ecuatoriano, se siente hijo de Simón Bolívar y orgulloso de pertenecer a la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños. De su región procedía también el insigne poeta mexicano Jaime Torres Bodet que fue Director General de la UNESCO. Asimismo, como representante del Presidente Rafael Correa Delgado, reafirma el compromiso de su país con todo proceso de transformación, ejemplificado por la renovación de la Sala X, a la que el Ecuador ha aportado una contribución, más que una mera donación, que a su entender remite simbólicamente al precepto que alguna vez enunció el gran poeta Rimbaud: "Cambiad la vida".

14.2 Subraya además que solo mediante un real compromiso con el cambio, la justicia y la equidad entre naciones y regiones podrá aspirar el Consejo Ejecutivo a que el día de mañana su legado sea recordado como ejemplo de quehacer políticamente justo y equilibrado y de real empeño en pro de la justicia, la democracia y la paz. Por último, felicita al Presidente por su iniciativa.

(14.1) Le représentant de l'**Équateur**, évoquant le 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, rappelle que le 12 octobre 2015 marque en outre précisément le 523e anniversaire de ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler, en Occident, la « découverte » (*descubrimiento*) de l'Amérique, et qu'un grand intellectuel uruguayen, Eduardo Galeano, a qualifié d'« occultation » (*encubrimiento*) de l'Amérique. En tant qu'Équatorien, il se sent fils de Simón Bolívar et fier d'appartenir à la Communauté des États latino-américains et caribéens. C'est aussi de cette région que venait l'insigne poète mexicain Jaime Torres Bodet, qui fut directeur général de l'UNESCO. En sa qualité de représentant du Président Rafael Correa Delgado, le représentant de l'Équateur réaffirme l'engagement de son pays en faveur de tout processus de transformation du type de celui qu'illustre le projet de rénovation de la salle X, auquel l'Équateur a contribué au-delà d'un simple don et qui renvoie symboliquement, selon lui, au précepte jadis énoncé par le grand poète Arthur Rimbaud : « Changer la vie ».

(14.2) Il souligne en outre que ce n'est qu'avec une volonté réelle de changement, de justice et d'équité entre les nations et les régions que le Conseil exécutif pourra prétendre à ce que son héritage soit demain reconnu comme un exemple d'œuvre politique juste et équilibrée, ainsi que de véritable engagement en faveur de la justice, de la démocratie et de la paix. Il conclut donc en félicitant le Président pour son initiative.

١٥ أعرب ممثل **مصر** عن سعادته بالمشاركة اليوم، بصفته وزير التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي، في هذه الاحتفالية التي تدعو إلى التفاؤل والأمل في البناء والتجديد والتحديث، وتؤكد سعي الدول الأعضاء إلى جعل منظمة اليونسكو قادرة على مواكبة التطورات التكنولوجية الحديثة. كما أعرب عن تقديره الشديد، بصفته متخصص في الهندسة الإنشائية، للعمل الهندسي المتميز الذي أُنجز في وقت قصير. وأشار إلى أن مصر تفخر بأنها ساهمت مالياً في تجديد هذه القاعة التاريخية العظيمة التي شهدت مناقشات هامة، واعتُمدت تحت سقفها قرارات ساهمت في تطوير المجتمع الدولي. وذكر أن أعمال التجديد هذه تحمل رسالة واضحة تبرز رغبة الدول الأعضاء في دعم وتطوير المنظمة ومجلسها التنفيذي من أجل مواصلة العمل بكل جدية بغية الاستجابة لما تتطلع إليه الشعوب من هذه المنظمة. وختاماً، أعرب عن سعادته لأن هذه الأعمال أُنجزت تحت رعاية سفير مصر لدى اليونسكو ورئيس مجلسها التنفيذي، الدكتور محمد سامح عمرو، وبدعم كبير من المديرة العامة، متمنياً له التوفيق والسداد في خدمة هذه المنظمة التي تحتل مكانة هامة في القلوب والعقول.

(15) Le représentant de l'**Égypte** se dit heureux de participer, en tant que Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique, aux célébrations du jour, qui invitent à l'optimisme et à l'espoir dans un climat de construction, de renouvellement et de modernisation, et qui confirment la volonté des États membres de donner à l'UNESCO les moyens de faire face aux évolutions techniques les plus récentes. En tant qu'expert en ingénierie de la construction, il salue avec force le remarquable travail d'ingénierie effectué en si peu de temps. L'Égypte est fière d'avoir participé financièrement à la rénovation d'une salle historique qui a servi de cadre à d'importantes discussions ainsi qu'à l'adoption de résolutions ayant contribué au développement de la communauté internationale. Les travaux de rénovation qui ont été menés témoignent clairement de la volonté des États membres d'appuyer et de moderniser l'Organisation et son Conseil exécutif pour qu'ils puissent remplir leurs fonctions avec sérieux et répondre ainsi aux attentes des peuples. Enfin, l'orateur se dit heureux que les travaux aient été faits sous la supervision de l'Ambassadeur de l'Égypte auprès de l'UNESCO et Président du Conseil exécutif, M. Mohamed Sameh Amr – avec l'appui de la Directrice générale – et il souhaite à celui-ci plein succès au service d'une Organisation qui occupe une place importante dans les cœurs et les esprits.

16. The representative of **Gambia** commended the courageous initiative and successful fundraising efforts that had enabled the renovation project goals to be achieved. As one of the many countries that had participated in and benefitted from UNESCO's programmes, Gambia had seized the opportunity to celebrate its membership on the Board by making a humble contribution to the project, which marked the 70th anniversary of an organization whose vision had helped to shape lives, transform societies and promote the far-reaching goals and principles of, among others, mutual understanding, dialogue and a culture of peace. Participants in the often lengthy, sometimes repetitive and intense, discussions required to achieve consensus could now sit in comfort and make good use of the state-of-the-art technical facilities to enhance their decision-making and reach amicable solutions. She congratulated the Chair and all those whose support had made the project a real success.

17. The representative of **Indonesia** said that it was a personal honour to attend the inauguration of Room X. His country regarded its contribution to the renovation project as a means of repaying the Executive Board for the many benefits it had gained from having served as a Member. Over the previous four years of Indonesia's current term on the Board, much had been achieved with respect to improving education in the world, seeking a peaceful resolution to intercultural conflicts and fighting for freedom of expression, and it had wished to end that term by helping to provide a fitting souvenir for its successors. The Chair was to be commended for planning and carrying out his project to renovate Room X and it was to be hoped that the new facilities would signal a renewed and reformed UNESCO.

18. The representative of **Malaysia** expressed his Government's appreciation to the Chair for having made it possible to renovate Room X, where the Executive Board had sat for the previous 59 years. As others had mentioned, the renovation work was well done. Malaysia had always looked to the Executive Board for inspiration and guidance in promoting peace, development and the other ideals enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution, and considered it an honour to have played its part in contributing to the enhancement of the room.

19. The representative of **Namibia** said that in view of the importance of international solidarity and UNESCO's mandate involving the advancement of humankind, his country, in spite of its financial difficulties, had not hesitated to make a modest contribution to the renovation project, joining the list of Member States that had helped to provide a functional setting for the Board's interactive and substantive discussion. He thanked the Chair for his leadership and for ensuring an outcome that reflected the profound commitment of Member States and others to the Organization.

20. The representative of **Nigeria** said that the Chair was to be commended for taking the initiative to renovate Room X, on top of his duties in guiding the Board through the challenges and responsibilities it faced. The newly renovated room demonstrated Member States' enduring faith in the future of UNESCO and its mission. Contributors to the project could take pride in the fact that their generosity had made it possible to transform Room X into a fit-for-purpose setting without resorting to the Appropriation Resolution adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session, the Special Emergency Multi-Donor Fund for UNESCO Priority Programmes and Reform Initiatives or an expenditure plan. Nigeria had welcomed the opportunity to become a contributor and wished the Board many fruitful deliberations within the walls of Room X.

21. The representative of **Oman** said that her country had welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the renovation of Room X, in line with its long-standing commitment to ensuring and improving the Organization's efficiency. The renovation project reflected the importance that Oman attached to innovation, technological advancement and resource optimization in the service of UNESCO's goals and values. Furthermore, the introduction of paperless technologies would reduce the Executive Board's carbon footprint and was consistent with Oman's commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. The contributions of the other donors and the Chair's dedication in mobilizing support for the project were greatly appreciated and it was to be hoped that the newly renovated room would be the sign of a rejuvenated and forward-looking UNESCO.

٢٢ هنأ ممثل **المملكة العربية السعودية** رئيس المجلس التنفيذي والمديرة العامة وجميع من أسهم في تحقيق الهدف الذي ظل أربع سنوات ينتظر التحقيق. وأشار إلى أن المملكة العربية السعودية أسهمت دون تردد في دعم هذه المبادرة كي ترسل من خلال ذلك أربع رسائل. وأولها أن بلاده تحملت كامل تكاليف تجديد الإضاءة من أجل تجديد الامتنان للعالم العربي، ابن الهيثم، الذي اضطلع بدور أساسي في اختراع الضوء قبل ألف عام، خصوصاً في ثنايا السنة الدولية للضوء. أما الرسالة الثانية فهي للتعبير عن امتنان بلاده للجهود الكبيرة التي بذلها سفير مصر، الدكتور محمد سامح عمرو، أثناء رئاسته للمجلس التنفيذي خلال العامين الماضيين، وجميع الذين عملوا معه من أجل إنجاح ذلك المشروع. وتتمثل الرسالة الثالثة في أن بلاده التي أسهمت منذ عام ١٩٤٥، مع عشرين دولة أخرى، في تأسيس هذه المنظمة تواصل دعم اليونسكو وتقديم كل ما يساعد على تحقيق أهدافها مادياً ومعنوياً. وأما الرسالة الرابعة والأخيرة الموجهة من خلال هي أن ترميم تلك القاعة الآن، وربما غيرها من القاعات في وقت لاحق، فهي التأكيد لقوى الفكر الظلامي المهدد للسلام والرأسمالية المتوحشة التي تمول هذا الفكر، أن العمل مستمر في هذه المنظمة الإنسانية في ظل الصعوبات والأوضاع غير الإنسانية التي يشهدها العالم حالياً. وختم قائلاً إن تجديد قاعة المجلس التنفيذي ينبغي أن يتبعه تجديد المجلس التنفيذي ذاته.

(22) Le représentant de l'**Arabie saoudite** félicite le Président du Conseil exécutif, la Directrice générale et tous ceux qui ont contribué à une opération finalement menée à bien après quatre ans d'attente. L'Arabie saoudite n'a pas hésité à appuyer pareille initiative, adressant ce faisant quatre messages. Premièrement, elle a intégralement pris en charge les frais de rénovation du système d'éclairage afin de rendre hommage, à l'occasion de l'Année internationale de la lumière, à un scientifique arabe qui a joué un rôle essentiel dans l'étude de la lumière il y a mille ans, Ibn al-Haytham. Deuxièmement, l'Arabie saoudite tient à saluer les efforts considérables déployés par l'Ambassadeur de l'Égypte, M. Mohamed Sameh Amr, durant ses deux années de présidence du Conseil exécutif, ainsi que les efforts de tous ceux qui ont œuvré au succès du projet. Troisièmement, l'Arabie saoudite, qui a participé en 1945 à la création de l'UNESCO, avec 20 autres États, continue de soutenir l'Organisation et de lui apporter des contributions en espèces ou en nature pour l'aider à atteindre ses objectifs. Quatrièmement, la rénovation de la salle X, et peut-être d'autres salles à l'avenir, est un message envoyé aux tenants de la pensée obscurantiste qui menace la paix et du capitalisme sauvage qui finance cette pensée pour qu'ils sachent que notre organisation humanitaire poursuit son action malgré les difficultés et les situations inhumaines que connaît le monde d'aujourd'hui. Pour conclure, l'orateur souligne que la rénovation de la salle du Conseil exécutif devrait être suivie d'une rénovation du Conseil exécutif proprement dit.

23. The representative of **Grenada** said that it had been a personal honour to contribute to the renovation of Room X, the inauguration of which was a key event in UNESCO's celebration of its 70th anniversary. The improvements made and new technologies installed had brought the room – the symbolic setting where many historic decisions had been discussed and approved – into the twenty-first century, providing the Board with the best conditions in which to continue fulfilling its mandate for the benefit of the Organization and its Member States.

24. **The Chair** said that the renovation project had been carried out with the help of two major non-governmental bodies and partners, Roche Bobois and

Hazan Amenagements. He gave the floor to Mr Giles Bonan on behalf of the Roche Bobois group to say a few words.

25. Le représentant de **Roche Bobois** dit que c'est un grand honneur et une immense fierté pour sa société que d'avoir contribué à l'aménagement et à la rénovation du salon des délégués, en particulier dans le contexte du 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO. D'illustres architectes et designers ont œuvré à la construction de l'UNESCO – Marcel Breuer, Pier Luigi Nervi et Bernard Zehrfuss, mais aussi Le Corbusier et Saarinen ; « évoluer » modestement aux côtés de tels maîtres est une source de fierté. Roche Bobois s'inscrit pleinement dans les valeurs d'humanisme portées par l'Organisation et s'efforce, à son échelle, de créer du lien et des échanges entre les nations, véhiculant une vision de l'art de vivre à la française, favorisant l'expression de la créativité de designers venus de cultures et d'horizons différents, mettant en avant des savoir-faire qu'elle contribue à perpétuer et s'employant aussi à tisser des liens entre design et culture, comme en témoigne, par exemple, l'opération de mécénat du Pavillon France à l'exposition universelle de Milan.

26. Le représentant de la société **Hazan Aménagement** dit que c'est un grand honneur et une grande fierté pour lui de participer à l'inauguration de la salle X et du salon des délégués entièrement rénovés. C'est grâce à la persévérance et à la rigueur du Président du Conseil, à l'aide précieuse des équipes du Secrétariat et à l'implication sans faille du consortium d'entreprises Contract Design Network que sa société est parvenue à mener à bien le projet en moins de trois mois. Après un exposé des travaux effectués, il souligne que le partenariat public/privé mis sur pied pour l'occasion démontre que l'esprit d'entreprise mis au service d'un projet ambitieux ne peut qu'être couronné de succès, et souhaite qu'il en soit ainsi pour tous les projets à venir de l'UNESCO.

27.1 La representante de la **Asociación de Expresidentes del Consejo Ejecutivo**, tras recordar que en 2015 la UNESCO cumple setenta años de existencia, evoca su propia llegada a la Organización como representante de Honduras. Al principio pensaba que su misión se limitaría a velar por la aplicación de la Constitución y las normas de la Organización, pero poco a poco fue sintiendo que se apoderaban de ella una pasión y un apego crecientes por el papel de la UNESCO y su importancia para el mundo.

27.2 A continuación felicita al Presidente por el impulso que ha sabido conferir al Consejo Ejecutivo y a la Organización con la renovación de la Sala X, haciendo gala no solo de competencia, sino también de entusiasmo, talento y, sobre todo, amor por la UNESCO y arraigada lealtad a sus ideales.

(27.1) Après avoir rappelé que l'UNESCO célèbre en 2015 ses 70 ans d'existence, la représentante de **l'Association des anciens présidents du Conseil exécutif** évoque sa propre arrivée dans l'Organisation en tant que représentante du Honduras. Au début, elle pensait que sa mission se limiterait à veiller à l'application de l'Acte constitutif et des règles de l'Organisation, mais peu à peu, elle s'est sentie prise d'une passion et d'un attachement grandissants pour le rôle de l'UNESCO et son importance dans le monde.

(27.2) Elle félicite le Président pour l'élan qu'il a su insuffler au Conseil exécutif et à l'Organisation grâce à la rénovation de la salle X, faisant preuve non seulement de compétence, mais aussi d'enthousiasme, de talent et, surtout, d'amour pour l'UNESCO et d'une loyauté profonde à l'égard de ses idéaux.

27.3 Continuing in English, the representative of the Association of former Chairs of the Executive Board paid tribute to the Chair for having embodied the spirit underlying the words of President John F. Kennedy: "Do not ask what UNESCO can do for you, ask yourself what you can do for UNESCO".

27.4 Poursuivant en français, elle remercie la Directrice générale de son appui, ainsi que les donateurs, et annonce que l'Association a décidé d'octroyer au Président du Conseil la médaille du 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, en témoignage de la reconnaissance de l'Organisation pour la réalisation du projet.

The invited speakers left the room.

Item 1: Opening of the session by the Chair of the Executive Board

٢٨,١ رئيس المجلس التنفيذي *النص الكامل*:

السيد هاو بينغ، رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرة العامة لليونسكو، السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، السيدات والسادة الحضور، إنه من دواعي سروري أن نلتقي مرة أخرى في مستهل الدورة الأخيرة للمجلس خلال عامي ٢٠١٣–٢٠١٥. وعلى الرغم من أننا نتعامل مع كل دورة بقدر كبير من الجدية فإن هذه الدورة هي الأهم خلال فترة العامين الماضيين، حيث يجب علينا أن ننتهي من أعمالنا كي يتم الإعداد بشكل نهائي للدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام الذي سيعاصر الاحتفال بالذكرى السنوية السبعين لتأسيس اليونسكو. وخلال هذه الدورة، سيتم تجميع كافة الأعمال التي قمنا بها والقرارات التي اتخذناها خلال العامين الأخيرين بالتعاون مع الأمانة، ورفعها للمؤتمر العام في بداية شهر تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر القادم. وأود بهذه المناسبة أن أخبركم بأننا انتهينا، بتوافق الآراء، من تسمية رؤساء اللجان المنبثقة عن المؤتمر العام. ويسعدني بهذه المناسبة تهنئة كل من تم اختيارهم وأشكرهم على موافقتهم على منحهم وقتهم وجهدهم لخدمة اليونسكو.

٢٨,٢ ولعلكم تتذكرون أن في كلمتي الافتتاحية خلال الدورة الثالثة والتسعين بعد المائة للمجلس التنفيذي التي عقدت بتاريخ ٢٢ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٣، قلت إنني أؤمن بهذه المنظمة وأؤمن بدورها الريادي داخل منظومة الأمم المتحدة في مجالات عملها، سواء فيما يخص التعليم أو العلوم أو الثقافة أو الاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات. وها أنا أؤكد لكم أن عملي كرئيس للمجلس التنفيذي خلال العامين الماضيين زادني ارتباطاً بهذه المنظمة. وأعدكم أنني سوف أبذل كل ما أملك من جهد لخدمة هذه المنظمة ما حييت، حتى وعن بعد.

(28.1) **Le Président du Conseil exécutif** *in extenso* (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Monsieur Hao Ping, Président de la Conférence générale, Madame Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis heureux de nous voir à nouveau réunis, pour cette dernière session du Conseil exécutif de l'exercice biennal 2014-2015. Nous abordons chaque session avec beaucoup de sérieux, mais la présente session est plus importante encore car nous devons terminer nos travaux afin de préparer au mieux la 38e session de la Conférence générale, qui coïncidera avec le 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO. Durant la présente session, nous récapitulerons tous les travaux menés et toutes les décisions prises ces deux dernières années, en coopération avec le

Secrétariat, afin de les soumettre à la Conférence générale au début du mois de novembre prochain. À ce sujet, je tiens à vous informer que les présidents des Commissions de la Conférence générale ont été désignés à l'unanimité. Je voudrais féliciter toutes les personnes qui ont été choisies et les remercier d'avoir accepté de mettre leur temps et leur énergie au service de l'UNESCO.

(28.2) Vous vous souviendrez peut-être que, lors de mon discours d'ouverture à la 193e session du Conseil exécutif, le 22 novembre 2013, j'ai dit que je croyais en notre Organisation et en son rôle de chef de file au sein du système des Nations Unies dans ses domaines de compétence, à savoir l'éducation, les sciences, la culture et l'information et la communication. Les fonctions que j'ai exercées ces deux dernières années en tant que président du Conseil exécutif ont renforcé mon attachement à l'Organisation, et c'est pourquoi je m'engage devant vous à faire tout mon possible, ma vie durant, pour servir les intérêts de l'UNESCO.

Le Président poursuit en français

28.3 Chers collègues, depuis le début de notre mandat, le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 a été adopté à New York. Nous devons tous être fiers que ce document tienne compte du rôle important que jouent l'éducation, la science, la culture, l'information et la communication dans le développement durable. Ensemble, les États membres et le Secrétariat, sous la houlette de la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mme Irina Bokova, ont garanti à notre Organisation une place de choix sur la scène internationale au service du développement. Nous devons être fiers d'appartenir à une organisation multilatérale qui assure l'éducation de qualité pour tous tout au long de la vie, qui veille à ce que les sciences soient au service de l'humanité, qui préserve et protège le patrimoine mondial et qui nous permet de communiquer efficacement grâce à une information précise et objective. Ces deux dernières années, chacun de vous a pris ses responsabilités à cœur. Nous ne sommes pas membres de l'UNESCO pour nous focaliser sur nos besoins nationaux. Notre Organisation, forte de 195 États membres et neuf Membres associés, est la plus représentative de toutes les institutions des Nations Unies. Voilà une belle illustration de l'importance que le monde place en elle. Chers collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs, malheureusement, l'actualité nous rappelle, même après soixante-dix ans, combien une organisation comme l'UNESCO est nécessaire. En tant que Conseil exécutif, nous devons nous assurer que l'impact de notre Organisation reste pertinent au regard des besoins des États membres. Palmyre est, hélas, symbolique de la nécessité que tous les États membres continuent d'œuvrer de concert pour garantir que la culture de la paix et le dialogue entre les peuples l'emportent sur les forces destructrices de l'extrémisme.

Le Président poursuit en anglais

28.4 Ladies and gentlemen, it is also our duty to strengthen our Organization's global relevance, given the important and broad remit handed down to us by our founding fathers some 70 years ago, which is the broadest remit of all the specialized agencies within the United Nations system. I would just like to say that we have much important work ahead of us, as demonstrated by our very full agenda touching on a number of subjects. I know that I can count on each of us to continue our deliberations in a spirit of mutual cooperation for the genuine benefit of all UNESCO's Member States, as we have done so well during the past three sessions.

28.5 Now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give one final word of advice. Throughout the coming weeks we will finalize the preparations for the 38th session of the General Conference. This means that we will have to pace ourselves as we brace for it. During the coming days your deliberations, in plenary or in the commissions, will be decisive. We must sustain the excellent and efficient manner in which we have moved to the completion of our tasks in past sessions, as we prepare for the future. I would like to wish you the best of luck and to thank you for your attention.

ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Item 1: Agenda and timetable of work
(197 EX/1 Prov.Rev.)

29. **The Chair** informed the Board that the provisional agenda and timetable of work had been despatched to all Members, in accordance with Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, on 11 September 2015. The provisional agenda had since been revised in accordance with Rule 6 to include 15 additional items, namely items 34 to 48. In view of the increased workload, and in keeping with 196 EX/Decision 28, the Bureau recommended that the 197th session be extended by one day, concluding on Thursday 22 October 2015.

30. Представитель **Российской Федерации** выражает глубокое разочарование от имени Российской Федерации в связи с включением вопроса о принятии Косово в члены ЮНЕСКО. Оратор напоминает, что резолюция 1244 Совета Безопасности ООН по вопросу Косово является руководящим документом и сама постановка вопроса о принятии в члены ЮНЕСКО Косово, территории, не обладающей международной правосубъектностью, идет вразрез с международным правом. Российская Федерация оставляет за собой право высказаться по существу вопроса при его обсуждении на пленарном заседании.

(30) Le représentante de la **Fédération de Russie** fait part, au nom de son pays, de sa profonde préoccupation eu égard à l'inscription à l'ordre du jour de la question de l'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO. Rappelant que la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU sur la question du Kosovo est le texte directeur en la matière, elle déclare que le fait même de soumettre la question de l'admission à l'UNESCO du Kosovo, territoire qui n'est pas sujet de droit international, est contraire au droit international. La Fédération de Russie se réserve le droit de s'exprimer sur le fond de la question lorsque celle-ci sera examinée en séance plénière.

31. El representante de **Cuba,** refiriéndose también al punto **43**, "Solicitud de admisión de la República de Kosovo en la UNESCO", señala el carácter anómalo e irregular que reviste su inclusión en el orden del día, lastrada incluso con vicios de procedimiento. Aunque su país no se ha opuesto a ello para que el Consejo pudiera empezar a trabajar, advierte que la propuesta es polémica y obedece a motivaciones políticas, hecho que hará imposible todo consenso en torno al proyecto de decisión correspondiente.

(31) Le représentant de **Cuba**, se référant lui aussi au point **43** « Demande d'admission de la République du Kosovo à l'UNESCO », signale le caractère anormal et irrégulier de son inscription à l'ordre du

jour, laquelle s'est même heurtée à des vices de procédure. Si son pays ne s'est pas opposé à cette inscription pour que le Conseil puisse commencer ses travaux, il met en garde contre l'aspect polémique d'une telle proposition qui obéit à des motivations politiques, ce qui rendra impossible tout consensus à l'égard du projet de décision correspondant.

32. 中国代表完全同意俄罗斯大使的提议。

(32) La représentante de la **Chine** souscrit pleinement à la suggestion de la délégation de la Fédération de Russie.

33. La representante de la **Argentina** suscribe la posición expresada por los representantes de la Federación de Rusia, Cuba y China.

(33) La représentante de l'**Argentine** s'associe à la position exprimée par les représentants de la Fédération de Russie, de Cuba et de la Chine.

34. The representative of **Brazil** endorsed the comments made by the representatives of the Russian Federation and Cuba.

35. La representante de **España,** abundando en la opinión expresada por otras delegaciones, subraya que la inclusión del punto **43** en el orden del día no presupone reconocimiento alguno de Kosovo ni prejuzga la posición al respecto de países que, como España, no tienen reconocido ese territorio como Estado.

(35) La représentante de l'**Espagne**, abondant dans le sens d'autres délégations, souligne que l'inscription du point **43** à l'ordre du jour ne présuppose pas une quelconque reconnaissance du Kosovo ni ne préjuge de la position en la matière de pays qui, comme l'Espagne, n'ont pas reconnu ce territoire en tant qu'État.

36. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, supported by the representative of **Pakistan**, said that his Government, as a sponsor of the proposal to include item **43** "Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO" in the agenda, took the view that its inclusion did not establish a precedent, that it followed the example set at previous sessions and that it did not prejudge the outcome of the debate the following week when, in accordance with the agenda and timetable of work that had just been adopted, the item would come up for discussion. His Government fully respected the right of all sovereign States to express their position on the matter during that debate.

37. **The Chair** said that in the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt, as amended, the agenda and timetable of work contained in document 197 EX/1 Prov.Rev.

38. *It was so* ***decided***.

Questions that do not appear to require debate (197 EX/2)

39.1 **The Chair** informed the Board that the Bureau, in accordance with Rule 14.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, had proposed that there be no debate on item **31** "Partnership agreement between UNESCO and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)", and that it be referred directly to plenary for adoption. Unless a Member requested a discussion of document 197 EX/2 by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 13 October, the draft decision contained in that document would therefore be considered to be adopted.

39.2 Furthermore, after consultation with the Chairs of the Programme and External Relations (PX) and Finance and Administrative (FA) Commissions, it had been proposed that the PX Commission approve without debate items **9** "Report on the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)" and **41** "International Day for the defence of the mangrove ecosystem", and that the FA Commission do likewise in the case of item **16** "Category 2 institutes and centres", Parts II to XXII. In accordance with Rule 14.2, Members could nevertheless request that those items be discussed by the Board.

Agendas of the Finance and Administrative (FA) and Programme and External Relations (PX) Commissions (197 EX/FA/1.INF Prov.; 197 EX/PX/1.INF Prov.; and 197 EX/FA/PX/1.INF Prov.)

40. **The Chair** drew attention to the provisional agendas of the Finance and Administrative (FA) and Programme and External Relations (PX) Commissions and of the joint meeting of the FA and PX Commissions, as presented respectively in documents 197 EX/FA/1.INF Prov., 197 EX/PX/1.INF Prov. and 197 EX/FA/PX/1.INF Prov. He said that the PX Commission, in view of the large number of new items in its agenda, had been granted an additional day to complete its work. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to approve the provisional agendas before it.

41. *It was so* ***decided***.

Items on which the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) have requested to speak in the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) and the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX), and in the joint meeting of the FA and PX Commissions

42. **The Chair** informed the Board that the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) had requested permission to take the floor during the debates in the Finance and Administrative (FA) and the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commissions and in the joint meeting of the FA and PX Commissions on item **5** "Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions", as well as during the debate in the joint meeting of the Commissions on item **17** "Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5)". The Bureau recommended that the Board should, as in the past, authorize the representatives of the staff associations to speak for five minutes each, after Members had spoken on those items but before a decision or recommendation was approved.

43. *It was so* ***decided***.

Organization of the plenary debate

44. **The Chair** informed the Board that the Director-General would introduce the debate in plenary on items **4** "Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference", **5** "Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions", and **17** "Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5)". The Director-General would be presenting an executive summary of her full remarks, which had been made

available to Board Members the previous week in order to assist them in preparing their statements. Following the introduction to the plenary debate, the newly elected Chair of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group of the Executive Board would present a ten-minute oral report on the meeting held by the Group from 21 to 23 September 2015. The plenary debate would begin that afternoon, Monday 12 October, and continue on the morning of Tuesday 13 October. Each Member inscribed on the list of speakers established in advance of the session would be allowed a speaking time of six minutes, after which the microphone would be cut. Observers would be allowed two minutes for each statement. In the question-and-answer session following the Director-General's reply, in the afternoon of Tuesday 13 October, Members would be invited to limit their statements to three minutes and the number of questions to three at a time. Observers would be allowed one minute for each statement. The Director-General would then answer questions put by Member States, three at a time.

Private meetings

45. **The Chair** informed the Board that one private meeting would be held in the morning of Wednesday 21 October to discuss item **3** "Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board" and item **22** "Preparation of the 38th session of the General Conference", Part IV. The Board would then hold a public meeting to adopt the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) on items **20** "Implementation of standard-setting instruments" and **21** "Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education: Nominations and report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon".

Cooperation with external partners

46. **The Chair** said that the Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Mr Fathallah Sijilmassi, had been invited to address the Board on the subject of developing cooperation with UNESCO in areas of mutual interest prior to the meeting of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX), in the morning of Wednesday 14 October. Should the Board decide to adopt the draft decision on the proposed partnership agreement between UNESCO and UfM, contained in document 197 EX/2, Mr Sijilmassi and the Director-General would sign the agreement later in the day.

Item 2: Approval of the summary records of the 196th session (196 EX/SR.1-6)

47. **The Chair** recalled that the provisional summary records of the public meetings of the Executive Board at its 196th session had been prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to Members. The corrections received had been incorporated into document 196 EX/SR.1-6, the final record. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to approve document 196 EX/SR. 1-6.

48. *It was so* ***decided***.

REPORTING ITEMS

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme execution (197 EX/4 Part I; 197 EX/4.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37C/5) as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited) (197 EX/4 Part II and Corr.; 197 EX4.INF.2-3; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (197 EX/5 Part I; 197 EX/5.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (197 EX/5 Part II and Addenda)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (197 EX/5 Part III)

Item 5.IV: Management issues (197 EX/5 Part IV and Corr. and Addenda; 197 EX/5.INF.2; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (197 EX/5 Part V and Corr. and Addenda)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

Item 17: Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (197 EX/17 and Add. and Corrigenda)

Introduction to the plenary debate by the Director-General

49.1 **The Director-General** *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Members of the Executive Board, allow me at the beginning to take a moment to express on behalf of the Organization my deep condolences for the devastating terrorist attack in Ankara in Turkey. This highlights the challenges that all societies face today in terms of violence, as well as the solidarity and resilience of all humanity today. As you mentioned, Mr Chair, the detailed statement on the execution of the programme was made available online on Friday. Allow me to highlight some important moments that have had an impact on our Organization.

49.2 In New York, on 25 September 2015, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, Member States agreed on a new vision for humanity, for the planet and for peace for the next 15 years: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This historic moment marks the culmination of years of efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, to chart a new course and to tackle remaining and new challenges. The 2030 agenda comes at a time of huge opportunity but also of unprecedented turbulence: when the threat of violent extremism is increasing, when refugee flows have become a crisis, when poverty and inequalities are deepening and when the planet is facing increasing pressure. The forces of fragmentation, hatred and violence are there for all to see. Across the world we see conflicts tearing societies apart. We see the unprecedented rise of violent extremism, accompanied by "cultural cleansing". We see cultural heritage destroyed and looted. We see cultures and religions distorted. We see communities persecuted. We see human rights and dignity flaunted, soiled with blood. We see education under attack and children, girls especially, abused and prohibited from learning. We see women violated as targets of warfare. We see freedom of

expression challenged and journalists beheaded. UNESCO was created 70 years ago, in 1945, in a world rebuilding after a devastating war when shared values had been soiled like never before. Today, seven decades later, the call for UNESCO has never been so vibrant. At the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of Mexico, Mr Enrique Peña Nieto, cited UNESCO as one of the key organizations founded after the Second World War. The President of the Republic of Korea, Ms Park Geun-hye, highlighted the importance of UNESCO's leadership in education. The President of Turkmenistan, Mr Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, underlined UNESCO's support for the country's education reform. The President of Paraguay, Mr Horacio Cartes, called for strengthening UNESCO, given the importance of its work. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Monaco, Mr Gilles Tonelli, underlined UNESCO's support for clean oceans and access to water. The President of Mali, Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, emphasized the importance of UNESCO's action to protect and rebuild Mali's cultural heritage. The Presidents of Poland and Bulgaria underlined UNESCO's role in responding to violent extremism and protecting cultural heritage. The Prime Minister of Italy, Mr Matteo Renzi, highlighted UNESCO's response to the destruction of cultural heritage, calling for the establishment of a task force, under the auspices of UNESCO, for deployment in peacekeeping operations. The President of Croatia, Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, spoke about UNESCO's leadership in putting education first in advancing global citizenship education. On 27 September, I attended the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, organized jointly by the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and co-chaired by the Heads of State and Government of Chile, Croatia, Iceland, Kenya and Mexico. The meeting echoed UNESCO's message to the Sustainable Development Summit during the interactive dialogue on the theme "inequalities, empowering women and leaving no one behind", chaired jointly by Ms Grabar-Kitarović and Mr Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya. All of this highlights the importance of UNESCO today. World leaders place UNESCO at the heart of national agendas. They look to UNESCO to tackle the challenges they face and call for the strengthening of UNESCO, given the centrality of its work. This reflects the unchallenged salience of UNESCO's mandate. It reflects also the ability to deliver demonstrated by UNESCO: to respond to violent extremism, to take forward the 2030 agenda and to tackle the consequences of climate change. What UNESCO promises, UNESCO delivers. In 2013, I visited Timbuktu, at the invitation of the President of France, Mr François Hollande, and I promised to rebuild the mausoleums destroyed by violent extremists. I returned on 18 July 2015, two years later, to celebrate the rebuilding of all 14 mausoleums, together with local communities and Ms N'diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, the Minister of Culture of Mali. In New York two weeks ago, Ms Diallo spoke of the joy that had returned to the hearts of the people of Mali thanks to those efforts. All of this reflects UNESCO's delivery and intellectual leadership in framing issues and crafting the narrative.

49.3 In 20124 UNESCO drew attention to the threat of cultural cleansing and this has been taken up by countries worldwide. UNESCO called for stronger action against cultural cleansing, and we see today rising mobilization across the world. In June 2015, in Bonn (Germany), accompanied by the Minister of State of Germany and Chair of the World Heritage Committee, Ms Maria Böhmer, we launched the global coalition for the protection of cultural heritage, in the presence of the Minister of Tourism and Heritage of Iraq, Mr Adel Shershab; the Executive Director of Police Services at the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Mr Tim Morris; the President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Mr Gustavo Araoz; and the Director of the Museum of the Ancient Near East in Berlin, Professor Markus Hilgert. On 24 September, I participated in a high-level conference on the destruction of cultural heritage in conflict at the Asia Society headquarters in New York, which was also attended by Dr Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, Foreign Minister of Iraq; Mr Nasser Judeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan; Mr Sameh Hassan Shoukry, Foreign Minister of Egypt; Ms Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister of Australia; and Mr Kevin Rudd, President of the Asia Society Policy Institute. On 27 September, I attended the launch of a new global initiative "protecting cultural heritage – an imperative for humanity", the aim of which is to strengthen action to protect cultural heritage in conflict situations. The initiative is co-sponsored by UNESCO and led by Mr Paolo Gentiloni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and the Foreign Affairs Minister of Jordan, Mr Judeh, in cooperation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr Yury Fedotov, and the President of INTERPOL, Ms Mireille Ballestrazzi. On 29 September, I addressed a round table discussion on "Conflict antiquities: forging a public/private response to save the endangered patrimony of Iraq and Syria", organized by the United States Department of State and held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, with the participation of Mr Antony Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State. The aim of the round table was to highlight the importance of reducing demand for illicitly trafficked cultural goods and halting supply. On the same day, UNESCO's action was recognized as essential to preventing and countering violent extremism, at the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism, hosted by the President of the United States, Mr Barack Obama. President Obama was clear about the nature of the struggle, stating that: "Ideologies are not defeated by guns [but] by better ideas […] We have to commit ourselves to build diverse, tolerant, inclusive societies [to defeat violent extremism]". During the Summit, the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr Haider al-Abadi, said: "We have to stop foreign fighters, stop financing, stop the enslavement of women, stop theft of artefacts". His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan was equally clear, stating that the battle against ISIL could only be won by winning hearts and minds. The Prime Minister of Italy, Mr Renzi, highlighted the importance of UNESCO's action to protect cultural heritage. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr David Cameron, emphasized the need to start early and to address the building blocks of violent extremism in schools and communities. On every one of those occasions, I have called for action across the board to combat violent extremism, in conformity with UNESCO's mandate. This includes ending impunity for war crimes associated with cultural cleansing. On 24 September, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), with UNESCO's support and encouragement, transferred the first suspect accused of destroying world heritage sites in Timbuktu (Mali) to the Court. UNESCO is working in the same direction on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. This involves action to stop the trafficking of cultural objects. Pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), UNESCO is working with INTERPOL and UNODC to assist countries in

strengthening legislation and building capacity to stop this channel of financing for terrorism. To date, 34 countries have submitted reports to UNESCO on steps taken to implement resolution 2199, which include changing legislation, strengthening institutions, improving coordination and setting up international cooperation.

49.4 On 15 September 2015, I spoke before the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education, welcoming European legislation to combat illicit trafficking and calling for stronger import regulations. I naturally emphasized in all of these meetings that education must be a core response to violent extremism. We must provide young women and men in all societies, including in refugee camps, with the skills to think critically, with media and information literacy to reject hatred, with competencies for dialogue and with aspirations to become global citizens. At this point, I would like to draw your attention to the most recent report of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, which is UNESCO's first category 1 institute in the Asia-Pacific region, and I would like to pay tribute, first and foremost, to Dr Karan Singh, who serves as a great inspiration in guiding the work of the institute, which is precisely what UNESCO needs today in order to foster a culture of peace, tolerance and mutual understanding, based on respect for human rights and human dignity. I would like to ask Dr Singh to provide us with more copies of the report because it presents an extraordinary example of how we should act and how we should provide both intellectual debate and concrete action in our programmes to foster respect for human rights and cultural diversity and to reject violent extremism. This, ladies and gentlemen, is the new frontline for hearts and minds. Young people are learning, unfortunately, to hate. We must teach them peace. This is the guiding spirit of the first high-level conference on countering violent extremism through education that UNESCO is holding on 6 November in cooperation with the United States of America and other partners. This is also the spirit of the first teachers' guide for countering violent extremism, which we are developing to support educators across the world. This underpins UNESCO's response to the Syria crisis in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic, backed by the European Union, and the new Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth programme for young people affected by the Syrian crisis, supported by Kuwait. Through the Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth) project, supported by the European Union, UNESCO is promoting the positive engagement of young women and men in 10 countries across the Mediterranean and carrying out action to fight youth radicalization. On 16 June, UNESCO held a high-level international conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism; participants included the Vice-President of Bulgaria, Ms Margarita Popova, and officials and experts from across the world. Our goal is to equip young people with the skills and values needed to engage as global citizens online, resistant to radicalization. This ties in with UNESCO's social media campaign, #Unite4Heritage, which I launched last March in Baghdad to challenge hate propaganda and to strengthen the voices of youth promoting shared values. This also means standing up for the safety of journalists and freedom of expression whenever it is challenged. That same spirit guided the international conference held on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May in Riga (Latvia), under the patronage of Mr Andris Bērziņš, the President of Latvia. That same spirit will also be present at the celebration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, to be held at UNESCO on 2 November, on the eve of the 38th session of the General Conference.

49.5 All of this, ladies and gentlemen, reflects the work that we have spearheaded together to sound the alarm against cultural cleansing. On 27 April, in an Arria-formula meeting, I briefed the Members of the United Nations Security Council on the scale of the challenge. I delivered the same message in Cairo (Egypt) on 13 May, at the Al-Azhar University Conference Centre on Dialogue and Learning for Peace, in the presence of Professor Abdel-Hai Azab, President of Al Azhar University; Dr Al-Sayed Abdel-Khalik, Minister of Higher Education of Egypt; and Mr Amr, Chair of the Executive Board. On 18 May in Baku (Azerbaijan), I participated in the third World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, the theme of which – sharing cultures for shared security – emphasized the importance of dialogue among cultures. On 28 May, I addressed the United Nations General Assembly in support of the resolution co-sponsored by Germany and Iraq entitled "Saving the cultural heritage of Iraq" (resolution 69/281), which was adopted unanimously, at the invitation of the Chair of the World Heritage Committee and Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Ms Maria Böhmer. On 11 and 12 June, UNESCO participated in the fifth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana (Kazakhstan), with a view to advancing the aims of the United Nations International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. Let me take this opportunity also to thank Italy for its leadership in shaping the Milan Declaration on Culture as an Instrument of Dialogue among Peoples, issued on 1 August and endorsed by some 80 ministers of culture. On 21 August in Amman (Jordan), I spoke in support of youth engagement for peace at the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, who also attended the meeting. On 8 September, I participated in the International Conference on the Protection of Victims of Ethnic and Religious Violence in the Middle East, organized by the Foreign Minister of Jordan, Mr Nasser Judeh, and the Foreign Minister of France, Mr Laurent Fabius, where I reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to taking forward its plan of action. A similar spirit guided the inauguration last week at the Camp des Milles site in Aix-en-Provence (France) of the new UNESCO Chair in Education for Citizenship, Human Sciences and Shared Memories, in the presence of President François Hollande of France, and the eight partner universities.

49.6 All of this shows that change and mobilization is under way. Thanks to UNESCO's advocacy, thanks to our leadership, we are seeing a change in the way that violent extremism is understood and in the importance granted to UNESCO in response. I believe that the stakes are high. We are indeed facing a new global war for hearts and minds, WHICH opposes those who believe in a single community, who believe we can live together, and those who reject diversity, dialogue and living together. I am certain that hard power will not be enough; we also need the soft power of UNESCO. We need education, we need freedom of expression, we need social inclusion, and we need gender equality. In these times of turbulence, UNESCO is regarded by countries worldwide as a building block for an international order founded on shared values and effective collective action. We see this most vividly in education and, in this regard, allow me to mention the outstanding leadership of the Republic of Korea in hosting in May 2015 the World Education Forum in which many of our partners participated, among them the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Women and the World Bank, and during which a truly comprehensive and transformative Education 2030 agenda was adopted. We also saw this on 26 September in New York at the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative's (GEFI) High-Level Event. The participants in the High-Level event included President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea, who inaugurated the World Education Forum in May and who actively contributed to the event; Professor Peng Liyuan, First Lady of China and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education; the President of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović; the foreign ministers of Australia, Ethiopia, Norway and Tunisia; the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Mr Gordon Brown; and the Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Ms Malala Yousafzai and Mr Kailash Satyarthi. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all GEFI Champion Countries for their leadership. I saw the same leadership demonstrated at the International Seminar on Girls' and Women's Education held in Beijing (China) on 4 September, led by Professor Peng, and bringing together participants from 14 countries in Asia and Africa.

49.7 UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen, has also pulled out all the stops to support the preparations for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP 21), and I wish to commend the Government of France for its vision and leadership and for the personal engagement of its leaders. Let me highlight the milestones we have marked: the Business and Climate Summit on 20 to 21 May, here at Headquarters; the World Oceans Day event held on 8 June in partnership with Belgium, France, Monaco, Norway and Sweden; the international scientific conference on the theme "Our common future under climate change", held from 7 to 10 July at Headquarters; and the water and climate change conference that we held from 15 to 17 July. Let me mention also the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board of the United Nations Secretary-General, hosted by UNESCO in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 15 and 16 May, for which I thank wholeheartedly the Government of Malaysia.

49.8 I believe that all these points, which do not, of course, constitute an exhaustive list of what we have done, testify to the vision that has guided UNESCO for 70 years. This is a vision of humanity united around human rights and human dignity. This is a vision of humanity celebrating the diversity of cultures and our common history. This is a vision of humanity moving forward together to meet all the challenges, leaving no one behind.

(*The Director-General continued in French*)

49.9 L'adoption du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 est une forme de reconnaissance pour l'UNESCO et couronne plusieurs années de plaidoyer et de dur labeur. Ce nouveau programme inscrit dans l'armature du développement international les priorités de l'UNESCO. Ce sont souvent les notions précises que nous avons mises au point ensemble qui sont aujourd'hui reprises. L'Objectif 4, relatif à l'éducation, reprend les termes de la Déclaration finale de la Réunion mondiale sur l'EPT 2014 (Accord de Mascate, Oman) et de la Déclaration du Forum mondial sur l'éducation 2015 (Incheon, République de Corée) : c'est un succès indéniable pour l'UNESCO, qui a mené les négociations. L'Objectif 5, relatif à l'égalité des genres, insiste clairement sur les leviers d'autonomie des filles et des femmes qui sont au cœur de notre action. La gestion durable des ressources en eau fait l'objet d'un objectif à part entière (Objectif 6). Pour la première fois, la culture et la diversité culturelle sont clairement reconnues comme des facilitateurs de développement et comme des cibles de l'Objectif 11, contribuant à la durabilité du développement urbain. C'était un engagement de l'UNESCO et mon engagement personnel depuis longtemps, et nous l'avons tenu. Un objectif est spécifiquement consacré à la sauvegarde et à l'utilisation durable des océans, des mers et de leurs ressources (Objectif 14). La protection des écosystèmes et de la biodiversité, qui sont au cœur de notre mandat scientifique, est un objectif à part entière (Objectif 15), de même que le rôle des sciences du climat et de la prévention des catastrophes (Objectif 13). L'Objectif 16, relatif à l'édification de sociétés pacifiques, justes et inclusives, offre des points d'entrée considérables pour de nombreux programmes de l'UNESCO. Le rôle essentiel de l'innovation, des sciences et des technologies, le rôle des technologies de la communication, qui sont au cœur du travail de l'UNESCO, pour développer les talents, l'intelligence et le capital humain, sont partout mentionnés. Sur tous ces points, Mesdames et Messieurs, le contrat est rempli – et même largement rempli.

49.10 Le Programme à l'horizon 2030 est orienté vers le renforcement des capacités des États – ceux-ci ne sont pas simplement les bénéficiaires des programmes : ils veulent être capables de les mettre en œuvre eux-mêmes. Cette approche est dans l'ADN de l'UNESCO et des institutions spécialisées et correspond à nos fonctions essentielles. Qu'il s'agisse d'appui normatif aux pays, de conseil stratégique intégré ou de renforcement des capacités, l'UNESCO est d'abord une institution mondiale pour le talent, la créativité, l'intelligence humaine, ce qui est clairement la clé de la durabilité. C'est cette vision qui est aujourd'hui pleinement reconnue dans le programme. Il s'agit désormais d'en réussir la mise en œuvre, de faire correspondre les promesses et les résultats. Là encore, l'UNESCO est au travail.

49.11 Sur le front de l'éducation, nous adopterons dans moins d'un mois, le 4 novembre, à la 38e session de la Conférence générale, le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, commun à toutes les institutions, pour coordonner et rationaliser les efforts de chacun. La semaine dernière, à Islamabad, l'UNESCO et le Gouvernement du Pakistan ont lancé officiellement un programme de trois ans en faveur du droit des filles à l'éducation, dans le but d'améliorer la qualité de l'environnement éducatif pour plus de 50 000 filles – un symbole d'autant plus fort que nous célébrons aujourd'hui la Journée internationale de la fille. Au mois de juillet, j'ai participé au Sommet d'Oslo sur l'éducation pour le développement, organisé par la Norvège, en collaboration avec le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, pour intensifier les efforts en vue du financement de l'éducation. Nous avons en outre organisé à New York la première réunion de la Commission internationale de haut niveau sur le financement des opportunités éducatives mondiales. En effet, sachant que le financement sera la condition de réussite du programme, l'UNESCO a pris les devants. Nous nous sommes fortement impliqués dans les négociations de la Conférence internationale d'Addis-Abeba sur le financement du développement, au mois de juillet, en organisant deux manifestations parallèles sur la science et l'éducation. Comme je l'ai dit, nous faisons aussi partie, avec les Présidents du Malawi, de l'Indonésie et du Chili, et le Premier Ministre de la Norvège, des instances ayant convoqué la Commission internationale

de haut niveau sur le financement des opportunités éducatives mondiales, qui est présidée par M. Gordon Brown et réunit plus de 20 personnalités éminentes.

49.12 Dans le même esprit, l'UNESCO participe à la mise en place d'un mécanisme mondial de transfert des technologies, innovation en faveur de l'accès et du partage des technologies entre pays. Or, grâce au transfert de technologies, ce sont aussi des compétences et des savoir-faire qui circulent, et l'UNESCO doit être à l'avant-poste de cette mutation.

49.13 Permettez-moi de mentionner également le succès de la 2e Conférence internationale sur les « villes apprenantes », organisée au Mexique du 28 au 30 septembre derniers, qui a réuni plus de 650 participants de plus de 90 pays et défini un cadre d'action précis pour faire de l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie un moteur de durabilité urbaine. C'est un appui direct aux objectifs 4 et 11 du Programme à l'horizon 2030.

49.14 Nous le savons, Mesdames et Messieurs, ce programme suppose des adaptations dans les méthodes de travail des Nations Unies, y compris celles de l'UNESCO. Mon message sur ce point est très clair : l'UNESCO est quasiment prête, elle s'est structurée en conséquence et récolte aujourd'hui les fruits de la réforme mise en œuvre, elle a su anticiper plusieurs des adaptations requises par le nouveau programme. Je ne citerai que quelques exemples. Le Programme à l'horizon 2030 appelle à construire des synergies plus fortes entre les disciplines et entre les institutions. Il nous faudra travailler plus étroitement avec tous nos partenaires, définir des politiques plus intégrées, mais aussi mutualiser nos ressources pour optimiser les coûts. L'UNESCO a fait du chemin dans ce sens. Nous participons déjà aux projets pilotes de mise en commun des ressources entre institutions en cas de programmes conjoints, notamment au Brésil. En la matière, nous sommes leader parmi les institutions onusiennes. Travailler ensemble implique aussi de partager davantage d'informations, d'utiliser les mêmes indicateurs, d'être plus transparents. De ce point de vue, le Programme à l'horizon 2030 est un héritier de la « révolution des données » (« *big data* ») et requiert des systèmes d'information performants et compatibles entre eux. Là encore, je crois que notre Organisation est bien positionnée. L'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO se trouve naturellement sous le feu des projecteurs, et son rôle ne cessera de croître. Nous avons renforcé et simplifié nos systèmes d'information. Nous les avons déployés dans nos bureaux hors Siège. L'UNESCO dispose déjà, depuis 2002, d'un système intégré de gestion de ses ressources humaines, financières et administratives : le Système de planification des ressources, comme nous l'appelons au sein du Comité de haut niveau chargé des programmes (HLCP). C'est loin d'être le cas de toutes les institutions du système des Nations Unies. Le nouveau Portail de transparence que nous avons lancé est un autre changement majeur, et nous continuerons de le renforcer. Nous avons remis à plat la plupart de nos outils de suivi et d'évaluation. Cet exercice a été salué par le Corps commun d'inspection (CCI) des Nations Unies. Nous avons revu la façon dont le Secrétariat rend compte de ses activités aux États membres, avec des rapports de mise en œuvre plus synthétiques et plus stratégiques qui leur permettent de mieux piloter, renforcer ou interrompre les programmes. La gestion axée sur les résultats est pleinement intégrée dans le prochain Programme et budget, qui sera soumis à la 38e session de la Conférence générale : c'est une étape décisive qui place également l'UNESCO parmi les institutions chefs de file en la matière. L'UNESCO est aussi l'une des toutes premières institutions à avoir adopté les nouvelles Normes comptables internationales pour le secteur public (IPSAS), opérationnelles depuis 2010. Ce sera un atout considérable, en termes de crédibilité et de transparence, lorsque nous devrons rendre des comptes en commun avec d'autres partenaires.

49.15 Il reste, bien sûr, beaucoup à faire. Mais la réforme a rendu l'UNESCO plus forte, plus fiable et plus transparente. J'étais à Londres la semaine dernière pour la session du Comité de haut niveau des Nations Unies sur la gestion (HLCM), que je préside. Nous avons évoqué les besoins d'adaptation de l'ensemble du système onusien : comment mieux travailler ensemble ? Comment mutualiser les coûts ? Sur ce plan, le nouveau rapport de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale (CFPI), qui sera examiné prochainement à la cinquième Commission de l'Assemblée générale à New York, est un pas dans la bonne direction. Je crois fermement que l'UNESCO est très bien positionnée à ce niveau, et nous entendons poursuivre nos efforts à cet égard. En outre, nous avons mis au point une série d'outils nouveaux, et plusieurs audits internes ont récemment émis des recommandations très précises et franches sur le recrutement ou sur le dispositif hors Siège. J'espère que nous aurons un débat constructif sur tous ces sujets.

49.16 Mesdames et Messieurs, le Programme à l'horizon 2030 recommande une présence forte sur le terrain et, sur ce point également, l'UNESCO a pris de l'avance en modernisant le réseau de ses institutions associées, qui représentent un avantage comparatif, au plus près de la vie des sociétés. La Conférence générale a adopté à sa dernière session une série de mesures et de documents stratégiques pour repenser les partenariats, les prix UNESCO, nos relations avec les ONG et le travail des Ambassadeurs de bonne volonté, et nous avons scrupuleusement mis en œuvre ces orientations. Nous avons réformé de fond en comble le réseau des chaires UNESCO, en supprimant les chaires inactives et en instaurant un nouveau système de suivi. Nous avons également réformé le réseau des centres de catégorie 2 en vue d'un alignement stratégique sur nos priorités de programme. Nous avons revitalisé la coopération avec les commissions nationales par un dialogue plus constant et un rapport annuel spécifique, qui a été salué par bon nombre d'entre vous. Surtout, malgré la crise et le manque de financements, nous avons poursuivi la réforme de notre dispositif hors Siège, à commencer par l'Afrique. Il aurait été plus facile de suspendre cet effort, de reporter la réforme en Afrique à des jours meilleurs, mais ce n'est pas le choix que nous avons fait. Nous avons préféré anticiper. Nous avons absorbé le coût de la réforme hors Siège en Afrique, simplifié le dispositif avec des bureaux multisectoriels dont la structure correspond précisément à la philosophie du Programme à l'horizon 2030 et à son approche nationale mais aussi régionale. Nous avons renouvelé les directeurs de bureau, en mettant l'accent sur l'égalité des genres. C'est d'ailleurs une méthode que j'ai appliquée dans toute la Maison, où le nombre de femmes à des postes de directeur a bondi de 23 % en 2008 à plus de 40 % aujourd'hui. L'UNESCO a atteint la parité dans la catégorie des postes de fonctionnaire professionnel (P), seule institution du système à pouvoir se prévaloir d'un tel résultat. Les progrès de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de l'égalité des genres viennent d'ailleurs d'être salués chaleureusement par ONU-Femmes. L'UNESCO s'est également décentralisée. Le ratio du personnel Siège/hors Siège est passé de 65/35 à 60/40, conformément aux objectifs. Nous avons adopté de

nouvelles règles de délégation d'autorité pour renforcer l'autonomie des bureaux hors Siège. Cette réforme pose encore de très nombreux défis et il est impératif de renforcer le dispositif en moyens humains et financiers, de trouver du personnel qualifié et de mutualiser les ressources. Pour réussir à mettre en œuvre le Programme à l'horizon 2030 et l'ensemble de son mandat, l'UNESCO doit investir dans le réseau hors Siège et, si nécessaire, rationaliser et simplifier celui-ci dans un souci de compétence et d'efficacité et dans le but d'améliorer l'assistance aux États membres. Évidemment, il y a encore beaucoup à faire dans ce domaine, mais ce que nous avons déjà réalisé est déjà considérable et nous devons en être conscients.

49.17 Durant toute cette période, nous avons été guidés par une vision stratégique claire et par les principes définis par l'Évaluation externe indépendante, dont nous avons régulièrement rendu compte du suivi et dont la quasi-totalité des recommandations ont été mises en œuvre. Nous avons mené à bien ce travail global de réforme tout en gérant une crise sans précédent. Nous avons répondu collectivement – le Secrétariat, les États membres et spécialement le Conseil exécutif – en faisant preuve de sang-froid et en adoptant une feuille de route dont les objectifs ont été largement atteints. Nous avons réduit drastiquement les coûts, mis en place des mesures d'efficacité qui se perpétueront sur le long terme et revu de fond en comble les frais de gestion, de voyage, de consultants entre autres. Cette crise a eu un coût : les programmes ont souffert ; j'ai supprimé environ 500 postes et redéployé le personnel d'une manière qui a été saluée par la Fédération des associations de fonctionnaires internationaux (FICSA) auprès des Nations Unies ; j'ai lancé cette année un nouvel exercice de départs négociés, qui contribue également au renouvellement des équipes, associé à la relance du programme de formation, y compris dans le domaine de l'éthique, avec une formation obligatoire pour tous les directeurs. Nous avons élargi notre base de donateurs afin de construire une structure financière plus diversifiée. Cette année, nos efforts se sont concrétisés. Je pense à notre partenariat avec l'Agence suédoise de coopération internationale pour le développement (SIDA), qui est un modèle du genre, pour des financements plus prévisibles, plus stables et à plus long terme. Je pense à nos relations avec l'Union européenne, qui se sont intensifiées, en particulier au sein de la Commission européenne. Je pense à nos nouveaux partenaires privés : Airtel, au Gabon, la Compagnie Hainan, en Chine, dont les programmes viennent d'être lancés, en faveur de l'éducation des filles notamment.

49.18 Nous entendons poursuivre ce travail, en collaboration avec les États membres et en lien avec d'autres institutions, dans le souci constant d'aligner les ressources sur les priorités du programme, avec la nouvelle stratégie de mobilisation des ressources pour 2016-2017 qui vous est soumise. Cette stratégie met notamment l'accent sur un dialogue structuré avec les organes directeurs à propos des financements, en vue d'accroître la prévisibilité et la stabilité de nos ressources, sans lesquelles rien n'est possible.

49.19 Sur ces fronts, l'UNESCO change et, je crois, avance. Compte tenu de l'ampleur de la crise, nous pouvons dire que nous avons bel et bien réussi à faire de ce défi une opportunité. Mais tout ceci a un coût : l'UNESCO a souffert, les programmes aussi. Nous devons maintenir nos efforts, investir dans l'efficacité, former des professionnels, sécuriser les financements et nous mettre au travail. D'après les discussions que nous tenons dans cette enceinte, les entretiens que j'ai et les interventions des chefs d'État à la tribune de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, il apparaît que l'UNESCO est au cœur des plus grandes mutations du monde contemporain. Face aux menaces de l'extrémisme violent, chacun perçoit la profonde cohérence de notre mandat et la nécessité de lier l'éducation, le dialogue des cultures, la liberté de la presse, qui sont des armes de résistance et de résilience. Face au défi climatique, devant la multiplication des phénomènes extrêmes, jamais peut-être n'avons-nous perçu avec autant de force l'urgence d'investir massivement dans la recherche, la prévention des risques, l'éducation au développement durable, qui sont précisément les priorités de l'UNESCO.

49.20 Une chose est sûre, Mesdames et Messieurs : nous ne pouvons pas relever ces défis en nous fixant simplement des objectifs comptables et des ratios budgétaires. Ce que l'on attend de l'UNESCO, c'est qu'elle propose et défende une certaine idée de l'humanisme, un engagement pour la dignité humaine. C'est précisément ce que firent ses fondateurs en 1942 lorsqu'ils se réunirent à Londres, au beau milieu de la guerre, pour discuter de solidarité intellectuelle et de paix dans un continent déchiré. Devant les urgences du monde actuel, nous devons retrouver la même audace visionnaire, qui est l'âme de l'UNESCO, sa raison d'être. C'est notre responsabilité collective. C'est ce pari, chaque jour renouvelé, que nous devons refaire aujourd'hui.

49.21 Cette session du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, est la dernière avant la Conférence générale, et plusieurs décisions d'importance capitale sont sur la table. Ce 70e anniversaire est l'occasion privilégiée de mettre en avant le meilleur de l'UNESCO, les concepts et les programmes que l'Organisation a su proposer, au service de l'humanité, pour le patrimoine mondial, pour la diversité culturelle, pour la biodiversité, pour la liberté d'expression, pour la citoyenneté mondiale. Si l'UNESCO est aujourd'hui positionnée au cœur du Programme à l'horizon 2030, consciente de ses défis et confiante dans sa capacité à les relever, c'est grâce au leadership de ce Conseil exécutif, et je tiens à vous saluer, Monsieur le Président, ainsi que l'ensemble des présidents de comité : Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de la Guinée, pour le Comité spécial, Madame la déléguée permanente de la République tchèque, pour le Comité sur les conventions et recommandations, Monsieur le représentant du Népal, pour le Comité sur les partenaires non gouvernementaux, Madame la déléguée permanente du Gabon, pour le Groupe préparatoire, ainsi que les deux présidents de commission : Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Mexique, pour la Commission PX, et Monsieur le représentant du Royaume-Uni, pour la Commission FA. Il me semble que c'est ainsi, ensemble, que l'UNESCO avance. Alors que la 38e session de la Conférence générale se profile, et en cette année de célébration du 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, je crois que nous avançons sereins, fermement convaincus de l'importance de notre mission, plus pertinente que jamais. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

DEUXIÈME SÉANCE

Lundi 12 octobre 2015 à 15 h 00

Président : M. Amr

Tributes to the memory of eminent personalities deceased since the previous session of the Board

1. **The Chair** *in extenso*:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, before beginning our work this afternoon, it is my sad duty to announce that our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Dr Eric Edroma, representative of Uganda to the Executive Board, passed away on 30 September 2015. He had been a valued and well-respected Member of the Board since the 194th session. His participation in the sessions of the Executive Board, as well as his dedication to UNESCO's mandate, will certainly be remembered. Moreover, as Uganda's representative to the Board, he will be sorely missed. He was a man who believed in the ideals of our beloved Organization. On behalf of all the Members of the Executive Board, I would like to pay tribute to his memory.

2.1 **The Director-General** *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, on behalf of the UNESCO Secretariat, I wish to express my deep condolences for the passing of Professor Eric Edroma, Permanent Delegate and representative of Uganda to the Executive Board. It was just a short while ago that I had the honour of meeting Professor Edroma, when he came to UNESCO for the first time in his capacity as a Member of the Executive Board. It was in April, at the 194th session of the Executive Board. During our meeting, Professor Edroma spoke passionately about the need for Uganda to benefit more from the work that UNESCO does, especially in relation to the sciences and our Programme on Man and the Biosphere, of which he was such an ardent supporter. Professor Edroma indeed spent his entire professional life dedicated to wildlife preservation. He saw first-hand the ravages of illegal poaching on biodiversity, and he understood clearly the intimate relationship between people, the environment and sustainable development. As he told me, from an early age, he understood that raising the awareness and educating his country's youth was key to ensuring environmental protection. For Professor Edroma, protecting wildlife benefited both nature and people, and I was very impressed by his advocacy. I believe that we all recall the advocate, the activist and, I would say, the environmental enthusiast.

(*The Director-General continued in French*)

2.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, en mémoire du Professeur Edroma, nous devons souligner ses réalisations en tant que scientifique, universitaire et fervent avocat de l'Ouganda et de l'Afrique, à travers les efforts immenses qu'il a déployés en Ouganda pour favoriser un tourisme écologique plus responsable et durable ainsi que l'amélioration de la gestion de la biodiversité. Dans cet esprit, je tiens à adresser une fois de plus mes sincères condoléances à la famille et aux amis du Professeur Edroma, au peuple ougandais et à tous ceux, nombreux, qui le regrettent aujourd'hui. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

3.1 **Ms Madhvani** (Uganda) *in extenso*:

His Excellency, Ambassador Amr, Chair of the Executive Board, Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, thank you, Mr Chair, for calling on me to say a few words about the late Dr Eric Edroma, who died on 30 September 2015. Dr Edroma played a pivotal role in preparing the documentation for the inscription of the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda as a world heritage site. Dr Edroma served as Uganda's representative on the Executive Board until his passing. He will always be remembered for winning an emblem of recognition from UNESCO in 1982, which he wore with pride until his death. Uganda as a whole is honoured by his achievement.

3.2 Dr Eric Edroma was the first Executive Director of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and is credited for what Uganda has achieved in wildlife conservation and the wildlife clubs that are in schools today. He was co-founder of the Wildlife Clubs of Uganda, a major objective of which is to provide Ugandan youth with conservation education and opportunities to participate in conservation activities. He will also be remembered for advocating the establishment of a Forest Department in Uganda in 1990 and increasing the number of national parks in Uganda from three to 10.

3.3 Dr Edroma was highly intelligent and won scholarships throughout his school years. When he left the Uganda Wildlife Authority in 1997 after reaching the retirement age of 60, he joined Makerere University as a part-time lecturer, and Nkumba University in Kampala as a full-time senior lecturer. In 2003, he received an American Biographical Institute medal. In 2006, he received another U.S. Presidential Award, through the National Council of Science and Technology, where he had been Vice Chairman for eight years. In 2003 in London, Dr Edroma won a European Business Assembly Award in recognition of his contribution to research in the natural science and cultural sectors and the promotion of higher education.

3.4 President Museveni, the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the family of Dr Edroma thank UNESCO for remembering such a humble and able man committed to the Organization's causes. May we continue to be inspired by his commitment. Uganda has lost a passionate conservationist and a true inspiration for the African continent and the world as a whole. May God give his soul eternal peace. For God and my country, thank you.

REPORTING ITEMS (*continued*)

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme execution (197 EX/4 Part I; 197 EX/4.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37C/5) as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited) (197 EX/4 Part II and Corr.; 197 EX/4.INF.2-3; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (197 EX/5 Part I; 197 EX/5.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (197 EX/5 Part II and Addenda) (*continued*)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (197 EX/5 Part III) (*continued*)

Item 5.IV: Management issues (197 EX/5 Part IV and Corr. and Addenda; 197 EX/5.INF.2; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (197 EX/5 Part V and Corr. and Addenda) (*continued*)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING (*continued*)

Item 17: Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (197 EX/17 and Add. and Corrigenda) (*continued*)

Oral report by the Chair of the Preparatory Group
(197 EX/PG.INF; 197 EX/PG/Recommendations)

4.1 **Ms Katagum** (Nigeria) (Chair of the Preparatory Group) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, I have the honour of addressing you in my capacity as Chair of the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the Board for entrusting me with this challenging assignment and for extending their cooperation and support, which has greatly facilitated my task. Let me also take this opportunity to salute the work and dedication of my predecessor, Ms Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe, (Gabon), who led the group through its first three sessions.

4.2 Distinguished colleagues, the Preparatory Group met from 21 to 23 September 2015 and examined 12 items on the Board's agenda, selected in consultation with the Chairs of the Executive Board, the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) and the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA). The discussions were conducted in accordance with the mandate of the Preparatory Group and were aimed at highlighting major issues raised in Executive Board documents in order to facilitate and streamline the subsequent examination of the items in the commissions. In accordance with established practice, an opportunity was provided to Member States that had proposed additional items for inclusion on the agenda of the Executive Board to make presentations on the content and aim of their respective documents. Presentations were made on 10 items in this regard. The Preparatory Group held constructive and substantive discussions, which resulted in the recommendations contained in document 197 EX/PG/Recommendations. The full narrative report giving an account of the main thrust of the exchanges is contained in document 197 EX/PG.INF. I shall therefore attempt to guide you through these reports by highlighting the most salient points.

4.3 The Group began its work by examining item **4.I** "Programme execution". It was recalled that the Executive Board, at its 195th session, had adopted a decision on the future content, format and cycle of document EX/4 Part I. As a result, a Programme Implementation Report (PIR) will be presented at every spring session of the Executive Board and a Strategic Results Report (SRR) every four years. The SISTER Online Report was submitted to the Executive Board at its current session. One improvement was noted in the presentation of the content of that report. Concern was voiced nevertheless regarding its excessive length and level of detail. Some Member States questioned the added value of such extensive reporting. It was observed that overall, a fully "on track" status of implementation prevails across all programme activities, which appears to be inconsistent with the current realities of programme implementation and constraints resulting from the Organization's financial situation. The Group therefore renewed its previous recommendation to the effect that harmonization of reporting on programme implementation and the status of related expenditure should be undertaken.

4.4 The Preparatory Group examined extensively item **4.II** "Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited)" and formulated 12 recommendations in that regard. The Group raised concerns with respect to the funding and rationale for the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme. It was thought in particular that funding of that programme might not be consistent with previous Executive Board decisions and the General Conference resolution stipulating that all savings generated should be redeployed to the five major programmes. The Group requested the Secretariat to provide a list of the 39 posts rendered vacant through the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme, along with information on the lapse factor and savings. The Preparatory Group also noted a difference between the current and expected vacancy rate, and the stated lapse factor for document 39 C/5. Enquiries were made about the difference between the lapse factor and the vacancy rate. In that context, it was noted that the relevant information had already been provided in existing Executive Board documents, namely, the report on the budget orientation debate and the External Auditor's report on budgetary techniques. Attention was drawn to Part V of the budget relating to anticipated cost increases and it was pointed out that some of the reported line transfers could have been covered by that part of the budget. The Group also noted that the Appropriation Resolution could only be amended by the General Conference and concluded that a retroactive amendment to the Appropriation Resolution should not be envisaged.

4.5 On item **5.I.D** "Activities benefiting SIDS within the Organization's programme (2014-2017) and budget (38 C/5), including an analysis of additional resource requirements", the elaboration of the first overall small island developing States (SIDS) programme assessment was commended. However, Member States were concerned by the lack of consistency across sectors in the development of activities and funding for SIDS-related action. The need for capacity to clearly identify specific activities benefiting SIDS and the possible development of information tools to this effect was underlined, and a request made for a breakdown of the regular programme and extrabudgetary funding allocated to SIDS. Furthermore, Member States felt that emphasis should be placed on climate change and its impact, and that the document should also take into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21). The Preparatory Group addressed the issue of implementation of action for improved management of extrabudgetary funds, with an extensive list of 14 recommendations. The cost-recovery mechanism was discussed at length, in particular, the feasibility of achieving the 2% target, the need for further clarification of the cost-recovery policy, and strengthening of its implementation. The role of field offices in the mobilization of the extrabudgetary process should be emphasized and reflected in the proposed draft decision. Concerns were raised about the overall capacity of the Secretariat to mobilize resources and the imperative need for a staff training strategy in this area. In response to

information provided earlier, Member States asked to what extent Global Priority Africa benefited from extrabudgetary resources and innovative financing.

4.6 During the discussion on item **5.IV.D** "Invest for Efficient Delivery", the Group noted that the idea behind this initiative had enabled the Board to reach its sensitive consensus on the zero nominal growth plus budget for draft document 38 C/5 and that the investment fund would need to produce a return for draft document 39 C/5 commensurate with the budget consensus. The Invest for Efficient Delivery Fund needed greater clarity with respect to the definition of the investment, return on investment, investment options and payback period. It was noted that the initiative would be implemented within existing programmes. However, further clarification was needed on the savings expected from knowledge management (KM) and information and communication technology (ICT) strategies and investments. As far as the criteria for introducing new programmes and maintaining existing ones, such as sunset clauses, was concerned, it was emphasized that the core mandate of the Organization should be considered, and clear methods and criteria for initiating, maintaining and terminating our activities should be developed.

4.7 With regard to the proposed presentation of performance indicators and targets for global priorities, Member States requested that these performance indicators be mainstreamed through all programme sectors. The Preparatory Group welcomed the outcome of the World Education Forum 2015 and requested that a sustainable operational plan outlining specific action, along with effective implementation mechanisms, be developed. A strategic results report (SRR) should be submitted to the Executive Board at its spring session in 2016. While appreciating the report on UNESCO's participation in preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, the Group expressed concerns about the Organization's comparative advantage, role and available funds for ensuring effective involvement in the process. Executive Board discussions should feed into the General Conference debate, especially in the context of the preparation of document 39 C/5. Guidelines for structuring such debates in all General Conference commissions should be developed. The Group expressed satisfaction with the document submitted under item **9** "Report on the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)" and recommended that it be examined without debate by the Executive Board.

4.8 Under item **12** "Enhancing UNESCO's contributions to promote a culture of respect", the Group took the view that determining the nature and extent of possible UNESCO action in that area appeared to be complex. It was recommended that the relevant resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council be made available to the Executive Board to facilitate consideration of the item. When considering item **18.II** "Implementation of the current Programme and Budget (37C/5), with results achieved in the previous biennium (38 C/3)", the Group requested that the report be presented in the format agreed previously and that the General Conference consider discussing an alternative format for the report. Finally, during consideration of the additional items, a Member State expressed dissatisfaction with what was perceived as an imbalance in the distribution and allocation of time to the items being considered by the Group. The Member State was reminded of the mandate of the Preparatory Group and assured that the concerns expressed would be brought to the attention of the Board.

4.9 Mr Chair, Excellencies, dear colleagues, I have come to the end of my report on the work of the Preparatory Group and I sincerely hope that my attempt to summarize our debate has done justice to our work. I would like to express my appreciation to the Vice Chair of the Preparatory Group, Ms Ahnborg (Sweden), for her continuous cooperation and backing, as well as to the Chairs of the PX and FA Commissions, Ambassador Ledo and Ambassador Sudders, who lent their full support and wise council. I wish to thank the Members of the Preparatory Group and all the other Member States who participated in the discussions for their collaboration and support during the debates. Special thanks to the representatives of the Director-General for supporting the Group in its deliberations with the necessary explanations and clarifications. I also wish to thank the technical assistants, the room clerks, the interpreters and the translators for their invaluable assistance. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Preparatory Group, Ms Magdalena Landry and Mr Sachin Bhatt, and the members of their team, Ms Maria del Mar Marcos, Ms Ana Iglesias-Morel, Ms Emily Stirnemann and Ms Olive Ugo-Nlemadim. I thank you all for your kind attention.

Plenary debate (*continued*)

5.1 **Mr Baswedan** (Indonesia) *in extenso*:

Bismillāh ir-raḥmān ir-raḥīm, as-salāmu 'alaikum wa-raḥmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh. Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, Indonesia welcomes the report of the Director-General delivered at the plenary meeting. We congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat for the progress achieved in reinventing UNESCO's programme and priorities. Soon we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. But we still face a lot of challenges, such as climate change, intercultural conflicts, violence and extremism, and the role of UNESCO has never been as important as it is today. All of us must continue our efforts to search for peace through our cooperation and programmes in UNESCO's fields of competence.

5.2 Next month, we will adopt the draft of the Education 2030 Framework for Action. Indonesia is of the view that efforts regarding education, with its position in the heart of the sustainable development agenda, should give priority to the unfinished business of the education for all (EFA) goals, and that we should push ourselves to be more successful in the areas of education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

5.3 In the field of science, Indonesia emphasizes the role of ethics in the development of science for the honour of humankind. We believe also that UNESCO Member States should become aware of the need to protect, promote and preserve our natural wealth. The energy that we have today should be used wisely to balance economic interests with environmental and moral values. This year, Indonesia has added two extraordinary natural sites of volcanic and marine wealth to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

5.4 We believe that culture is an indispensable component for pursuing sustainable development. Culture is not only the driver but a basic moral guide for all development. A strong culture will put humans in the centre of development. Culture generates creativity and is

an engine for economic growth and development. Culture that gives rise to a creative industry can be an important tool in fighting against poverty. It is within a cultural framework that we can also develop and establish a culture of respect, pluralism, democracy, freedom of expression and respect for human rights. Aware of the strategic importance of culture in the global sustainable development agenda, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia will organize for the second time a World Culture Forum, to be held in 2016. Indonesia also expects UNESCO to save cultural heritage in conflict areas.

5.5 In line with UNESCO's Global Priority Africa, Indonesia hosted the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Asian-African Conference in Bandung, Indonesia from 19 to 24 April 2015. In that connection, last week we inscribed the Asian-African Conference Archives on the Memory of the World Register to enable them to be shared globally.

5.6 Ladies and gentlemen, Indonesia appreciates the Director-General's efforts to make the Secretariat and management more reliable and transparent, with a balance of hard and soft power. This is Indonesia's last session on the Executive Board since our term will expire in November. Let me express our appreciation to all Members of the Board for their cooperation during Indonesia's term. Let me also congratulate and thank you, Mr Chair, for your leadership in chairing the Board, and Madam Irina Bokova, for the warmth of your heart towards Indonesia and your wisdom in arriving at the best for UNESCO.

5.7 To conclude, it is my genuine hope that, in the spirit of celebrating the Organization's 70th anniversary, our work on the Executive Board will be productive and will transform into reality UNESCO's aim of contributing to peace and security, as well as our commitment to promoting human dignity. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-raḥmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh*. I thank you.

6.1 **M. Giro** (Italie) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais avant tout remercier la Directrice générale pour les mots de courtoisie qu'elle a adressés à mon pays ainsi que pour l'attention qu'elle a bien voulu porter aux initiatives organisées par le Gouvernement italien dans le cadre de l'Exposition universelle de Milan, et plus récemment, à l'Organisation des Nations Unies à New York. « L'Italie s'engage à protéger le patrimoine aux côtés de l'UNESCO » : ainsi s'est exprimé le Président du Conseil Matteo Renzi devant la 70e Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, en rappelant l'engagement traditionnel et historique de mon pays dans le secteur de la préservation des biens culturels. Si j'ai voulu m'exprimer personnellement au nom de l'Italie au sein de ce Conseil, à la veille des célébrations du 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO et à un moment particulièrement délicat sur le plan international, c'est pour réaffirmer une fois de plus notre soutien convaincu à l'action que l'UNESCO est en train de mener dans un domaine qui s'avère aujourd'hui d'une importance prioritaire, à savoir la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel dans les zones de conflit et la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels.

6.2 Comme l'a souligné à plusieurs reprises la Directrice générale dans sa condamnation des attaques délibérées des groupes terroristes, la préservation du patrimoine est un impératif humanitaire qui requiert une réponse forte et concrète de la part de la communauté internationale. Face à ces crimes contre l'humanité, les expressions de regret ou de condamnation ne sont plus suffisantes. Pour ces raisons, j'aimerais insister sur le lien indissociable qui existe entre la destruction du patrimoine et les questions humanitaires et de sécurité humaine. Saccager des temples, monuments, statues et lieux de culte revient à detruire des témoignages culturels qui constituent l'identité des peuples et des nations. Des populations entières ainsi privées de leurs racines se trouvent obligées de quitter leurs lieux d'origine et de se réfugier ailleurs. L'Italie compte parmi les nombreux pays qui s'engagent chaque jour, comme vous le savez tous, pour accueillir et sauver des vies humaines fuyant la guerre et le désespoir. À ce niveau, je dirais que nous faisons face à une crise qui dure, et qui durera. L'Italie, depuis plus de deux ans, affirme la nécessité d'une nouvelle approche et d'une nouvelle politique face à cet événement historique qui s'inscrira dans le temps, et nous nous réjouissons que nos partenaires rejoignent enfin notre position. Je voudrais ajouter que le phénomène tragique des réfugiés nous met face à notre responsabilité, celle de garantir le pluralisme, mais aussi de protéger le patrimoine matériel et immatériel qui est le fondement de l'identité des communautés. Si la communauté internationale lutte contre les génocides, comme il se doit, il faut aussi qu'elle lutte contre l'ethnocide, qui est le génocide culturel. Dans ce contexte, l'Italie souhaite réaffirmer avec conviction sa volonté d'aider l'UNESCO à trouver des solutions adéquates et efficaces pour prévenir les situations de crise dans le domaine de la préservation du patrimoine et y répondre. À cet effet, nous avons présenté un projet de décision proposant la mise en place d'un mécanisme opérationnel qui serait à la disposition de l'UNESCO pour intervenir dans ces situations critiques. L'Italie est en train de constituer une équipe spéciale à composition mixte – civile et militaire – auprès du Ministère de la culture, en collaboration avec les Carabinieri, qui pourra apporter un soutien concret à l'action de l'UNESCO dans ces domaines. Le projet de décision vise également à soutenir les efforts de la Directrice générale visant à ce que la protection du patrimoine culturel soit dûment intégrée dans la stratégie de processus de paix élaborée au sein du Conseil de sécurité.

6.3 Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice générale, en ces temps d'incertitude, il s'agit d'opposer une autre réalité, politique, morale, culturelle, et une autre volonté : celle du respect, de l'échange et du dialogue entre toutes les cultures. C'est un immense défi auquel nous sommes tous confrontés, et sont confrontées toutes nos sociétés : il est urgent et nécessaire, pour la paix, la stabilité et le développement durable, de combler le fossé entre les cultures. La diversité culturelle est la base sur laquelle toute l'évolution de l'être humain a été fondée. C'est une force motrice du développement non seulement social et politique, mais aussi économique. Il a été démontré que les investissements dans les secteurs culturels et créatifs contribuent de manière importante à revitaliser les économies locales et à générer des emplois et des revenus, tout en soutenant la créativité. Un échange équitable et un dialogue entre les civilisations et les cultures, fondés sur la compréhension et le respect mutuels, représentent des conditions indispensables pour bâtir la cohésion sociale et la réconciliation. Mesdames et Messieurs, pourquoi les ennemis de la paix s'attaquent-ils au patrimoine ? Ils veulent détruire toute mémoire de la création humaine. Pour eux, la culture n'existe pas. L'homologation essentialiste est leur but : pas de mémoire, pas de création, pas d'histoire, seulement une idéologie sans racine. En définitive : pas de vie.

Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, l'UNESCO peut et doit fournir une réponse concrète et efficace aux défis actuels dans tous ses domaines de compétence. L'Italie est profondément attachée aux valeurs et aux objectifs qui découlent de son mandat et souhaite continuer de s'engager pleinement aux côtés de l'Organisation. Aussi a-t-elle présenté sa candidature à une réélection au sein du Conseil exécutif. Nous estimons en effet pouvoir travailler de manière efficace et solide en coopération avec tous les États membres.

7.1 **Sr. Mora Witt** (Ecuador) *in extenso:*

Señora Directora General, señor Presidente del Consejo y miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo, señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, embajadores y embajadoras: hace pocos días, en el marco de las Naciones Unidas, se aprobó la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015. La UNESCO, a través de sus Estados Miembros y de conformidad con su mandato, ha participado activamente en la definición de dicha agenda reafirmando su liderazgo y su contribución al desarrollo social, inclusivo, equitativo y sostenible, así como la adopción de medidas frente al cambio climático.

7.2 Al cumplirse 70 años de la creación de la UNESCO, el GRULAC valora en alto grado la necesidad de avanzar en una reforma holística e integral de la gobernanza de la Organización, como fue requerida por la 37ª Conferencia General. Precisamente, por ello, será necesario discutir ampliamente en la presente reunión las propuestas que se han presentado y que esperamos tengan por objetivo esa transformación profunda, capaz de llevarnos a ser dignos herederos de las insignias de paz, cultura, ciencia y educación, y, por supuesto, democracia.

7.3 El GRULAC reconoce la prioridad de la educación para la región y por ello se congratula con la adopción de la Declaración de Incheon, aprobada en el Foro Mundial sobre la Educación de 2015, reiterando su firme compromiso para alcanzar la meta global en materia educativa: "Hacia una educación inclusiva y equitativa de calidad y un aprendizaje a lo largo de la vida para todos". Esta visión de la educación, que aspira al desarrollo sostenible, exige resolver problemas comunes y reconocer nuevos desafíos, y, el más importante, la lucha contra la pobreza, porque de ella se derivan la desigualdad, la exclusión y la violencia en el interior de las sociedades, como lo demuestra la crisis humanitaria de refugiados, y no podemos olvidar que los seres humanos no somos ilegales. El GRULAC, bajo la premisa de que la educación y el conocimiento son un bien público y un derecho humano fundamental, que debe ser garantizado por los Estados, celebra el acuerdo alcanzado en las recientes negociaciones del Marco de Acción Educación 2030, en lo relativo al mecanismo de coordinación de dicho instrumento, que da una mayor participación a los Estados Miembros en ese proceso, en virtud de la responsabilidad que tienen los gobiernos en la implementación exitosa de la agenda sobre educación de la UNESCO. El GRULAC aboga por el fortalecimiento del IESALC y acoge con beneplácito la estrategia de sostenibilidad financiera elaborada por su Consejo de Administración, por lo cual agradece a la Secretaría su apoyo y receptividad, porque la responsabilidad social de la educación es un asunto que compete a todos, porque de su optimización depende el futuro de nuestros pueblos. Se trata de formar ciudadanos, actores del destino, y no pasajeros o mudos testigos del devenir.

7.4 Señor Presidente: el GRULAC promueve la protección de la identidad y patrimonio cultural, por lo cual alienta a los Estados Miembros de la UNESCO a continuar sus acciones para reforzar la Convención de 1954 y sus protocolos, así como las convenciones de 1970, 1972, 2001, 2003, 2005 y demás instrumentos existentes en este ámbito, así como la adhesión a los planes de acción revisados, desarrollados específicamente para América Latina y el Caribe, a través de procesos de consulta de la UNESCO en esta materia. En ese marco, nuestro grupo regional se congratula por la aprobación de las directrices operativas de la Convención de 1970, durante la tercera Reunión de los Estados Partes, que tuvo lugar en mayo de 2015, así como por los avances realizados para su implementación, durante la última reunión del Comité Subsidiario. No hablamos, señor Presidente, de simples normativas; nos referimos a la memoria de nuestros pueblos, que representa, paradójicamente, la historia del futuro.

7.5 Asimismo, el GRULAC reafirma la necesidad de que el documento C/5 asegure las condiciones para el cumplimento equilibrado y armónico del Gran Programa relativo a la cultura, tal como ha sido aprobado por los jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en la adopción de la agenda de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo después de 2015. La cultura, huelga decirlo, no es adorno ni abalorio, es el testimonio de la vida, de la muerte, del amor, de la lucha, de los signos, de las contraseñas a través de las cuales nos identificamos como seres humanos. El compromiso con la cultura ha sido ratificado por los ministros de Cultura de la CELAC, reunidos en septiembre pasado en Cuba, quienes adoptaron el Plan de Acción Cultural, incluyendo a la UNESCO como actor clave para su implementación, y por ello elevamos la voz convencidos del destino común en una región de cultura y paz, sin guerras, miseria ni injusticias. Nuestro grupo regional reitera su solidaridad con los países que están siendo afectados por la destrucción de su patrimonio cultural, que representa la pérdida irreparable de la memoria de la humanidad.

7.6 El Programa MOST dispone de los mecanismos necesarios para contribuir a que los Estados puedan dotarse de nuevas políticas públicas para alcanzar las metas de la agenda de desarrollo sostenible. Con tal fin, el GRULAC, a través de su propuesta, pretende destacar los logros de este Programa poniendo sus herramientas al servicio del periodo posterior a 2015. Las transformaciones sociales no son una herramienta, son el sueño de comunidades, y las decisiones políticas que invocan la igualdad deben tomar en cuenta el esfuerzo que hace el MOST para implementar investigación, conocimiento y capacitación.

7.7 El GRULAC apoya el Plan de Acción para los PEID y aguarda la implementación por parte de la UNESCO, asegurando el financiamiento y estableciendo mecanismos para ello. También espera un rol específico por parte del Instituto de Estadística de la UNESCO de desagregar los datos e indicadores sobre el estado de desarrollo de los pequeños Estados insulares.

7.8 El GRULAC, consciente de los desafíos del cambio climático y los riesgos para nuestros territorios y océanos y de que los manglares constituyen un ecosistema único, especial y frágil, ha propuesto que la próxima Conferencia General de la UNESCO adopte la celebración del Día internacional de defensa del ecosistema de manglares, junto con otros componentes de la gestión de riesgos climáticos.

7.9 Señor Presidente: nos preocupa la representación insuficiente de nuestro grupo regional en la Secretaría, en particular en puestos de director o de categorías superiores, así como la crisis financiera que afecta a la Organización. Consideramos que la relación entre la Estrategia a Plazo Medio de ocho años, el ciclo de programación de cuatro años y el de presupuestación de dos años debe fortalecerse para asegurar la mejor implementación de los programas a largo plazo. Por ello, nuestro grupo regional velará en el Consejo Ejecutivo para que la UNESCO no deje a un lado aquellos programas que tienen gran valor estratégico y que caracterizan la esencia de la Organización. Señor Presidente: la adopción de los objetivos aprobados por nuestros jefes de Estado en la agenda para el desarrollo después 2015, en Nueva York, refuerza nuestra voluntad y refrenda nuestra confianza de que la UNESCO será capaz de hacer frente a los retos que hemos identificado. En nombre del GRULAC, muchas gracias.

7.10 Continúo ahora en representación de mi país. El Ecuador concluirá en esta reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo su mandato de cuatro años para el cual fue elegido por la Conferencia General en el año 2011. Nuestro compromiso con la Organización ha ido más allá del cumplimiento de mandatos, estatutos o resoluciones, ya que creemos que la UNESCO, y no es posible olvidar su origen, es el resultado y la respuesta a una tragedia universal, como lo fue la Segunda Guerra Mundial. De ahí que ningún discurso pueda ni deba evitar la razón misma de su mandato fundacional y de su destino.

7.11 En relación con la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015, que acaba de ser adoptada por nuestros jefes de Estado, debo subrayar que el Ecuador cumplirá las 21 metas de los ocho Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Al momento, 20 de esas 21 metas se encuentran cumplidas, algunas antes del tiempo previsto y con mayor rigor del predeterminado, pero, como lo ha dicho nuestro Presidente, Rafael Correa, esas metas son principios mínimos, casi elementales, para satisfacer la conciencia colectiva de los pueblos, “que no cuestionan las profundas asimetrías sociales y económicas que vive el planeta, siendo la más importante la superación de la pobreza, consecuencia de sistemas inequitativos, injustos y perversos”. Donde hay justicia no hay pobreza, decía Confucio 500 años antes de Cristo, pero parece ser que la humanidad no aprende, no se sensibiliza y, entonces, asistimos a situaciones donde la barbarie, la insensibilidad y el desdén afloran aunque se justifiquen con palabras sin sustento, ni ética ni moral.

7.12 En lo estrictamente relacionado con los principios que guían a la UNESCO, el Ecuador es territorio de paz y, recientemente, ha contribuido con su aporte a la región de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, región permanentemente comprometida por y con la paz, al servir, junto al Uruguay, como motivadores y anfitriones del acuerdo establecido entre la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y Colombia, hace pocas semanas.

7.13 En el Ecuador hemos transformado el sistema educativo, la salud, la vivienda, la seguridad social, la vialidad y la atención a las personas con capacidades especiales mediante programas ejemplares. Nos queda mucho por hacer y desarrollar y, al mismo tiempo, enfrentar brotes de oposición ciega, feroz, que se acostumbró a un país de injusticia y de privilegios.

7.14 En la lucha contra el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales, el Ecuador se congratula por el trabajo del Comité Subsidiario, del cual es parte, que llevó a la adopción por consenso de las directrices operativas, en la tercera Reunión de los Estados Partes en la Convención de 1970. Ahora alienta a la comunidad internacional a continuar con esos trabajos y pensar en la implementación efectiva de los principios y recomendaciones contenidos en tan importante documento.

7.15 Por otro lado, insistimos en nuestro llamamiento a la Organización para evitar una politización sesgada en el tratamiento de temas sensibles como la libertad de expresión y los derechos humanos. La UNESCO no puede transformarse en el órgano por el cual países llamados desarrollados monitorean el desarrollo de los países menos desarrollados, porque todos aquí somos soberanos.

7.16 El Ecuador ha trabajado en el Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO en cada reunión, presentando posiciones que favorecen la gestión de la Organización en los temas de más interés para la comunidad internacional, y se ha esmerado en presentar no solamente su posición, sino también la posición de muchos países pequeños.

7.17 Hoy más que nunca debemos pensar en crear una cultura de paz. Enfrentamos un escenario inaudito de violencia, de destrucción de patrimonio cultural, y el mandato de la UNESCO es hacer posible el desarrollo sostenible, justo, equitativo e inclusivo de nuestros pueblos. Ojalá recordemos que el poder del amor debe vencer al amor al poder. Muchas gracias.

(7.1) **Mr Mora Witt** (Ecuador) *in extenso (translation from the Spanish)*:

Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board and Members of the Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Ambassadors, a few days ago the post-2015 development agenda was adopted at the United Nations. UNESCO, through its Member States and in accordance with its mandate, has actively participated in the definition of this agenda, reaffirming its leadership and its contribution to inclusive, equitable and sustainable social development and the adoption of measures to combat climate change.

(7.2) Seventy years on from UNESCO’s creation, the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) attaches great importance to the need to move forward with a holistic and integral reform of the Organization’s governance, as requested by the General Conference at its 37th session. In order to achieve this, we need to have an in-depth discussion during this session of the proposals which have been presented and which we hope are aimed towards this major transformation, making us the worthy heirs of the emblems of peace, culture, science, education and, of course, democracy.

(7.3) GRULAC recognizes education as a priority in the region and therefore welcomes the adoption of the Incheon Declaration, adopted at the 2015 World Education Forum, reiterating its strong commitment to achieving the global education goal: “towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”. This vision of education, which aspires to sustainable development, requires us to solve common problems and recognize new challenges and, most importantly, to fight against poverty, because poverty is the source of inequality, exclusion and violence within societies, as shown by the humanitarian refugee crisis; we must not forget

that human beings are not illegal. On the understanding that knowledge and education are public goods and a fundamental human right which must be guaranteed by States, GRULAC welcomes the agreement reached recently in negotiations for the Education 2030 Framework for Action, with regard to its coordination mechanism, which encourages greater participation by Member States in this process by virtue of the responsibility of governments for the successful implementation of UNESCO's education agenda. GRULAC advocates the strengthening of UNESCO's International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) and welcomes the financial sustainability strategy laid out by its Governing Board, regarding which I would like to thank the Secretariat for its support and open-mindedness, as we all share a social responsibility for education, because the future of our people depends on its optimization. We need to educate citizens to become actors in their own destiny, not just passengers or silent witnesses of development.

(7.4) Mr Chair, GRULAC promotes the protection of cultural heritage and identity, which is why we encourage UNESCO Member States to continue their actions in reinforcing the Hague Convention and its protocols, as well as the 1970, 1972, 2001, 2003 and 2005 Conventions and the other instruments in this area, as well as compliance with the revised action plans developed specifically for Latin America and the Caribbean, in consultation with UNESCO. In this respect, our regional group welcomes the adoption of the operational guidelines of the 1970 Convention during the third meeting of the States Parties, which took place in May 2015, as well as the progress made in their implementation during the last meeting of the Subsidiary Committee. Mr Chair, we are not talking of mere regulations; we are referring to the memory of our peoples, which represents, paradoxically, the history of the future.

(7.5) GRULAC also reiterates the need for document 38 C/5 to create the conditions for balanced and harmonious compliance with the Major Programme relating to culture, as has been approved by the heads of State and governments in their adoption of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. It goes without saying that culture is not a decoration or a trinket; it is evidence of the life, death, love, struggles, signs and passwords through which we identify ourselves as human beings. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Ministers of Culture, confirmed their commitment to culture at their meeting in Cuba last September, where they adopted the Cultural Action Plan, which includes UNESCO as a key player in its implementation. We support this, convinced of the common destiny of a region of culture and peace, free from war, misery and injustice. Our regional group expresses its solidarity with countries afflicted by the destruction of their cultural heritage, which is an irreparable loss to the memory of humanity.

(7.6) The Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme has the necessary mechanisms for helping States to create new public policies to achieve the goals of the sustainable development agenda. Through its proposal, GRULAC hopes to emphasize the benefits of this programme by putting its tools to good use in the post-2015 period. Social transformations are not a tool, they are the dream of communities, and political decisions relating to equality must take into account the effort that MOST is making to implement research, knowledge and training.

(7.7) GRULAC supports the action plan for small island developing States (SIDS) and looks forward to its implementation by UNESCO, providing funding and establishing mechanisms. We also expect a specific role to be played by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in disaggregating the data and indicators on the development of the small island States.

(7.8) GRULAC is aware of the challenges presented by climate change and the risks it poses for our lands and oceans. The mangrove ecosystem is unique, special and fragile, which is why we have proposed that the UNESCO General Conference at its next session should adopt an International Day for the defence of the mangrove ecosystem alongside other areas of climate risk management.

(7.9) Mr Chair, we are concerned by the underrepresentation of our regional group within the Secretariat, especially in director-level and other senior posts, as well as by the financial crisis affecting the Organization. We believe that the relationship between the eight year Medium-Term Strategy, the four-year programming cycle and the biennial budget cycle should be strengthened to assure better implementation of long-term programmes. At the General Conference, with this in mind our regional group will seek to ensure that UNESCO does not overlook those programmes which have great strategic value and which characterize the essence of the Organization. Mr Chair, the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda goals, approved by our heads of State in New York, reinforces our hopes and increases our confidence that UNESCO will be capable of overcoming the challenges we have identified. On behalf of GRULAC, thank you.

(7.10) I will now speak on behalf of my own country. At this session of the Executive Board, Ecuador will conclude the four-year mandate for which it was elected by the General Conference in 2011. Our commitment to the Organization has gone beyond the fulfilment of mandates, statutes or resolutions, because we believe that UNESCO, whose origins must not be forgotten, is the result of and a response to the worldwide tragedy that was the Second World War. Therefore no discourse can or should neglect the reasons behind its founding mandate and its destiny.

(7.11) With regard to the post-2015 development agenda, which has just been adopted by our heads of State, Ecuador will meet the 21 targets of the eight Millennium Development Goals. To date, 20 of these 21 targets have been achieved, some ahead of schedule and with greater rigour than was expected. As our President, Rafael Correa, has said, these targets represent minimal, almost elementary principles for satisfying the public's collective conscience, and "do not question the deep social and economic imbalances of our world, the most important thing being to overcome poverty, the consequence of unfair, unjust and perverse systems". In 500 BC, Confucius said that where there is justice there will be no poverty, but it seems that humanity has not learned or realized this and therefore we still see situations of cruelty, insensitivity and contempt, justified by

groundless excuses which are neither ethical nor moral.

(7.12) When it comes to the principles that guide UNESCO, Ecuador is a peaceful country which has recently provided support to the Latin American and Caribbean region, which is constantly committed to peace, by serving, alongside Uruguay, as a supporter and host for the agreement established a few weeks ago between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Colombia.

(7.13) In Ecuador, we have transformed the education system, health, housing, social security, the roads and the care of people with special needs through exemplary programmes. There still remains much to be done and much to be developed whilst also countering outbreaks of blind, fierce opposition which are all too familiar in a country of injustice and privilege.

(7.14) In the fight against the trafficking of cultural goods, Ecuador commends the work of the Subsidiary Committee, of which it is a member, which led to the adoption by consensus of the operational directives at the third meeting of the States Parties to the 1970 Convention. Today, Ecuador encourages the international community to continue with this work and consider the effective implementation of the principles and recommendations contained in this important document.

(7.15) We ask the Organization once again to avoid biased politics in the treatment of sensitive topics such as freedom of expression and human rights. UNESCO must not become an institution through which so-called developed countries monitor the progress of less developed countries, as we are all sovereign States here.

(7.16) Ecuador has worked with the Executive Board at each session, presenting positions supporting the management of the Organization in the areas of most interest to the international community, and has taken great pains to present not only its own position, but also those of many small countries.

(7.17) Now more than ever, we need to think about creating a culture of peace. We are faced with unprecedented scenes of violence and the destruction of cultural heritage and UNESCO's mandate is to make sustainable, fair, equitable and inclusive development possible for our peoples. I hope we will remember that the power of love must overcome the love of power. Thank you very much.

8.1 **Mr Kyslytsya** (Ukraine) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, this UNESCO anniversary year is marked by important events of a global nature. Addressing the political, economic, environmental and humanitarian challenges facing international peace and security requires concerted and effective action by the international community. Therefore, we fully support efforts to strengthen UNESCO's global leading role as one of the most influential organizations in the United Nations system with regard to promoting cooperation between nations in the interests of ensuring respect for human rights and freedoms.

8.2 The Government of Ukraine is grateful to international human rights bodies, including the United Nations, for providing it with technical assistance for its work on drafting a national human rights action plan, following the approval by President Poroshenko of our national human rights strategy. This was undertaken in circumstances caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the Russian occupation of a part of Ukraine's territory.

8.3 Disregard for the fundamental principles and norms of international law is the cause of practically all the current armed conflicts in the world, bringing suffering to people and destroying world cultural heritage.

(*The speaker continued in Spanish*)

8.4 Estimados miembros del Consejo: Ucrania apoya la iniciativa de la UNESCO que tiene por objetivo la protección del patrimonio cultural durante conflictos militares. En particular, nosotros respaldamos la declaración relevante aprobada en la reunión del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial en Bonn.

8.5 Nuestro país saluda el éxito del Foro Mundial sobre la Educación, ante todo la adopción de la Declaración de Incheon, en la que se destacó que el derecho a la educación es uno de los derechos humanos fundamentales y la base de la promoción y protección de otros derechos.

8.6 Apoyamos el relevante proyecto decisión propuesto por Francia, Marruecos y el Perú en el marco del punto del orden del día "Lucha contra el desajuste climático/COP 21 – Contribución de la UNESCO y de sus programas".

8.7 El camino hacia los objetivos del desarrollo sostenible no será exitoso sin la superación y la prevención de las consecuencias de los desastres ambientales y tecnológicos. El año que viene conmemoramos la fecha trágica, el trigésimo aniversario de la tragedia de Chernóbil.

8.8 Distinguidos miembros del Consejo: desde la ocupación ilegal por la Federación de Rusia de la República Autónoma de Crimea y de la ciudad de Sebastopol, que se ha producido hace 20 meses, las autoridades ocupantes prohíben cualesquiera manifestaciones culturales, lingüísticas y religiosas de las identidades ucranianas y tártaras. Rápidamente se desencadena una campaña masiva, con el objetivo de suspender las emisiones de radio y televisión en la lengua tártara, que ya resultó en la clausura de un gran número de medios independientes. Bajo el pretexto falso de la lucha contra el extremismo, la libertad de expresión, en cualquier forma, está suprimida. El patrimonio cultural de Ucrania en Crimea se ha convertido, de una manera ilegal, en propiedad federal de la Federación de Rusia. La adopción, el 3 de octubre de este año, del decreto del Gobierno ruso sobre la inclusión de la reserva nacional ucraniana del Quersoneso en la propiedad federal es uno de muchos ejemplos elocuentes de violaciones flagrantes y sistemáticas de los derechos soberanos ucranianos, así como de las normas y principios del derecho internacional. Les recuerdo que se trata de la ciudad antigua del Quersoneso táurico y sus "chora", que está en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial de la UNESCO.

8.9 Estamos seriamente preocupados por el hecho de que las misiones de los organismos internacionales y de los procedimientos especiales no tienen acceso a la República Autónoma de Crimea para verificar la observancia de los derechos humanos en un momento en que la situación sigue deteriorándose. El pasado mes de septiembre se publicó un informe de cien páginas de la

OSCE con pruebas evidentes de que, desde el momento de la ocupación y anexión de Crimea por la Federación de Rusia en 2014, el ejercicio de los derechos humanos y de las libertades fundamentales se deterioró radicalmente para un gran número de residentes y personas desplazadas, entre los cuales los ucranianos y los tártaros de Crimea son objetivos directos. También quiero subrayar la importancia clave de la última actualización del informe de la Misión de las Naciones Unidas de Vigilancia de los Derechos Humanos en Ucrania realizada por la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos. Este informe contiene muchísima información relevante para el mandato de la UNESCO. Estamos convencidos de que la continuación del seguimiento por parte de la UNESCO de la situación en Crimea temporalmente ocupada por la Federación de Rusia es urgente, vital e instrumental.

8.10 Ucrania presentó para su examen en esta reunión un proyecto de decisión que tiene por objetivo el reforzamiento del seguimiento de la situación en Crimea. Esperamos que el proyecto sea apoyado por los miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo. También quiero dar las gracias a todas las delegaciones que han tomado parte en la elaboración del proyecto y han expresado su apoyo a este documento.

(8.4) (*translation from the Spanish*) Dear Members of the Board, Ukraine supports UNESCO's initiative regarding the protection of cultural heritage in the event of military conflict. In particular, we endorse the important declaration adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Bonn.

(8.5) Our country applauds the success of the World Education Forum, particularly the adoption of the Incheon Declaration, which emphasizes the fact that the right to education is a fundamental human right and serves to promote and protect other rights.

(8.6) We support the relevant draft decision proposed by France, Morocco and Peru in the framework of the agenda item on "Combating climate change/COP 21 – Contribution by UNESCO and its programmes".

(8.7) To achieve the sustainable development goals we must prevent and overcome the consequences of technological and environmental disasters. Next year we will commemorate a tragic date, the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

(8.8) Distinguished Members of the Board, since the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, which took place 20 months ago, the occupying authorities have banned all cultural, linguistic or religious manifestations of Ukrainian or Tatar identity. A mass campaign was swiftly launched to cancel Tatar-language radio and television programmes, which has already resulted in the closure of many independent media outlets. Under the false pretext of combating extremism, freedom of expression in all its forms is being suppressed. Ukrainian cultural heritage in Crimea has been illegally converted into the federal property of the Russian Federation. The adoption, on 3 October of this year, of the Russian Government's decree to incorporate the Ukrainian national reserve of Chersonese into federal property is one of many powerful examples of flagrant and systematic violation of Ukraine's sovereign rights and the norms and principles of international law. I remind the Board that this is the Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

(8.9) We are deeply concerned that the missions of international organizations and special procedures do not have access to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to ensure that human rights are being respected at a time when the situation continues to deteriorate. Last September, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) published a 100-page report with clear evidence that, since the occupation and annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, a large number of residents and displaced people have seen their human rights and fundamental freedoms dramatically restricted, with Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians being directly targeted. I also wish to underline the key importance of the latest report by the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. This report contains a wealth of information relevant to UNESCO's mandate. We believe that UNESCO's continued monitoring of the situation in Crimea, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, is urgent, vital and instrumental.

(8.10) Ukraine has submitted for consideration at this session a draft decision aimed at strengthening the monitoring of the situation in Crimea and hopes that the draft decision will be supported by the Members of the Board. I would also like to thank all the delegations which were involved in preparing this draft and have expressed their support for this document.

(*The speaker continued in French*)

8.11 Chers collègues, dans la situation internationale complexe que nous connaissons, malgré l'absence de mécanismes contraignants pour le suivi de la mise en œuvre des décisions adoptées, l'UNESCO a démontré qu'elle constituait un outil efficace pour relever les défis pressants auxquels l'humanité fait face aujourd'hui. Je vous remercie.

9.1 **Ms Plassnik** (Austria) *in extenso*:

Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, dear colleagues, Austria aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. While we meet for this autumn's Executive Board, millions of refugees are being forced, due to violent conflict, to find shelter and a safe place away from their homes. Their fate is an enormous challenge for our countries. Managing today's migration flows first of all requires political commitment and solidarity, but we also need to address the impact newcomers might have on our own societies. We must be aware that long-term trends, such as a fast-growing world population and worsening climatic conditions, will contribute to additional migratory movements and bring the possibility of further conflict. How can we prepare for that? How can we build resilient societies that are willing to embrace growing pluralism and can resist polarization? One thing we know is that education and the promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding, core areas of UNESCO's mandate, are crucial elements of the response.

9.2 This will be Austria's last Executive Board session of our four-year term. In retrospect, here are some highlights of our Organization's achievements during this

period. UNESCO and the Director-General have played an essential role in formulating the sustainable development goal for education and have effectively advocated for the integration of culture as an enabler and driver of development. The Organization's water and biodiversity programmes will be instrumental in our collective efforts to limit the impact of climate change. Through her tireless efforts, the Director-General has succeeded in raising global awareness of the need to protect cultural pluralism and our common heritage, especially in armed conflicts. To strengthen action on the ground, Austria will support UNESCO's emergency safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage with extrabudgetary funds.

9.3 UNESCO is spearheading the debate on global citizenship education, a concept that today is more necessary than ever for raising respectful, empathetic, resilient and critical citizens, who are prepared for the challenges of a globalized, interconnected world. UNESCO is emerging increasingly as a credible partner in the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism, an effort that must start in schools and extend to the Internet. With its expertise in education and information, UNESCO can play an important role and contribute to the United Nations Secretary-General's new plan of action to counter violent extremism and terrorism. UNESCO is taking a strong stand on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The "104" procedure set out in 104 EX/Decision 3.3 is important proof of its commitment to its Constitution. The essential work done in the areas of freedom of the media and safety of journalists is more relevant than ever. This is why Austria is happy to financially support the forthcoming conference on the crucial role of news organizations, to be held in February 2016.

9.4 Today, at this historic moment, we are witnessing UNESCO on the brink of important and necessary change. The 2030 Agenda is indeed of unprecedented scope and significance for all of us. However, in order for it to become a lasting success and fulfil its promise of leaving no one behind, a new level of coherence in policy formulation, implementation and review is needed. The effective implementation of the agenda will require UNESCO to focus. Once we discuss our next four-year programme, we should not be afraid to shift resources to those issues where UNESCO has a unique selling point and comparative advantage, as well as real credibility in the international arena.

9.5 The future of this Organization will in some measure depend on our own capacity to look beyond place de Fontenoy and see the bigger picture. At the same time, efforts for governance reform will go nowhere if we do not manage to create a climate of mutual trust and constructive cooperation among ourselves and with the Secretariat. When it comes to governance of the Executive Board, I appeal to all of you: let's try out, at least on a provisional basis, a new approach and establish a more permanent exchange throughout the year. In an Organization like UNESCO, change can only come incrementally, by testing what works best for all of us.

9.6 For the past four years, we have observed in Austria a growing, promising interest in cooperation with UNESCO, particularly from civil society. We have also noticed a new public awareness of UNESCO's work, with the media focusing on its struggle for the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. This goes together with a growing sensitivity to what is at stake when cultural pluralism comes under fire. In Austria, we have already started a process to analyse how to implement the 2030 Agenda, and we are committed to doing our utmost to support efforts on an international level. Beyond our membership on the Executive Board, my delegation stands ready to work with UNESCO and the Director-General in its effort to build a more resilient, inclusive and tolerant society. This Organization and you, Madam Director-General, can count on Austria's continuing support.

10.1 **Mr Jareonsettasin** (Thailand) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished Executive Board Members, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Thai Government, I have two points to make before this august assembly today. First, the year 2015 marks the adoption of a significant resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, namely the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the eradication of extreme poverty, the reduction of inequality, social inclusion, environmental protection and other noble targets. As the Director-General stated this morning, UNESCO will be at the heart of the efforts to achieve success in meeting these goals. We do not have much time, and in the next 15 years UNESCO and its Member States must contribute the resources and efforts needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. With all our current knowledge in science, education and culture, we can succeed.

10.2 Thailand has been and will continue to be very committed to achieving these goals. Our Government and people are in the midst of reforms in all areas, including education, science, culture and politics. The Thai people are very interested in this; projects and headlines abound. Directions and directives go hand in hand. The most important thing is to keep working to create a mindset that takes these goals seriously and regards them as realistic and achievable. This mindset must be inculcated in Thai citizens in general and students in particular. Thailand is very fortunate that His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen have, over the past 60 years, laid considerable foundations for the sustainable development goals, one of which is the sufficiency economy philosophy, which pervades the thinking of Thais, who often say we live by the "economy of enough".

10.3 Second, this year, the Government of Thailand has submitted a proposal to establish an international training centre in astronomy in Chiang Mai as a category 2 centre. The centre will serve the public interest by helping all people to gain greater knowledge and understanding of astronomy and related sciences. Thailand welcomes the opportunity to work with other Member States to ensure that the centre will stimulate capacity-building and advance sustainable global development. Thailand takes UNESCO and its missions seriously. Together with UNESCO and its Member States, we will continue to support the Organization's mandate to take the lead in pursuing and reaching the sustainable development goals by 2030. Thank you.

11.1 **Sr. Muñoz Ledo** (México)
in extenso:

Señora Directora General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, distinguidos miembros del Consejo: el 70º aniversario de la Organización representa un momento idóneo para reflexionar acerca de los esfuerzos realizados y los obstáculos enfrentados por la Organización. El objetivo de este ejercicio debe ser restablecer el valor de las altas aspiraciones por las cuales se decidió crear, al término de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, una institución que contribuyera, por medio de la

educación, la ciencia y la cultura, a la consolidación de la paz y la seguridad. A pesar de los desafíos que implica promover la educación del ser humano para la paz, preservar la cultura en beneficio de la humanidad y defender la libre expresión en favor de la libertad, México mantiene una profunda fe en la capacidad de la Organización. Estimamos, sin embargo, que su estructura debe robustecerse si deseamos realmente que cumpla las misiones que le fueron encomendadas en 1945, sumadas a las que los propios Estados Miembros le han ido acumulando de manera casi cotidiana. Con renovado optimismo, estamos convencidos de que no se ha extinguido el talento de los seres humanos para hacer de este mundo una morada digna y justa, con menos desigualdades y más oportunidades de desarrollo. A este respecto, estamos seguros de que no podemos prescindir de una organización con la vocación y la convocatoria universal como la que ha probado tener la UNESCO durante más de siete decenios, pero debemos renovar nuestra voluntad política para aprovechar plenamente ese potencial.

11.2 El panorama internacional actual presenta nuevos desafíos para la UNESCO. En primer lugar, preocupan las destrucciones intencionales del patrimonio de la humanidad y los ataques a la diversidad cultural en las zonas de conflicto armado, en varias partes del mundo. El Consejo Ejecutivo deberá velar por la consolidación de una base jurídica amplia que asegure la protección del patrimonio cultural bajo cualquier circunstancia, mecanismos de intervención para atender las necesidades de protección y una mejor coordinación de las acciones en el terreno, en particular en lo que atañe a la lucha contra el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales. En segundo término, nos inquietan los movimientos en masa de poblaciones civiles generados por conflictos armados, crisis humanitarias y desastres naturales y que no solo conllevan el abandono de las escuelas en los lugares de origen, sino que ponen en situación de vulnerabilidad a quienes buscan refugio en terceros países ante las crecientes manifestaciones de rechazo, intolerancia y, en algunos casos, de xenofobia. Los programas de nuestra Organización vinculados con la gestión de las transformaciones sociales, la inclusión social y la protección de la diversidad cultural dan una perspectiva única a la Organización para brindar una dimensión humana a la atención de las víctimas de estas nuevas olas de refugiados y desplazados internos.

11.3 La UNESCO tiene ahora el reto de incorporar en sus programas los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible para 2030, adoptados recientemente en Nueva York, en particular en materia de educación de calidad, promoción de las ciencias y relación entre cultura y desarrollo. La Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible deberá sobre todo atender las causas estructurales de la pobreza, la desigualdad social y la degradación ambiental. Debemos hacer nuestros también los resultados de la Conferencia de las Partes en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (COP 21), habida cuenta de que sin un cambio en los patrones de consumo a través de la educación y una modificación en las formas de producción por medio de la ciencia será difícil alcanzar los objetivos propuestos de un nuevo acuerdo multilateral en materia de cambio climático.

11.4 Señor Presidente: el Gobierno de la República ha refrendado su vocación multilateral y su deseo de fortalecer a la UNESCO. Hace un par de meses, el Presidente Enrique Peña Nieto realizó una visita oficial a la Sede de la Organización para renovar ese compromiso, ocasión en la que recibió de la Directora General el certificado de inscripción del “Acueducto del Padre Tembleque, sistema hidráulico”.

11.5 La educación es sin duda un asunto prioritario para México. Mi país inició una ambiciosa reforma al comienzo de la presente administración, que busca aumentar la calidad de la educación a todos los niveles. La Declaración del Foro Mundial sobre la Educación de 2015 guarda estrecha coincidencia con los objetivos propuestos por el Gobierno de México en relación con la atención, equidad e inclusión educativas. El Secretario de Educación Pública, Maestro Aurelio Nuño Mayer, ha señalado que con la reforma se buscará poner a la escuela en el centro del sistema educativo, a fin de que este se vuelque al servicio de las escuelas y los alumnos, incluso a través de un programa más ambicioso para mejorar la infraestructura educativa. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(11.1) **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico) *in extenso* (*translation from the Spanish*):

Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Members of the Board, the 70th anniversary of UNESCO is the ideal time to reflect on the efforts made and obstacles overcome by the Organization. The objective of this exercise should be to revalue the high hopes which led, at the end of the Second World War, to the creation of an institution to contribute to the consolidation of peace and security through education, science and culture. Despite the challenges involved in promoting education for peace, preserving culture for the benefit of humanity and defending free speech in favour of liberty, Mexico still has great faith in the Organization’s abilities. However, we believe that its structure must be strengthened if we truly hope to accomplish the missions which were assigned to it in 1945, as well as those which Member States themselves have added every day. With a renewed sense of optimism, we are convinced that humanity has not lost its ability to make this world a fair and respectable place with less inequality and more opportunities for development. In this regard, we know that we could not manage without an organization with the vocation and calling that UNESCO has shown over more than seven decades, but we must renew our political will to fully harness its potential.

(11.2) The current international situation presents new challenges for UNESCO. Firstly, the intentional destruction of the heritage of humanity and attacks on cultural diversity in areas of armed conflict in various parts of the world are troubling. The Executive Board must take steps to establish a broad legal basis to protect cultural heritage under all circumstances, intervention mechanisms to meet protection needs and better coordination of action on the ground, in particular for the fight against the trafficking of cultural goods. Secondly, we are worried by the mass migration of civilians caused by armed conflict, humanitarian crises and natural disasters. Not only does it entail the abandonment of schooling in the place of origin, but also endangers those seeking refuge in another country amidst growing displays of rejection, intolerance and, in some cases, xenophobia. Our Organization’s programmes for the management of social change, social inclusion and the protection of cultural diversity give it a unique perspective allowing it to bring a human dimension to caring for the victims

of these new waves of refugees and internal displacement.

(11.3) UNESCO now faces the task of incorporating into its programmes the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, adopted recently in New York, in particular in terms of quality education, the promotion of sciences and the relation between culture and development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should deal in particular with the structural causes of poverty, social inequality and environmental degradation. We must also take on board the results of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), as without a change in consumption patterns through education and the modification of production methods through science it will be difficult to achieve the objectives proposed by any multilateral agreement on climate change.

(11.4) Mr Chair, the Government of Mexico has reaffirmed its multilateral vocation and its desire to strengthen UNESCO. A few months ago, President Enrique Peña Nieto made an official visit to the Organization's Headquarters to renew this commitment and received the certificate of inscription in UNESCO's World Heritage List of the Aqueduct of Padre Tembleque Hydraulic System.

(11.5) Education is undoubtedly a priority for Mexico. My country introduced an ambitious reform at the start of the present administration, seeking to improve education quality at all levels. The Declaration of the 2015 World Education Forum bears close relation to the objectives proposed by the Mexican Government with regard to education provision, equity and inclusion. The Secretary of Public Education, Aurelio Nuño Mayer, has stated that the reform aims to put schools at the heart of the education system, in order to best be of service to schools and pupils, including through a more ambitious programme to improve education infrastructure. Thank you very much, Mr Chair.

١٢,١ **السيد النعيمي** (الإمارات العربية المتحدة) *النص الكامل*:

حضرة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، حضرة رئيس المؤتمر العام، حضرة المديرة العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب السعادة السفراء المندوبين الدائمين، السيدات والسادة الكرام، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، تصل دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة إلى نهاية ولايتها في مجلسكم الكريم بعد سنوات العضوية والحضور والمتابعة، واستكشاف آفاق التنمية والسلام في عالم يتقلّب على جمر النزاعات والأهوال. ولا أخفي أن رحلة الأعوام الأربعة في المجلس التنفيذي كانت رائعة ومثمرة على أكثر من صعيد. وبفضل التعاون الوطيد الذي أقامته دولتي مع الأعضاء الشركاء ومع إدارة هذه المنظمة الرائدة والمتميّزة في مجالات اختصاصها، استطعنا تطوير وتفعيل رؤيتنا إلى العمل التربوي، وجعلنا من التراث ومواقعه كنزاً يغذّي ثقافتنا وفلسفتنا في الانفتاح والتسامح والرقي الإنساني، وعزّزنا ركائز مجتمع المعرفة الذي هو بمثابة البوصلة التي نسترشد بها للاتجاه نحو ما يدعوه المفكر الفرنسي ميشال فوكو في كتابه المرجعي "أركيولوجيا المعرفة" "قمة الكرامة الإنسانية".

١٢,٢ سيدي الرئيس، أيها الحضور الكريم، تزدحم مفكّرتنا اليوم، ونحن في قلب هذه الدورة، بالمواعيد والاستحقاقات والاحتفالات، فإننا على رمية حجر من المؤتمر العام، وفي سياق الاحتفال بالذكرى السنوية السبعين لتأسيس منظّمتنا التي واكبتها محطات ووقفات تُركّز على هذا الإنجاز النوعي الذي صنعه الضمير العالمي بعد فصل طويل من حروب الإبادة ليكون حارساً على القيم الإنسانية الرفيعة بين الجماعات والمجتمعات. وترتسم وسط هذا الأفق محطة استراتيجية شاملة هي خطة التنمية لما بعد عام ٢٠١٥ وما تفرضه من تحديّات، وما تستلزمه من تعبئة فكرية ومنهجية عملية وحداثية لبلوغ الأهداف المنشودة. ولذلك تنخرط كل وكالات المنظومة الأممية ذات الصلة في هذه الورشة المتعدّدة الأبعاد والمتراكمة المستويات والواسعة الأمداء، خصوصاً أنها تُغطّي العديد من الأولويات والاستراتيجيات الوطنية للتنمية المستدامة. وفي هذا الوقت المفصلي من عمل منظمتنا، وحيث تكتسب العودة إلى الينابيع وإلى الميثاق التأسيسي والآباء المؤسسين مشروعية كاملة، نتطلّع إلى ترسيخ الدور المستقبلي لليونسكو كمنارة ومختبر ومعمارية فرّادة وريّادة. ونشدّد على كونها سدّاً عالياً أمام أخطار التعصب والعُصاب الحضاري وظلاميات التكفير، وقارب نجاة من آفات وكوارث المتغيرات المناخية، وجسر احتضان لموضوعات جديدة مثل البيئة ومدن التعلّم والمواطنة العالمية والتنوّع الحيّوي والاستشراف.

١٢,٣ أصحاب السعادة، إخوتي، أخواتي، تجتاز منطقتنا العربية مرحلة في غاية الصعوبة والاستعصاء لم تعرف مثيلاً لها في تاريخها الطويل الذي قام دائماً على التعدّدية والعيش المشترك. فإلى جانب موت البشر واقتلاعهم من جذورهم، هناك اليوم هلاك الحجر ودمار جماليات المشهد التراثي والمعماري والحضاري والإتّجار به على يد شبكات مافياوية. ووسط هذه اللوحة القاتمة المعالم، آلت دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة على نفسها، انسجاماً مع تاريخها ودورها ورسالتها، أن توقد شعلة الأمل وتدرأ أهوال لعبة الظلام من خلال مبادرات تنموية إنسانية. كما أنّ المديرة العامّة لمنظّمتنا، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، لا تألو جهداً في التحذير من المضاعفات الخطيرة لتدمير التراث في سوريّة والعراق. فقد حثّت القوى الفاعلة في العالم على وضع حدّ لهذا العبث بالحضارة وكنوزها الأثريّة. وفي هذا السياق، نطلب منها تعبئة أي جهد ممكن من أجل إنقاذ القدس، مدينة السلام، من التهويد وطمس هويّتها الأصلية، ذلك أنّ مصيراً أسوداً يتربّص بها.

١٢,٤ أيها الحضور الكريم، من هذا المنبر الطليعي بالذات، أجدّد ثوابت دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة المتمثلة في اعتبار اليونسكو ضرورة لهذا العالم حيث بلغ الصراع ذروته بين قوى الخير وفلول الشر، وهي باقية مظلة لتضافر الإرادات من أجل المضيّ قدماً في إنجاز ما تصبو إليه الإنسانية من سلام ورقي ورفاه. ونحن على ثقة بقدرة الإنسان على ارتياد المستحيل. لذلك نقول بضرورة أن نتغلّب على قوى الشر والتكفير ونقضي على عوامل الفتنة والتربّص والتوجّس فنقيم لإنساننا، سواء في الشرق أو في الغرب، في الشمال أو في الجنوب، سلاماً يحقق التنمية وتنمية تدعم السلام وتجسّد قيم الاحتضان والشراكة والتآزر في معترك مسكونية القضايا الكبرى الواحدة. مع تمنياتي بنجاح هذه الدورة وتحقيق الأهداف المنشودة. وشكراً لكم جميعاً.

(12.1) **Mr Alneaimi** (United Arab Emirates) *in extenso (translation from the Arabic)*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Permanent Delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. The United Arab Emirates has come to the end of its term of office on the Board after years of membership, attendance, follow-up and investigation of the horizons of development and peace in a world in flux amid the flames of struggles and horrors. I cannot deny that the experience of four years on the Executive Board has been remarkable and productive on more than one level. Through the solid cooperation which my country has established with fellow Members and the administration of this outstanding pioneering organization in the fields of its competence, we were able to develop our vision and turn it into educational work, to make heritage and heritage sites a treasure sustaining our culture and our philosophy in openness, tolerance and human progress. We have strengthened the pillars of the knowledge society, which is the compass we are guided by in moving towards what the French philosopher Michel Foucault, in his authoritative work *Archaeology of Knowledge*, called "the summit of human nobility".

(12.2) Mr Chair, ladies and gentlemen, our diary is brimming over today, in the midst of this session, with appointments, deadlines and ceremonies as we are just a stone's throw away from the General Conference against the background of the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of our Organization, accompanied by stations and halts focusing on this qualitative achievement created by the world's conscience after the long interval of wars of annihilation to be the custodian of elevated human values between communities and societies. In this perspective an all-embracing strategic staging post comes into view, a post-2015 development agenda, with the challenges of that period and the intellectual mobilization and modern working methodology required to achieve the goals pursued. Therefore, all relevant United Nations system agencies have joined this workshop which is multi-dimensional, multi-level and broad in scope, especially as it covers many national priorities and strategies for sustainable development. In this pivotal period for the work of our Organization, when a return to sources and to the Constitution and the founding fathers is fully legitimate, we strive to secure UNESCO's future role as a beacon, a laboratory and a structure displaying uniqueness and leadership. We stress its role as a high dam before the dangers of fanaticism, the neuroses of civilization and the iniquities of *takfir*, a lifeboat saving us from the destruction and disasters of climate change and a bridge to new themes such as environment, learning cities, global citizenship, biological diversity and foresight.

(12.3) Ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, our Arab region is going through an extremely difficult and virulent period, unprecedented in our long history which was always based on pluralism and co-existence. For today, in addition to people dying or being torn from their roots, there is the destruction of stonework and demolition of the splendours of a cultural, architectural and heritage site, which are traded by mafia gangs. In the midst of this dark picture, the United Arab Emirates has vowed, in keeping with its history, its role and its mission, to light the torch of hope and ward off the horrors of this dark game through humanitarian developmental initiatives. The Director-General of our Organization, Irina Bokova, has also spared no effort to warn of the significant increase of heritage destruction in Syria and Iraq, urging the world's powers to put a stop to this violation of civilization and its archaeological treasures. In this connection we ask her to mobilize all possible efforts to save Jerusalem, the City of Peace, from Judaization and the obliteration of its original identity, as a dark fate awaits it.

(12.4) Ladies and gentlemen, from this very tribune I reiterate the constant position of the United Arab Emirates, considering that UNESCO is a necessity in this world where the struggle between the forces of good and the remnants of evil has reached its climax. It is the canopy bringing together those wishing to advance towards the goal of human aspirations: peace, progress and well-being. We are confident in humanity's capacity to strive for the impossible. Therefore we declare that it is essential to conquer the forces of evil and *takfir*, and to put an end to factors of discord, ambush and apprehension. Let us provide humankind, in the East or the West, in the North or the South, with peace, which brings about development, development which supports peace and gives concrete form to the values of hospitality, partnership and mutual assistance in the single world arena for great causes. With my wishes for the success of this session and achievement of the objectives pursued. Thank you all.

13.1 **Ms Sato** (Japan) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, as we approach the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and the 38th session of the General Conference, I very much look forward to a fruitful exchange of views in this session of the Executive Board. Last week, my country celebrated two new Japanese Nobel laureates, who share this honour with American, Chinese and Canadian colleagues. This shows how scientists of different nationalities can jointly contribute to the welfare of human beings through sound competition and cooperation. Fully recognizing the importance of international cooperation in science, Japan continues to work with UNESCO and its Member States for the operationalization of "sustainability science", an integrated approach to sustainable development.

13.2 In the area of culture, Japan expects UNESCO, as the only United Nations body in charge of culture, to continue to implement steadily and soundly the World Heritage Convention and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, among others. Regarding the World Heritage Convention in particular, we would like to support efforts to promote heritage conservation, and to devise an appropriate system to evaluate new nominations for a more balanced and representative World Heritage List. We welcome the initiative by Turkey as the next chair of the World Heritage Committee. Allow me to share with you one recent example of Japan's contribution to the protection of cultural heritage in conflict zones. The Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research, established by the late Mr Ikuo Hirayama, a former UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, has been protecting and preserving 102 items of cultural property removed from Afghanistan during conflict and has recently decided to return to the items to their home country next year.

13.3 In the field of communication and information, a discussion in close cooperation with experts is due on the Memory of the World Programme with a view to its sound development, including improvements in its governance and transparency. Shortcomings should be addressed properly and promptly, so that UNESCO is better prepared to cope with politically sensitive files, which otherwise would bring division rather than harmony between Member States. Japan expects strong leadership on the part of the Director-General for the improvement of the programme. Japan, as a responsible Member of UNESCO, is ready to support such reform efforts, by which we remind ourselves of the founding purpose of UNESCO, as enshrined in its Constitution.

13.4 In the field of education, UNESCO should continue to play a leading role, with clear priorities, in the coordination of all stakeholders, including international organizations and civil society, to achieve the goals of Education 2030. Japan also encourages the steady implementation and regular follow-up of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session. In this connection, my Government recently announced a new cooperation strategy entitled "The Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth". We will further promote

international cooperation based on this new strategy, in consultation with UNESCO.

13.5 On management issues, I would like to reiterate the need for efficient and effective budget planning and implementation. We hope that the Invest for Efficient Delivery Fund will enhance the effectiveness of each programme through strengthened human resources and improved programme delivery.

13.6 Japan strongly supports UNESCO's Global Priority Gender Equality. Many global leaders and high-level representatives, including the Director-General, actively participated in the World Assembly for Women 2015 held in Tokyo this August. I thank the Director-General for her valuable contribution, including as a panellist on girls' education.

13.7 Regarding Global Priority Africa, Japan encourages the Secretariat to place more focus on its areas of comparative advantage, such as technical and vocational training (TVET), teacher training and science policy. To conclude, Japan remains committed to making a contribution to UNESCO by involving various stakeholders, including municipalities, universities, schools and researchers, to ensure that the Organization continues to play its solid role in the international community. Thank you.

14.1 **Mr Tsegaye Tessema** (Ethiopia) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chair, the Chair of the Preparatory Group, the Director-General and the Secretariat as a whole, on your concerted efforts in organizing this session of the Board and on your consistent hard work to ensure that the mandate and concerns of UNESCO were, to a very large extent, included in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

14.2 I cannot make my statement without mentioning the disheartening stories about the rising desperation of migrants that covers much of the front page, especially the anger caused globally by the death of two Syrian children when a boat capsized in the waters off Turkey. Ethiopia attaches great importance to the migrant crisis and deals diligently with the sources of the problem by developing and implementing appropriate, comprehensive policies and strategies, raising awareness among its people and receiving the highest number of refugees from neighbouring countries. On the other hand, we are facing an increased threat of terrorism and extremism. Ethiopia is deeply engaged in fighting terrorism both nationally and regionally. Thus, we attach great importance to UNESCO's efforts for the protection of cultural heritage. While we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust, we still have a long way to go before attaining our goals. Let us not forget that our goal in UNESCO is to build a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue. Let us redouble our efforts to do this together. Education is key to sustainable development in a peaceful environment.

14.3 We live in an increasingly interconnected world, where knowledge is highly accessible to everybody. Education is at the forefront of our continent's development agenda. The Qingdao Declaration is the first global declaration to promote the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to foster access to and equity in education and the effective pedagogical use of ICTs to achieve education targets under the new SDGs. My delegation would like to commend UNESCO's work in building consensus on the post-2015 education agenda and for according education a prominent role in the sustainable development goals. However, the ambitious vision for the next 15 years, promising free and equitable access to quality education, as advocated by the World Education Forum, will again remain unfinished business, just like the education for all (EFA) goals, if UNESCO does not intensify its work in building capacities at the national and regional levels. The importance of increased and more effective financing of education as a prerequisite for reaching SDG 4 by 2030 was raised at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, and I again urge Member States to increase their voluntary contributions.

14.4 Madam Director-General, Ethiopia appreciates all your efforts to meet the financial challenges that our Organization is experiencing. With regard to the presentation of the EX/4 document, I can only recognize the continual improvements introduced by the Secretariat: its content is more and more analytical. My delegation would like to encourage the Secretariat to continue and finalize its work. While we encourage the move towards results-based budgeting (RBB), we would like to request clearer reporting on the challenges and constraints encountered. This would give visibility to both Member States and donors.

14.5 The challenges for UNESCO are again very clear: balancing performance efficiency with a lack of adequate human and financial resources. If we do not ensure adequate human resources, we will not be able to meet our expectations for delivery and field presence, and the visibility of our Organization within the United Nations system will diminish. I therefore encourage the Director-General to pursue further efficiency gains and fundraising activities. I would like also to call upon African Member States to continue working on self-benefiting extrabudgetary programmes.

14.6 Last but not least, my delegation associates itself with the statement that will be delivered by the representative of Angola on behalf of the Africa Group.

15.1 **Mr Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) *in extenso*:

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (ASPAC). Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, the ASPAC Group reaffirms its support for the mandates and fundamental principles of UNESCO on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. For the ASPAC Group, the 197th session assumes special importance as it is taking place soon after the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a comprehensive document that will guide the activities of the international community to attain sustainable development over the coming 15 years.

15.2 The ASPAC Group notes that much of UNESCO's work has been reflected in the sustainable development agenda: inclusive and quality education, ensuring gender equality, promoting productive employment, fighting climate change, ensuring the sustainable use of water, oceans and marine resources, protecting biodiversity and the need for building peaceful and inclusive societies. This reinforces our conviction that all five UNESCO programmes are important and relevant, and deserve the full support of Member States.

15.3 The question is whether we have the right tools, in terms of adequate financial support and necessary skills within our Organization, to shoulder the responsibilities we

have been entrusted with by the international community. In this context, the ASPAC Group feels that the Education 2030 Framework for Action is a great step forward. In the same vein, we would encourage this august body to develop such frameworks for action in other areas of UNESCO's mandate with the necessary focus and strong determination. It is also important to enhance accountability and improve consistency to deliver more and better results.

15.4 The ASPAC Group is deeply committed to responding to the global call for action and to working together to address the myriad common challenges of humanity. Here, in this unique platform represented by UNESCO, let us put aside what divides us and work together with renewed vigour and interest, as it is only through global partnership and strengthened cooperation that we can ensure a brighter future of prosperity.

15.5 Finally, we congratulate you, Mr Chair, for your efficient chairmanship of the Board, and thank you for your laudable initiatives over the past two years. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

15.6 I shall now address the Executive Board in my capacity as representative of Bangladesh. Mr Chair, President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished representatives and delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I feel honoured to address the 197th session of the UNESCO Executive Board. This year, we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of this great Organization. This is an occasion to reiterate our commitment to the ideals and principles on which UNESCO was founded 70 years ago with the objective of contributing to world peace. This session of the Executive Board has assumed special importance because it is taking place immediately after the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is the right time to take stock of what we have achieved with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and how we can prepare ourselves not only to accomplish the unfinished goals but also to implement the ambitious and transformative SDGs that we have chosen for ourselves for the next 15 years.

15.7 In spite of resource constraints, Bangladesh has been able to achieve most of the MDGs, including those related to poverty eradication, reduction of child mortality, and improvement of maternal health and communicable diseases. We have also made remarkable progress in the areas of primary school enrolment, gender parity in primary and secondary education, women's empowerment and putting in place a highly effective natural-disaster risk-reduction strategy. Most notably, the inclusive growth strategy undertaken by the Government has reduced the number of people living below the poverty line from 56.7% in 1991 to 22.4% today.

15.8 It is heartening to note that many areas of UNESCO's work have been reflected in the SDGs, such as ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, women's empowerment, fighting climate change, using oceans, seas and marine resources sustainably, and building peaceful societies. In this context, we take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General of UNESCO and all the distinguished Members of the Board for their diligent efforts, through which UNESCO's mandates have found due reflection in the new SDGs. It is now incumbent on us to equip this Organization with the necessary funds and skills to live up to the task of implementing these vitally important areas of the sustainable development goals.

15.9 Education stands out as the most important area of work for UNESCO. Indeed, education is the most effective tool for realizing our vision of building knowledge-based societies, promoting global citizenship and constructing a culture of peace. We also recognize the importance of gender equality in achieving the right to education for all.

15.10 Climate change remains one of the challenges to achieving the SDGs. Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. At the same time, it is also one of the societies that is most resilient in the face of climate-change induced natural calamities, such as cyclones, floods and droughts. The Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, has shown that investing in climate change is conducive to achieving social and economic development, for which she was honoured with the Champions of the Earth award by the United Nations Environment Programme in New York on 27 September 2015. We hope that at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in November in Paris, all parties will be able to come to a consensus to tackle climate change impact worldwide, and UNESCO will certainly have a role in the process.

15.11 At its the current session, the Executive Board is going to examine proposals for the establishment of a number of new category 2 institutes and centres, demonstrating that Member States want to remain closely engaged in UNESCO's work. Bangladesh has proposed the establishment of the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) in Dhaka, Bangladesh as a UNESCO category 2 centre. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Board for their valuable support.

15.12 Mr Chair, on the 70th anniversary of our Organization, we acknowledge UNESCO's contribution in promoting world peace by spreading education to millions of people, safeguarding heritage, promoting culture, and building institutions and societies that sustain peace. Yet inequalities, injustice, poverty and extremism are frustrating our efforts to build a peaceful world. The 70th anniversary of UNESCO should be used to focus our efforts on building bridges between countries, races, religions, languages and civilizations. Thank you all, ladies and gentlemen, for your attention.

١٦,١ **السيد الشيحي** (مصر) *النص الكامل:*

السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرة العامة، السيدات والسادة، يسعدني أن أشارك اليوم في أعمال الدورة السابعة والتسعين بعد المائة للمجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة اليونسكو التي تحتفل هذا العام بالذكرى السنوية السبعين لتأسيسها لمناقشة مستقبل عمل هذه المنظمة ودورها في الارتقاء بالفكر الإنساني ومواجهة التحديات التي يعيشها العالم اليوم، ولتنفيذ "أهداف التنمية المستدامة لعام ٢٠٣٠" التي تم تبنيها في نهاية شهر أيلول/سبتمبر الماضي بالأمم المتحدة. وأود في مستهل كلمتي أن أؤكد لكم أننا، وإن كنا نشعر بحاجة ماسة إلى تعزيز دور اليونسكو للوفاء بهدفها الرئيسي المتمثل في بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر على مستوى العالم، ولا سيما خلال هذه المرحلة لمواجهة الأحداث المؤسفة التي تهدد هويتنا وتاريخنا وحضارتنا بشكل عام، فإننا بحاجة أكثر من ذي قبل لهذه المنظمة في منطقتنا العربية لمساعدة شعوبنا على مواجهة ظاهرة الإرهاب الذي يهدد مستقبل الأجيال القادمة، متستراً وراء عدد من الأفكار المغلوطة التي لا أساس لها في الدين أو المنطق الصحيح. وأود في هذا الخصوص أن أنتهز هذه الفرصة لأوجه خالص الشكر والتقدير لمجهودات السيدة المديرة العامة إيرينا بوكوفا وعلى حرصها على إطلاق مبادرات عالمية سواء فيما يخص ضمان "التعليم الجيد للجميع" أو مبادرتها المعروفة باسم "#متحدون مع التراث" التي أطلقتها من عدة دول من بينها مصر، في شهر أيار/مايو الماضي، واهتمامها ببرامج الشباب الذي يلعب دوراً محورياً في صنع المستقبل.

١٦,٢ السيدات والسادة، إن التعليم هو السبيل الوحيد لتحقيق التنمية الاقتصادية والفكرية والثقافية في مجتمعاتنا. وإذا كان لبرامج التعليم والبحث العلمي دور أساسي في هذا الخصوص، فإن التعليم التقني والتدريب المهني أضحى الأساس لمواجهة عدد من المشكلات الاجتماعية، كما أصبح من اللازم علينا حماية الشباب من الانغماس في التطرف عن طريق وسائل الاتصال الحديثة. ولعلني هنا أُهنئ المديرة العامة على المؤتمر الذي تم تنظيمه خلال شهر حزيران/يونيو الماضي بعنوان "الشباب والإنترنت: من أجل محاربة التطرف والتعصب" والذي حرصت مصر على تقديم المساهمة المالية له ورعايته مع كل من الصين وبلغاريا. ونأمل أن تترجم توصيات هذا المؤتمر إلى برنامج عمل يشمل جميع قطاعات المنظمة. كما أننا نأمل أن تصل أعمال الدورة الحادية والعشرين لمؤتمر الأطراف في اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية بشأن تغير المناخ المقرر عقدها في كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠١٥ بباريس، إلى نتائج تحقق طموحات جميع الدول. وأود بهذه المناسبة أن أؤكد أن مصر ستشارك في هذا المؤتمر الدولي الهام لعرض الموقف الأفريقي وليس فقط رؤيتها الوطنية، لاسيما أن قارتنا الأفريقية هي الأقل إسهاماً في إجمالي الانبعاثات الضارة مع أنها الأكثر تضرراً من تداعيات تغير المناخ. وبهذه المناسبة، أناشد اليونسكو أن تولي أهمية أكبر للبرامج الرامية إلى تحقيق "الأولوية لأفريقيا" بما يمكننا من الاستفادة من الطاقات الهائلة والثروات الضخمة التي تزخر بها هذه القارة لتحقيق التنمية لشعوبها.

١٦,٣ السيدات والسادة، تسعى مصر، وفقاً "لاستراتيجية التنمية المستدامة: رؤية مصر٢٠٣٠"، إلى تحقيق طفرة اقتصادية كبيرة من خلال تطوير اقتصاد سوق منفتح وتنافسي ومتنوع وقائم على المعرفة، بهدف جذب المزيد من الاستثمارات المحلية والأجنبية، من أجل تحقيق نمو اقتصادي شامل ومستدام وتوفير فرص عمل مناسبة وتحقيق مستويات معيشية أفضل لكل المصريين. ولهذا جاء مؤتمر دعم وتنمية الاقتصاد المصري ليقدم فرص استثمارية واعدة تم استكمالها بمشروع تنمية قناة السويس الذي يعظم الاستفادة من الإمكانيات الهائلة لهذا الممر المائي الدولي، نظراً لما يوفره من فرص عمل وإمكانات لجعل المنطقة مركزاً عالمياً للملاحة والخدمات اللوجستية ومركزاً صناعياً وبوابة للتجارة بين الشرق والغرب. كما بدأ الإعداد لمشروع استصلاح المليون ونصف المليون فدان، وكذلك إنشاء العديد من المراكز اللوجستية الهامة وإنشاء أودية علوم لتساهم بشكل فعال في تبني المبدعين وللاستثمار في الإبداعات على نحو اقتصادي فعال. وتطمح مصر كذلك إلى تدعيم أواصر التعاون بين دول حوض النيل بهدف تحسين وترشيد سبل استخدام المياه. وتسعى مصر أيضاً خلال هذه الدورة إلى إدراج المعامل المركزية للرصد البيئي في القناطر لتكون مركزاً من الفئة ٢ يعمل تحت رعاية اليونسكو، ويُسعدنا ويشرفنا دعمكم لهذا.

١٦,٤ السيدات والسادة، إننا لا نزال نتطلع إلى وفاء المنظمة بدورها بشكل أكثر فاعلية لحماية المقدسات الدينية ومواقع التراث الثقافي بمدينة القدس الشرقية. وبهذه المناسبة، نود أن نعرب عن أسفنا الشديد للأحداث الأخيرة التي جرت في الحرم القدسي الشريف والتي من شأنها أن تساهم في زيادة التوتر والتصعيد غير المبرر. وفي الختام، أود أن أؤكد استعداد مصر الدائم للتعاون مع جميع الدول والشركاء في سبيل تحقيق أهداف هذه المنظمة الدولية الهامة، وأشكركم والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله.

(16.1) **Mr Al-Sheehy** (Egypt) *in extenso (translation from the Arabic)*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to be participating today in the 197th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO, which this year celebrates the 70th anniversary of its foundation, in order to discuss the future of the Organization and its role in the development of humanitarian thought; how to tackle the challenges facing the world today and how to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals which were adopted at the end of September by the United Nations. I should like to begin my statement by emphasizing that, while we are aware of the urgency of strengthening UNESCO's role in fulfilling its main purpose, represented by the construction of the defences of peace in the minds of men worldwide, especially during this period, in order to confront the distressing phenomena which threaten our identity, our history and our culture in general, yet we need this organization more than ever before in our Arab region to help our peoples counter the phenomenon of terrorism which threatens the future of coming generations, hiding behind a number of false ideas without any foundation in religion or sound logic. In this connection, I should like to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and respect for the endeavours of the Director-General, Irina Bokova, for her attention to the launch of global initiatives such as "quality education for all" and "Unite4Heritage", which was initiated by a number of States including Egypt last May; also for her concern with regard to programmes for youth, who play a key role in shaping the future.

(16.2) Ladies and gentlemen, education is the only path to the economic, intellectual and cultural development of our societies. If education and scientific research programmes have a fundamental role to play in this context, then technical education and vocational training constitute the basis for tackling a number of social problems and we must protect young people from tumbling into extremism through modern communication media. May I congratulate the Director-General here for the conference which she held last June entitled "Youth and the Internet: fighting radicalization and extremism" for which Egypt was keen to provide a financial contribution and its sponsorship, together with China and Bulgaria. We hope that the recommendations of this conference will be transferred to the programme of work covering all of the Organization's sectors. We also hope that the proceedings of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Paris in December 2015 will produce results that fulfil the aspirations of all the States. I wish to affirm in this connection that Egypt will be participating in this important international conference to present the African position and not just its own national view, especially as our African continent makes the smallest contribution to the total of harmful emissions although it is most harmed by the repercussions of climate change. Here I implore UNESCO to assign greater importance to the programmes directed towards the implementation of "Priority Africa" so that we can exploit the enormous energy and vast resources in which this continent abounds in order to achieve development for its peoples.

(16.3) Ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with its "Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt's Vision 2030" Egypt is endeavouring to make a great leap forward in economic terms by developing an open, competitive and diverse market economy based on knowledge, with the aim of attracting more local and foreign investment in order to bring about all-round sustainable economic growth, providing proper job opportunities and achieving better standards of living for all Egyptians. Hence the holding of the Egypt Economic Development Conference to present promising investment opportunities, supplemented by the Suez Canal development project which increases utilization of the enormous potential of this international waterway in terms of job creation and opportunities to make the region a world centre for

shipping and logistical services as well as an industrial hub and a gateway for trade between East and West. Preparatory work has also started on the project to reclaim 1.5 million feddans and to establish a number of important logistical centres and science wadis to contribute to mustering creators and investment in creative works on an effective economic basis. Egypt also wishes to strengthen bonds of cooperation between the States of the Nile basin with a view to improving and rationalizing ways of using the water. During this session Egypt is working to have the Central Laboratories for Environmental Quality Monitoring at El Qanater included in the category working under UNESCO auspices and we are pleased and honoured to have your support in this matter.

(16.4) Ladies and gentlemen, we are still trying to ensure that the Organization fulfils its role more effectively with regard to the protection of the holy places and cultural heritage sites in East Jerusalem. In this connection I should like to express our deep sorrow at the latest events in *al-Ḥaram ash-Sharîf* which are likely to lead to an increase in tension and an unjustifiable escalation. Lastly, I should like to emphasize that Egypt is always ready to cooperate with all partner States with a view to achieving the goals of this important international Organization. Thank you. Peace and the mercy of God be upon you.

17.1 **Mr Iqbal** (Pakistan) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, honourable Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to be here with all of you today, taking stock of our performance in the previous year and preparing ourselves for our upcoming tasks and responsibilities. Pakistan believes that UNESCO now stands at a critical juncture, facing serious issues and challenges, which include xenophobia, illiteracy, inequality, gender issues and climate change. All of these massive issues can be dealt with only by an agile, adept Organization. We should also be mindful of the fact that UNESCO is celebrating its 70th anniversary and that it needs not only to look back at what it has achieved but also to consider the extent of its failures and see what caused them.

17.2 With regard to forthcoming international events including the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, UNESCO has to prove its relevance through its activities and its involvement at the forefront of these fights. We have to ask ourselves: has UNESCO been successful in facing these issues? Has UNESCO made as much of an impact as it set out to make? Is UNESCO really relevant to the current discussions at both global and ground levels? It is because of these challenges and UNESCO's broad mandate that the Organization must obtain full support from all Member States, politically and financially. We should not shirk our responsibilities towards UNESCO. Pakistan believes that reforms within UNESCO are indeed a necessity, but they should be broad-based, taking into consideration the concerns of all Member States, and they should be undertaken in the spirit of building consensus. We should also be mindful of the fact that any wrong move in this direction can cause us to lose not only valuable time but also UNESCO's good name.

17.3 Pakistan has given great emphasis to the cause of education at the national level. Our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), although not as successful as we would have wanted, was steadfast. We will remain committed to the promises and hopes raised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also important, as agreed in the Incheon Declaration, that developed countries commit to providing at least 0.7% of their gross national product (GNP) as overall development assistance to developing countries. We have to understand that without the vital undertaking of finances as a shared responsibility, a number of countries may not be able to achieve their targets.

17.4 Despite our limited financial resources, Pakistan has provided $10 million to UNESCO through the Malala Fund for girls' education, under which programmes are already being implemented in our fraternal countries of Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Egypt, Nepal, Mozambique and Vietnam. We also believe that South-South cooperation can be a key game changer in this regard and we remain open to any proposal for South-South cooperation in education or any other related field of UNESCO.

17.5 In conclusion, Pakistan believes in the need to reform UNESCO and make it more relevant, but we also believe that without adequate financing, the Organization's mandate concerning these global issues will continue to be diluted. If we desire UNESCO to play its rightful role in the global scheme of things, then we must sacrifice our political affiliations for the greater good of humanity. Thank you very much.

18.1 **张女士**（中国）*发言全文*：

尊敬的主席先生，总干事女士，各位同事：中国赞同孟加拉代表宣读的亚太组声明。中方也感谢总干事所做的工作报告，并满意地看到大会第三十七届会议所制定的重大计划和优先事项绝大多数都能够按计划完成。中方对秘书处通过改革克服财政困难、有效开展本组织重点工作表示肯定，赞赏总干事的工作成效和领导力。中方也感谢执行局主席在过去两年中带领执行局监督大会第三十七届会议决议的实施，推动本组织的改革与发展，取得了良好效果。

18.2 中方注意到，本组织在教育、科学和文化领域积极参与了 2030 年可持续发展议程的制定，领导制定了教育议程，并将引领实施此议程。中方特别注意到，本组织在倡导文明交流互鉴和支持非洲教育发展等方面取得成效，全球教育第一倡议得到国际社会广泛支持，创意城市网络稳步发展。本组织还积极应对人类面对的共同挑战，比如，本组织参与筹备了世界气候变化大会；总干事和伊拉克联合发起了“团结为遗产”的行动；今年 6 月，传播与信息部门倡议组织了青年与互联网国际大会，通过跨部门协作，探讨利用互联网阻止极端主义向青年传播，这一活动得到了保加利亚、中国和埃及的大力支持。

18.3 中国将继续全面参与本组织各领域的计划实施，特别支持丝绸之路的研究、非洲文化遗产保护开展信托基金的项目、促进非洲国家教师培训。中方肯定本组织在促进女童和妇女教育工作方面取得的成效，并将设立女童与妇女教育奖。中方感谢总干事于今年 9 月与本组织促进女童与妇女教育特使彭丽媛教授一起出席了女童和妇女教育国际研讨班的活动。中国将一如既往、竭尽全力地支持本组织的工作。

18.4 各位同事，教科文组织诞生于战火中，凝聚着全世界人民对持久和平的渴望。七十年后的今天，我们依然面临贫困、发展失衡、气候变化、网络安全、恐怖主义等全球性的挑战。实施于人之思想中保卫和平的理想、实现国际社会持久和平和公平、包容和可持续发展，教科文组织

任重道远。为应对挑战，本组织需与时俱进，积极改革。为此,中方提出以下意见：一、凝聚共识做大事。本组织应紧紧围绕和平与发展的主题，提出新思想、新理念，设计和实施好重大计划和优先事项；二、同舟共济渡难关。本组织内部应加强团结协作，沟通配合，克服目前面临的诸多困难，提高士气，增强凝聚力；三、要精心设计、推进改革。中国坚决支持本组织的改革，同时强调本组织的改革要通盘考虑，要从本组织和会员国的长远利益出发，任何改革和改变都要坚持公平公正的认真态度，不能目光短浅，更不能掺杂私心杂念。改革要增强治理的透明度，确保会员国的平等参与，提高工作效率。

18.5 女士们，先生们，中国一贯支持本组织健康发展，将继续与会员国合作，为实现世界持久和平作出贡献。谢谢各位。

(18.1) **Ms Zhang** (China) *in extenso* (*translation from the Chinese*):

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, China associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. China thanks the Director-General for her report on activities and notes with satisfaction that the vast majority of the major programmes and priorities of the 37th session of the General Conference will be achieved as expected. China welcomes the reforms implemented by the Secretariat to overcome financial difficulties and work effectively on the Organization's lines of action. We appreciate the effort and leadership of the Director-General and the results she has achieved. We thank the Chair of the Executive Board for having guided us for two years in the implementation of the resolutions of the 37th session of the General Conference and the promotion of the Organization's reforms, achieving positive results.

(18.2) China has observed that the Organization has played an active role in the formulation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the fields of education, science and culture, and has been and will continue to be a leader in the drafting and execution of the education agenda. In particular, we have noted the results achieved by UNESCO in the promotion of exchanges and mutual inspiration between cultures and in the development of education in Africa; the Global Education First Initiative has received widespread international support; the Creative Cities Network is making constant progress. The Organization has also participated in the preparation for the World Climate Conference; the Director-General, in collaboration with Iraq, has launched the #Unite4Heritage initiative; the Communication and Information Sector, supported by Bulgaria, China and Egypt within the framework of an intersectoral cooperation, held an international meeting last June on the theme "Youth and the Internet: Fighting radicalization and extremism", in order to respond to humanity's common challenges.

(18.3) China will continue to participate in and support the implementation of UNESCO's programmes, particularly research on the Silk Road, the Funds-in-Trust for the protection of African cultural heritage and the promotion of teacher training in African countries. China welcomes the results achieved regarding the education of girls and women and the imminent establishment of the prize for girls' and women's education. We thank the Director-General for having participated last September in the International Seminar on Girls' and Women's Education, alongside Professor Peng Liyuan, UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education. China will continue, as it always has, to fully support the Organization's activities.

(18.4) Dear colleagues, UNESCO was created in the post-war context, channelling the hope of people around the world for long-lasting peace. Seventy years later, we are still facing global challenges: poverty, inequality in development, climate change, cyber security, terrorism, and so on. Constructing the defences of peace in the minds of men, creating lasting peace and the fair, inclusive and sustainable development of international society, these are the key missions in which UNESCO is invested. In the face of these challenges, UNESCO must advance with the times and reform. To this end, China makes the following propositions: firstly, to converge ideas on the main lines of action. UNESCO must put forward new ideas and new concepts on the themes of peace and development as well as devising and implementing the major programmes and priorities. Secondly, we must unite to overcome the difficulties faced. UNESCO must reinforce internal unity and coordination in order to overcome difficulties, raise morale and encourage cohesion. Thirdly, we must think hard about the reforms and take them further. China supports UNESCO's reforms and insists on an overall reform plan as well as the need to consider the long-term interests of the Member States and the Organization. All changes and reforms should be fair, just and serious, we should avoid plans which are too short-sighted, especially those which pursue self-interest and selfish considerations. We must strengthen the transparency of governance, assure an equal participation for all Member States and improve efficiency.

(18.5) Ladies and gentlemen, China has always supported the healthy development of the Organization and will continue to cooperate with the Member States to contribute to sustainable development and a peaceful world. Thank you.

19.1 **Mr Worbs** (Germany) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, like many speakers, Germany believes that UNESCO's founding principle of building peace in the minds of men and women is as relevant today as it was 70 years ago. The challenges we are facing today call for a strong UNESCO. Germany continues to support the Organization substantially and reliably in all its fields of competence.

19.2 We hosted the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn this summer. In its decision 39 COM 5A the Committee noted the mismatch between the workload and the budget of the World Heritage Centre, and it expressed concern about the understaffing of the Centre. Germany requests UNESCO to use the additional funds under the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) scenario, inter alia, to rehire a natural heritage expert at the World Heritage Centre. The ZNG+ funds must be used to fulfil the statutory obligations of the Organization first, before they are used for other purposes.

19.3 In preparation for the Committee meeting in Bonn, the German Parliament called upon the Federal Government to ensure that UNESCO's World Heritage

Convention remains an effective and credible instrument for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of mankind. It further requested that the fight against the illegal trade in cultural objects be strengthened. Germany is currently revising its national legislation relating to the protection of cultural property. The new act will enter into force in the coming year. It will improve implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and will align German law with international standards.

19.4 Germany strongly condemns the recent deliberate destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen and elsewhere. UNESCO's new strategy for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism is an important step in fighting cultural cleansing. An Iraqi-German expert dialogue on Iraq's cultural heritage at archaeological sites and museums is currently exploring ways to build capacities to foster the conservation of Iraqi cultural heritage and its presentation in research museums.

19.5 We highly appreciate the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development two weeks ago. The new agenda is fundamental to meeting environmental, social and economic challenges and moving societies towards sustainable growth. UNESCO played an important role in the elaboration of this new agenda, in particular by advocating a stand-alone goal on education. Germany would like UNESCO to show the same engagement in implementing the new agenda. We appreciate that the agenda is truly universal and concerns both developing and developed countries.

19.6 In late September, Germany began implementing the Global Action Programme (GAP) for Education on Sustainable Development (ESD) with the inauguration of a national platform in Berlin, and we are among the first countries to do so.

19.7 We congratulate UNESCO on the publication of the comprehensive Internet study "Keystones to foster inclusive knowledge societies" in June. Germany supported the development of the study by co-financing the CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action Conference and by financing a sub-study on privacy and data protection in the digital age, which will be published soon. We welcome UNESCO's efforts to foster free, independent and pluralistic media for the enhancement of freedom of expression and the recognition of human rights on- and off-line. UNESCO's Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), of which Germany is an active and committed member, is another tool for the promotion of human rights.

19.8 As an important contributor to UNESCO's regular budget, Germany pays careful attention to efficient and transparent governance and management. Therefore, we support the holding of intersessional meetings between formal Board meetings, as suggested in document 197 EX/44. The new audit on UNESCO's governance also raises some interesting and challenging questions, which we are looking forward to discussing. In particular, to overcome deficiencies, we call for budget allocations in line with the priorities identified by the Board, and a more transparent recruitment policy.

19.9 Germany supports the application of the Republic of Kosovo for admission to UNESCO. We believe that Kosovo, its neighbours and the international community would benefit from Kosovo's admission to UNESCO, through which Kosovo would commit itself additionally to international standards in education, culture, science, communication and information. Thank you for your attention.

20.1 **Sr. Filmus** (Argentina) *in extenso:*

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, señoras y señores miembros del Consejo: en primer lugar, quisiéramos felicitar a la presidencia del Consejo Ejecutivo y de sus respectivas comisiones por la excelente labor llevada a cabo en el transcurso de los últimos años. Quisiéramos también hacer nuestras las palabras de la Directora General y adherirnos plenamente a lo expresado por el distinguido Embajador del Ecuador y, próximamente, por el Embajador de Filipinas en nombre del GRULAC y del G-77 y China.

20.2 Señor Presidente: este septuagésimo aniversario de la UNESCO se inscribe en un momento particular en la historia de las naciones y de la humanidad. Todos conocemos la inquietante situación social, política, ambiental y humanitaria de nuestro tiempo y estamos sumamente preocupados por ella. El mundo experimenta una creciente y sostenida conflictividad y fragmentación social que pone en riesgo el fundamento mismo de la vida social. Los cada vez más numerosos conflictos violentos incrementan el número de víctimas, excluidos y necesitados y dan lugar a nuevas maneras de esclavitud. El fanatismo, la intolerancia y la discriminación se expresan con una agresión inusitada y siembran víctimas humanas y destrucción del patrimonio cultural en distintas regiones del mundo. La desigualdad económica y social entre países y dentro de los mismos se incrementa, marginando a buena parte de la población mundial de los bienes materiales y culturales imprescindibles para la integración digna a la sociedad. La voracidad del capital financiero, en particular de los fondos buitres, pretende impedir que los Estados destinen los recursos necesarios para atender las necesidades educativas y sociales de los pueblos. En este contexto, nos enfrentamos a una crisis humanitaria sin precedentes. Según el ACNUR, en el año 2014 ha habido más de 59 millones y medio de personas desplazadas por la guerra; el número más alto del que se tenga constancia. En lo que va del 2015, más de 533.000 personas se han visto obligadas a cruzar el Mediterráneo en circunstancias trágicas.

20.3 Señor Presidente: ¿existe para la comunidad de las naciones, para las Naciones Unidas, para la UNESCO, alguna urgencia mayor que enfrentar estas problemáticas? ¿Se puede mirar para otro lado cuando estas dramáticas circunstancias exigen respuestas inmediatas? Hace pocos días el papa Francisco planteó con toda crudeza esta realidad en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Instó a los jefes de Estado a no limitarse a los buenos discursos o a manifestar nobles intenciones en las declaraciones de los organismos. Llamó a dejar de lado la hipocresía y a no poner límites a los esfuerzos dirigidos a construir un mundo donde la paz, la justicia y la integración social y cultural sean una realidad.

20.4 Señor Presidente: siguiendo la perspectiva planteada por Francisco, desde los organismos de las Naciones Unidas corresponde que nos preguntemos si estamos haciendo todo lo que está a nuestro alcance para enfrentar los desafíos que se desprenden de las dramáticas situaciones que hemos enunciado. Las Naciones Unidas acaban de aprobar la agenda para el desarrollo después del 2015, fijando importantísimas metas para el mundo de aquí al 2030. También aprobaron trascendentes principios para los procesos de

reestructuración de deuda soberana con el objetivo de evitar que los fondos buitres se lucren con los recursos que deben ser dedicados a las necesidades sociales y educativas. El Foro Mundial sobre la Educación celebrado en la República de Corea ha comprometido a los Estados en una agenda única dirigida a garantizar una educación inclusiva, equitativa y de calidad para todos. Todos estos pasos son importantes. Pero hay que evitar que queden solo en declaraciones y, esta vez sí, lograr que se cumplan. Renovamos nuestro compromiso y apoyo a la Directora General para enfrentar con éxito estos desafíos.

20.5 Señor Presidente: la complejidad de los problemas que hemos enunciado exige revalorizar el sector social de la UNESCO y ello implica, en el marco de la agenda para después de 2015, fortalecer su programa emblemático, el MOST, que utiliza la investigación prospectiva, el conocimiento y la formulación de políticas para apoyar las transformaciones sociales positivas, la inclusión social y el diálogo intercultural. A tal fin, la Argentina, con el apoyo del GRULAC y del G-77 y China, propondrá a este Consejo Ejecutivo destacar los logros de este Programa y poner sus herramientas al servicio del periodo posterior a 2015.

20.6 También queremos reiterar la condena a los actos de destrucción intencional del patrimonio cultural de la humanidad.

20.7 En el área de ciencias naturales, consideramos que la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental constituye otro aporte importantísimo de la UNESCO para el periodo posterior a 2015.

20.8 También queremos reiterar el apoyo de nuestro país al programa “La voz de los sin voz”, dedicado a los pueblos originarios y la negritud.

20.9 Señor Presidente: la UNESCO celebra este 70º aniversario en un contexto donde las difíciles situaciones por las que atraviesa la humanidad deben constituirse en un incentivo para multiplicar los esfuerzos en torno a la construcción de un mundo más pacífico y justo. La educación, la ciencia y la cultura son políticas y herramientas imprescindibles para lograrlo. El mundo necesita más que nunca de la UNESCO y de su autoridad moral e intelectual. Estamos seguros de que tras estos primeros 70 años de vida hay que recuperar el compromiso de sus principios fundacionales. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(20.1) **Mr Filmus** (Argentina) *in extenso (translation from the Spanish)*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished members of the Board, first of all, we wish to congratulate the Chair of the Executive Board and its Commissions for their excellent work in recent years. We also agree with the words of the Director-General and fully concur with what was said by the distinguished Ambassador of Ecuador and the forthcoming statement of the Ambassador of the Philippines on behalf of GRULAC and the Group of 77 and China.

(20.2) Mr Chair, this seventieth anniversary of UNESCO is taking place at an unusual time in the history of nations and of humanity. We are all aware of the disturbing social, political, environmental and humanitarian situation of our times and it is a matter of great concern to us. The world is experiencing growing and sustained social fragmentation and conflict which endangers the very foundations of life in society. The increasingly numerous violent conflicts lead to growing numbers of victims, excluded and needy, and are giving rise to new forms of slavery. Fanaticism, intolerance and discrimination are expressed with unusual aggressiveness and are causing human victims and destruction of cultural heritage in various regions of the world. There is growing economic and social inequality both between and within countries, denying a large part of the world’s population access to material and cultural goods which are vital for successful and dignified social integration. The voracious behaviour of financial capital, particularly that of vulture funds, seeks to prevent States from devoting the necessary resources to meeting the educational and social needs of peoples. In this context, the world is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. UNHCR has stated that in 2014 there were 59.5 million persons displaced by wars; the highest number ever recorded. As for 2015, over 533,000 people have had to cross the Mediterranean in tragic circumstances.

(20.3) Mr Chair, for the community of nations, for the United Nations, for UNESCO, is there any more urgent task than tackling these problems? Can we look the other way when these terrible events demand immediate responses? A few days ago, Pope Francis drew attention quite starkly to this situation in the General Assembly of the United Nations. He urged Heads of State not to content themselves with fine speeches and expressing noble intentions in the statements of international bodies. He called for hypocrisy to be set aside and to make every possible effort to build a world in which peace, justice and social and cultural integration are a reality.

(20.4) Mr Chair, in line with the prospect described by Francis, United Nations bodies must ask themselves whether they are doing everything in their power to deal with the challenges arising out of the dramatic situations we have described. The United Nations has just adopted the post-2015 development agenda, setting extremely important goals for the world to achieve by 2030. It has also adopted overarching principles for processes of sovereign debt restructuring, to prevent vulture funds from getting rich on resources which should be dedicated to social and educational needs. The World Education Forum, held in the Republic of Korea, has committed States to a single agenda to guarantee inclusive, equitable, quality education for all. These are all important steps. But we must ensure that they do not remain as mere declarations; this time, we must make sure they are fulfilled. Let us renew our commitment and support for the Director-General to tackle these challenges successfully.

(20.5) Mr Chair, given the complexity of the problems we have described, the role of the social sector of UNESCO needs to be reassessed. In the context of the post-2015 agenda, this entails a strengthening of its flagship programme, Management of Social Transformations (MOST), which uses prospective research, knowledge and policy formulation in support of positive social change, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. To that end, with the support of GRULAC and the Group of 77 and China, Argentina will propose to this Executive Board that the programme’s achievements should be highlighted and its tools made available for the post-2015 period.

(20.6) We also wish to reiterate our condemnation for acts of wilful destruction of the cultural heritage of humanity.

(20.7) In the field of natural sciences, we believe that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is another highly significant contribution by UNESCO for the post-2015 period.

(20.8) We also reiterate our country's support for the programme "la Voz de los sin voz" (a voice for the voiceless), designed to promote the culture of first peoples and Afro-descendants.

(20.9) Mr Chair, UNESCO is celebrating this seventieth anniversary in a context where the difficult situations humanity is experiencing must act as an incentive to redouble our efforts to build a fairer and more peaceful world. Education, science and culture are essential policies and tools for achieving that. More than ever, the world needs UNESCO and its moral and intellectual authority. We are convinced that, following these first 70 years of the Organization's life, we must recover the commitment of its founding principles. Thank you, Mr Chair.

21.1 **M. Teta** (Angola) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi, au nom du Groupe Afrique que je représente, d'adresser mes condoléances les plus émues à la délégation ougandaise et à la famille éprouvée de l'Ambassadeur Edroma suite au décès inopiné de celui-ci. Que son âme repose en paix.

21.2 Madame la Directrice générale, le Groupe Afrique salue l'énergie dont vous avez fait preuve dans la mise en œuvre séquentielle des objectifs retenus par notre Organisation pour l'exercice biennal qui arrive à son terme. En effet, malgré l'insuffisance récurrente des moyens financiers qui s'est aggravée depuis 2011, vous avez pu corriger progressivement, de manière prudente et tenace, l'architecture organisationnelle de l'UNESCO et des bureaux hors Siège en Afrique, afin de la rendre globalement plus compatible avec la vision stratégique et les conditions opérationnelles à moyen et long terme. Tout compte fait, notre Organisation a su tenir bon, en choisissant de se concentrer sur un certain nombre de cibles prioritaires permettant de sauvegarder son rôle de chef de file dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la culture, des sciences, de la communication et de l'information. À ce jour, l'Organisation se fait entendre d'une voix respectée par la communauté internationale. En l'occurrence, toutes les thèses défendues tout au long des négociations sur les objectifs à inscrire dans le nouveau programme de développement durable ont été retenues dans la dernière version récemment approuvée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New York. S'agissant plus particulièrement de l'objectif visant à « Assurer l'accès de tous à une éducation de qualité, sur un pied d'égalité, et promouvoir les possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie », le Groupe Afrique se réjouit du fait que l'UNESCO ait pu rejoindre l'Union africaine dans le cadre de la réflexion sur les résultats de l'EPT en Afrique, dans une approche prospective et holistique, et qu'elle se soit engagée à ses côtés pour poursuivre ensemble l'élaboration d'une stratégie continentale pour l'éducation post-2015 en Afrique. Prenant déjà la mesure des ambitions globales du nouvel Agenda pour l'éducation 2030, les pays africains se sont engagés, lors de consultations régionales à Kigali, à considérer comme priorités stratégiques l'enseignement supérieur, les sciences et l'innovation technologique, ainsi que la réduction de la fracture numérique. Nous attendons donc avec beaucoup d'intérêt le prochain forum conjoint Union africaine-UNESCO qui sera organisé dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la résolution 37 C/18 (2013) en vue d'aider les pays africains à rattraper leur retard dans la réalisation des objectifs de l'EPT avant la fin 2015 et à débattre de la faisabilité des nouveaux objectifs de développement durable et du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, en tenant compte des réalités continentales et nationales. Nous appuyons également l'idée d'élaborer une feuille de route exclusivement dédiée aux modalités de la coopération financière dans le cadre de l'Éducation 2030 en Afrique, avec la participation des partenaires de développement potentiels du continent africain.

21.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, le monde est aujourd'hui en proie à une escalade sans précédent des tensions géopolitiques et à des conflits dus à l'extrémisme des identités religieuses. Nous assistons avec indignation à la destruction systématique des biens du patrimoine culturel appartenant à la mémoire collective de l'humanité en Iraq, en Syrie, au Mali, etc., dont beaucoup ont une existence millénaire. Contre les violences extrêmes et l'intolérance religieuse, les actes de torture, de répression massive et de « nettoyage culturel », le non-respect de la dignité humaine et les inégalités sociales, qui sont souvent les sources des crises migratoires, l'UNESCO doit continuer à encourager une réaction collective et dynamique basée sur les valeurs positives du dialogue interculturel et interreligieux, de l'éducation à la paix, de la solidarité et de la tolérance ; « Tolérance », ce maître mot que l'on oublie trop aujourd'hui. En ce qui concerne l'Afrique, nous saluons votre engagement personnel, Madame la Directrice générale, en faveur de la rapide restauration du patrimoine culturel de Tombouctou, au Mali. Par ailleurs, beaucoup de pays africains sont depuis longtemps confrontés au trafic illicite de biens culturels ayant des valeurs artistiques et historiques uniques, et ont souvent peine à les retrouver ou encore à négocier leur récupération quand ils sont identifiés chez les nouveaux détenteurs. L'UNESCO pourrait encourager la création d'une instance spécialement chargée de cette problématique, pour transmettre les bonnes pratiques de prévention et faire connaître les mécanismes de récupération pertinents. L'Italie vient de nous montrer la voie, nous en prenons bonne note. En matière de préservation et de gestion du patrimoine culturel mondial africain, il est vraiment nécessaire de renforcer la mobilisation de ressources financières extrabudgétaires pour permettre au Fonds pour le patrimoine mondial africain de jouer son rôle auprès d'un plus grand nombre de pays ayant des biens à inscrire sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, et de tant d'autres dont les biens déjà inscrits sont menacés d'être retirés de la Liste. À ce titre, le Groupe Afrique sollicite d'ores et déjà un appui à la proposition tendant à institutionnaliser la Journée du patrimoine africain, à partir du 5 mai 2016, journée de célébration du 10e anniversaire de la création de ce Fonds.

21.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, avec l'adoption du Programme de développement à l'horizon 2030, qui appelle à une responsabilité accrue des États membres dans la mise en œuvre du cadre d'action qui suivra, nous rappelons ici la pertinence de la présence de l'UNESCO sur le terrain à travers les bureaux hors Siège. Cependant, on ne peut véritablement parler d'une décentralisation ni d'une réelle autonomie de ces organes, et encore moins attendre d'eux qu'ils remplissent leur rôle stratégique auprès des États membres, si l'on n'arrive pas à les

renforcer par des moyens humains et financiers adéquats. Cette question cruciale devra faire l'objet d'une analyse plus approfondie dans le cadre de la nouvelle stratégie de mobilisation de ressources financières pour notre Organisation. Nous tenons à féliciter la Directrice générale et l'ensemble des secteurs pour avoir résorbé globalement le déficit de l'exercice précédent et fait en sorte que celui-ci s'achève à l'équilibre. Dans l'ensemble, la maîtrise des mécanismes de suivi des résultats passe, selon nous, par la méthode de gestion axée sur les résultats, notamment en ce qui concerne le contenu et le format de présentation du rapport d'exécution des programmes d'action et leur compatibilité avec les rapports sur les dépenses correspondantes. Dans tous les cas, nous attendons du Secrétariat la mise en place du mécanisme permettant d'identifier aisément les activités en faveur des petits États insulaires en développement (PEID) et celles relatives aux priorités Afrique et Égalité des genres. La question de savoir s'il existe effectivement une stratégie pour faire bénéficier la priorité Afrique de la mobilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires et de financements novateurs est toujours d'actualité. Un éclairage est aussi attendu sur le bilan du programme de cessation volontaire de service et le plan de recouvrement des coûts y afférents. Dans l'ensemble, l'évaluation de la politique de gestion du personnel nous conduit à insister sur la nécessité de mettre en place une stratégie globale en matière de formation du personnel. Nous continuons de souligner l'importance de la recherche permanente de l'équilibre dans la répartition géographique du personnel et l'égalité des genres. D'une manière générale, nous soutenons l'option du scénario budgétaire CNZ+ assorti du plan de dépenses de 518 millions de dollars, étant entendu que les débats en cours éclaireront la prise en compte du cadre d'action des objectifs de développement durable 2030 et des retombées de la COP-21 sur les changements climatiques, plus spécialement en ce qui concerne les petits États insulaires en développement. Nous aimerions ici féliciter l'UNESCO pour sa contribution à l'organisation des manifestations et autres initiatives visant à mobiliser les acteurs non étatiques et en particulier la communauté scientifique dans le cadre des préparatifs de ce grand événement qui se tiendra en décembre prochain à Paris. Enfin, pour contribuer aux idéaux de l'UNESCO, un ensemble de projets de résolution concernant le droit d'accès à l'information, la culture de la paix, ainsi que la place à donner au Programme MOST, sont soumis à l'examen du Conseil. Nous attendons de tous une contribution aussi constructive que possible en vue de leur adoption. Nous remercions sincèrement tous les orateurs qui nous ont enrichis de leur savoir dans le cadre des activités commémoratives du 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO. Au nom du Groupe Afrique, je vous remercie de votre attention.

22.1 **M. Doucouré** (Mali) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, je commencerai par exprimer mon entière solidarité avec les propos tenus par le représentant de l'Angola au nom du Groupe Afrique. Je remercie tout particulièrement la Directrice générale pour son engagement sans faille depuis 2012 en faveur de la reconstruction des mausolées de Tombouctou, de la réhabilitation du patrimoine culturel mondial du Mali et de la sauvegarde des manuscrits anciens. Nous associons à ce témoignage de reconnaissance les partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux, que je ne citerai pas de peur d'en oublier. Nous profitons de cette tribune pour informer les participants à la présente session que le 19 juillet dernier, soit trois ans après leur mise à sac, les mausolées de Tombouctou étaient de nouveau debout. À l'occasion d'une cérémonie d'accueil en présence du maire et de l'imam de Djingareyber, la Directrice générale, accompagnée des ministres de la culture et de l'enseignement supérieur du Mali d'une part, et des représentants de la MINUSMA**,** de l'Union européenne, de la Suisse et de la France d'autre part, a salué les maçons en ces termes : « Votre courage est une leçon de tolérance, de dialogue et de paix, et une réponse à tous les extrémismes – il résonne bien au-delà des frontières du Mali » et poursuivi : « C'est l'exemple d'une intégration réussie de la culture dans les efforts de construction de la paix, c'est notre contribution aux récents accords de paix, et nous allons continuer dans cette voie ». Signalons que sur les 11 millions de dollars promis, 3 millions ont été réunis, les principaux contributeurs étant la Suisse, l'Union européenne, la Norvège et les Pays-Bas. Nous prévoyons d'achever la reconstruction des mausolées et de réhabiliter sept autres bibliothèques à la fin de l'année. Sur le même registre, il convient de signaler que le transfèrement à La Haye, le 26 septembre dernier, du responsable présumé des destructions, sa première comparution le 30 septembre, et la programmation de l'audience de confirmation des charges le 18 janvier prochain font augurer une criminalisation des actes de destruction de bâtiments historiques et culturels. Dernier point, mais non le moindre, le tout nouveau restaurant de la Présidence a été baptisé lors de la cérémonie inaugurale du nom d'Irina BOKOVA et la Directrice générale a été élevée au grade de Commandeur de l'Ordre national du Mali à titre étranger par le Président IBK.

22.2 À la lumière de ce qui précède, nous avons un intérêt évident à voir le point **39** (Soutien de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de l'accord de paix et de réconciliation au Mali du 15 mai 2015) inscrit à l'ordre du jour de cette session. Par ailleurs, nous tenons à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la grande lisibilité des documents soumis, notamment au titre des points **4**, **5** et **17**.

22.3 L'inauguration du projet PADTICE (Projet d'appui au développement des TIC pour le Licence-Mastère-Doctorat dans les institutions d'enseignement supérieur de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA)) a eu lieu le 6 juillet dernier à la Faculté des sciences et techniques de Bamako. Ce projet bénéficiera à 35 universités de la sous-région et comprendra 3 composantes : le développement des infrastructures physiques et virtuelles ; la mise à disposition d'équipements et de matériels ; et le renforcement des capacités dans l'utilisation des TIC en matière de recherche, d'enseignement et de gouvernance universitaire. Le 23 juillet dernier, le Rapport mondial de suivi sur l'EPT a été lancé sous la haute présidence du Président de l'Assemblée nationale du Mali, et présenté par le représentant de l'UNESCO à Bamako.

22.4 Sur le plan financier, la résorption du déficit initial de 10,8 millions de dollars dans la limite du plan budgétaire de 507 millions de dollars confirme la rigueur mais aussi une tendance lourde au recours aux ressources extrabudgétaires, lesquelles ont représenté plus de 300 millions au 1er semestre 2015, contre 200 millions et quelque en 2014. Outre l'importance acquise par certains contributeurs, la marge de manœuvre pour l'exécution du Programme ordinaire est étroite. La mise à disposition d'un budget intégral inspiré par le scénario

CNZ+ serait donc salutaire. Je souhaite à tous un bon 70e anniversaire et je vous remercie.

23.1 **Mr Simataa** (Namibia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, colleagues, Members of the Executive Board, Namibia aligns itself with the statement made by Angola on behalf of the Africa Group. This session of the Board is taking place against the backdrop of the World Education Forum, where stakeholders agreed on a common global education agenda, and the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations General Assembly in New York. At the core of the current world agenda is sustainable human development and the eradication of poverty in all its manifestations. I hasten to add that sustainable development is not possible in contexts of perpetual wars and conflicts; hence peace, tolerance and mutual existence are absolute imperatives. As the intellectual and moral custodian of the United Nations system, UNESCO has a sacred duty to place itself strategically and in so doing provide the requisite leadership in its fields of competence for the implementation of the SDGs. In this regard, our Organization must position itself strategically by, among other things, realigning current reform processes and other strategic orientations.

23.2 Namibia commends the Director-General for her leadership in advocating for the critical role and contributions of science, technology and innovation in the implementation of the future post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The #Unite4Heritage campaign aimed at protecting heritage properties in conflict and post-conflict situations is highly valued and appreciated.

23.3 Notwithstanding existing challenges, efforts to complete Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* should be expedited. We therefore urge the Secretariat to engage relevant partners to ensure the timely completion of the volume.

23.4 Regarding 197/EX 5 Part III, Namibia appreciates the evaluations carried out by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) on different programmes and activities of UNESCO, more specifically on the field reform in Africa. However, my delegation is deeply concerned by the observations made in the IOS evaluation that the field reform was not complemented by a clear strategy with clear targets and deliverables, that it has not aligned UNESCO with the African Regional Economic Commissions and that there was no comprehensive human resource strategy to enable smooth implementation. Such observations demand that we pause and take a hard look at the reform initiated. Unless we undertake the necessary corrective actions now, the Organization might end up swallowing the bitter pill of its failures and perhaps abandoning the reform altogether.

23.5 Mr Chair, dear colleagues, Madam Director-General, it was an honour for me to have represented my country on the Executive Board. We are leaving with fond memories of our tenure, characterized by the desire and determination of both the Members of the Board and the Director-General to make UNESCO an efficient, effective and forward-looking Organization. Solidarity, cooperation, unity of purpose and robust debates characterized by mutual respect and tolerance for divergent views are the principles and values that our country would like to see continuing in UNESCO House. These principles and values are consistent with both our State and foreign policies. I wish to end my statement by reiterating Namibia's commitment to UNESCO and by pledging our continued support for achieving the mandate of this esteemed Organization. I thank you.

24.1 **Ms Ponorac** (Montenegro) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, I am particularly honoured, as the new Permanent Delegate of Montenegro to UNESCO, to participate in this session of the Executive Board. Montenegro aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

24.2 In this year marking 70 years of UNESCO's existence, we have adopted the universal, ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which Montenegro strongly supports. Analysing the results we have achieved and the goals we have set, we should be satisfied and at the same time aware that after seven decades we must be more united and more active than ever, with genuine optimism that we are capable of creating a better world by ensuring sustainable development and human dignity for all. UNESCO must be ready to accelerate the implementation of its priorities, concentrating on a culture of peace, development and prosperity, environmental protection and partnership, but also, of the utmost importance, focusing on people and respecting the rights of every human being. Advocating the creation of a transformative agenda based on the promotion and protection of human rights, we believe that universal respect for human rights will be essential to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

24.3 Montenegro's commitment to the policy of sustainable development is undeniable. It reflects Montenegro's own strategic policy and guidelines in all dimensions of its social and economic development. Montenegro actively participated in the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) We are satisfied with the results that have been achieved, given that some of the topics that we endorsed for inclusion, such as vulnerable groups, good governance and rule of law, natural resources, inclusive and quality education, gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and resistance to climate change, have been incorporated into the outcome document. Aware of the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda, our Government has initiated the process of drafting a new post-2015 national sustainable development strategy incorporating sustainable development goals adapted to the national context.

24.4 We urgently need to protect cultural heritage, because it represents the preservation of humanity's heritage, and is a crucial part of a community's identity and of building lasting peace. The protection of cultural heritage and the fight against trafficking are imperatives for peacebuilding and sustainable development. We therefore welcome the new international initiative to enhance the protection of cultural heritage by targeting terrorists and traffickers, which was launched at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

24.5 Culture, education, science, communication and information, and freedom of expression have a crucial role to play in the post-2015 development agenda. In the year marking the tenth anniversary of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, it is important to reiterate that without respect for cultures and their diversity, we cannot speak about lasting peace.

24.6 The fact that the number of out-of-school children and adolescents is rising – it reached 124 million in 2013 - calls for strong support for UNESCO's involvement in education. The question of gender equality and the empowerment of women remains a great challenge in the creation and provision of economic opportunities, where culture and education constitute essential resources. Furthermore, the importance of investing in youth should be stressed. This issue is inevitably connected with the right to education but also to the question of sport, especially in a year when UNESCO is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the 2005 International Convention against Doping in Sport, which now has 183 States Parties.

24.7 The successful United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, which was preceded by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) resulting in the adoption of the financial framework for sustainable development, represents a strong incentive to intensify efforts to adopt a comprehensive, ambitious and legally-binding agreement on climate change at the end of 2015, that will apply to all countries. We believe that by the end of the year, we will have an agreed climate document, which would be further confirmation of the responsibility and readiness of all countries and stakeholders to fulfil the obligations of a new chapter in development history. In this context, Montenegro is ready to support a global climate agreement by reducing national emissions of greenhouse gases by 30% by 2030, compared to the reference level in 1990.

24.8 Dear colleagues, this is Montenegro's last session as a Member of the Executive Board. After regaining independence in 2006 and being a Member State of UNESCO since 2007, this was our first nomination to a governing body of this Organization. Fully committed to multilateral cooperation which, with the strengthening of regional cooperation, represents one of main pillars of our foreign policy, we are very honoured to have had the opportunity to take part in the work of this important body. On this occasion, we would like to thank you, Mr Chair, for your contribution, cooperation and commitment over the last two years, which were particularly sensitive for UNESCO, and not only for this United Nations body, given the numerous challenges we are facing. Our gratitude goes also to the Director-General of UNESCO, who managed to maintain the vitality of the Organization when it was needed most and make it visible when it mattered most. We also wish to thank and congratulate the President of the General Conference for his work and achievements during this period. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all the Members of the Executive Board for their cooperation and in particular to Group II, the members of which have shown, not only four years ago when we were elected to the Board, but today also, a great capacity for dialogue and mutual understanding.

25.1 **Mr Pandit** (Nepal) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, I would like first to endorse the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (ASPAC). On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I would like to thank the Director-General for her dedication and commitment to achieving the noble goals enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution at this challenging time. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for its hard work to make this session successful.

25.2 Mr Chair, the year 2015 marks a milestone in the work of UNESCO, as it celebrates its 70th anniversary and galvanizes the education community around a common vision for Education 2030. UNESCO made valuable contributions in its fields of competence, including education, culture, natural, social and human sciences, and communication and information, to the preparation of the document entitled "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which was adopted the United Nations General Assembly at its 70th session in New York. In this document, Member States commit themselves to the goals of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong opportunities for all, and the corresponding targets. My delegation considers that, as stated in the declarations of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Japan in 2014, the World Education Forum held in the Republic of Korea, and the Oslo Summit on Education for Development, UNESCO and its Member States require bold and innovative action to achieve its goals and targets at the global, regional and national levels. Legal and policy frameworks need to be established as appropriate.

25.3 Mr Chair, I am pleased to inform this august gathering that the new Constitution of Nepal, adopted by the Constituent Assembly, was promulgated on 20 September 2015. The Assembly represented all sections of Nepalese society, and the seven-year process has been inclusive, democratic and transparent, after a decade of conflict in the country. We are confident that the new Constitution will be instrumental in accelerating the socioeconomic progress and prosperity of the Nepalese people. The new Constitution guarantees democracy, fundamental freedoms and human rights, including every citizen's right to have access to free and compulsory basic education and free education up to secondary level. We need to concentrate on mobilizing national resources for the development of the education sector. Nepal's new Constitution provides guiding principles and policies and invokes the responsibility of the State for the development of various activities, among them the mobilization of natural resources, including land and water resources. We hope that the international community will help us by extending technical and financial support to this national endeavour.

25.4 I would like to acknowledge with appreciation UNESCO's cooperation with Member States in strengthening their capacity to achieve goals in education for all (EFA), education for sustainable development (ESD), technical education and vocational training (TVET), information and communication technologies (ICTs), science and technology, human and social sciences, and the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

25.5 In addition to the development problems Nepal is facing, we experienced particular difficulty with the earthquake that hit Nepal on 25 April and 12 May this year. Its impact on our education sector was huge; thousands of primary and secondary schools and roads, transport and communication infrastructures were damaged or destroyed in almost half the country. About 9,000 people lost their lives and more than 22,000 people were injured. According to our Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA),the total damage and loss in the education sector is estimated at about 31.3 billion Nepalese rupees. Public schools, early childhood development (ECD) centres, TVET institutes, community learning centres and public libraries were also affected. Recovery and reconstruction costs are estimated at 397.1 billion rupees in the

education sector alone. The Government of Nepal has developed a reconstruction and rehabilitation plan consisting of phases to be completed in the short-, medium- and long-term. We are encouraged by the pledges of financial support made by the international community. Some world heritage sites of cultural and archaeological importance were also damaged or destroyed by the earthquake. While some work is underway with our own resources, we would appreciate cooperation from UNESCO for the restoration and reconstruction of heritage sites.

25.6 Mr Chair, last but not least, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Nepal to the principles and purposes enshrined in the UNESCO Constitution. My delegation would appreciate technical and financial support from the international community to enhance the capacity of national institutions in the country to accelerate socioeconomic development in the near future, taking into consideration, *inter alia*, Nepal's vulnerability to natural disasters and its weak educational infrastructure. My delegation would like to join other delegations in extending our appreciation to you, Mr Chair, and to you, Madam Director-General, and to all those who have contributed to the renovation of Room X. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

26.1 **Mme Ogoula Akiko** (Gabon) *in extenso* :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est pour moi un honneur de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée du Conseil exécutif en qualité, pour la première fois, d'ambassadeur et déléguée permanente de la République gabonaise auprès de l'UNESCO. À l'instar des orateurs qui m'ont précédée, je voudrais vous rendre hommage, Madame la Directrice générale, pour votre engagement, vos efforts et votre enthousiasme. Vous avez su insuffler un nouvel élan à notre Organisation, et ce dans un contexte de crise budgétaire inédit. C'est ici le lieu, Madame la Directrice générale, de vous féliciter et de vous faire part de l'admiration qui est la mienne quant à la réforme audacieuse que vous avez initiée afin de poursuivre et d'atteindre les objectifs qui sont les nôtres. De même, Monsieur le Président, soyez assuré du soutien sans réserve de ma délégation. Je reste convaincue que vous saurez, comme à l'accoutumée, conduire nos travaux avec succès.

26.2 Monsieur le Président, je tiens tout d'abord à exprimer l'entière solidarité du peuple gabonais et de son gouvernement au peuple français face à la tragédie qu'il a subie, le 3 octobre dernier, suite aux intempéries qui ont frappé la Côte d'Azur et qui ont fait de nombreuses victimes. Cette solidarité s'adresse également au peuple turc, face aux attentats survenus le 10 octobre dernier.

26.3 Monsieur le Président, la célébration des 70 ans de l'UNESCO nous donne l'occasion de faire le bilan des actions de l'Organisation et de nous tourner vers l'avenir. Nous faisons face à des défis et à des crises multiformes : économiques, humanitaires, migratoires et sécuritaires, avec la question du terrorisme. Ces crises ont la particularité de toucher tant l'Occident que l'Afrique. Nous appuyons toutes les initiatives que l'UNESCO entreprend pour valoriser le continent africain. C'est pourquoi mon pays a soutenu le projet concernant l'élaboration du 9e volume de l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique, et je profite de cette occasion pour lancer un appel aux États membres afin qu'ils apportent toutes formes de contributions en vue de sa réalisation. En matière d'éducation, l'Afrique a besoin du concours de l'Organisation pour aider les pays qui n'ont pas atteint les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT), avant d'amorcer l'agenda Éducation 2030. En matière de culture, le Gabon condamne sans réserve toute forme de destruction des patrimoines culturels comme il s'en est produit au Mali et comme il s'en produit aujourd'hui en Iraq, en Syrie et ailleurs. Il s'agit de richesses inestimables et irremplaçables qui font l'histoire des peuples et qui doivent être préservées. En matière d'écologie, Paris accueillera dans quelques semaines la 21e Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques. Cet événement historique sera l'occasion pour nous de taire nos divergences afin de parvenir à un accord. En ce qui concerne les technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC), le Gabon estime que les TIC peuvent contribuer à la promotion de l'accès universel et équitable à l'éducation, ainsi qu'à la sensibilisation à ce sujet. Fort de cette conviction, il soutient l'approche holistique et globale de la promotion des TIC adoptée par l'UNESCO. Les réformes engagées par le Président de la République et Chef de l'État, S. E. M. Ali Bongo Ondimba, garantissent d'ailleurs aux jeunes gabonais ou étrangers vivant au Gabon un accès égal et sans distinction de sexe à l'éducation, y compris à la formation professionnelle, à l'enseignement scientifique et aux technologies de l'information (TIC).

26.4 Monsieur le Président, nous nous félicitons de l'adoption, en septembre dernier, à New York, du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. En effet, ce nouveau programme mondial audacieux visant à éradiquer la pauvreté d'ici à 2030 couvre l'ensemble des dimensions du développement durable, à savoir la croissance économique, la protection de l'environnement ou encore l'intégration sociale. Aussi, la Directrice générale et le Secrétariat devraient-ils bénéficier de notre soutien total pour relever ce nouveau défi dans leurs domaines de compétence. L'engagement de nos États en faveur de ce nouveau programme ambitieux invite à s'interroger sur les stratégies de mobilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires indispensables à sa mise en œuvre.

26.5 Monsieur le Président, je mesure l'ampleur des efforts qui sont déployés quotidiennement et je reste persuadée que l'UNESCO est plus que jamais essentielle à la construction d'un monde de paix, de justice et de progrès pour tous les peuples. Je réaffirme le soutien de mon pays et ma détermination à œuvrer aux côtés de l'Organisation pour son rayonnement et le bien de ses États membres. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

27.1 **Mr Budjaku** (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) *in extenso*:

Distinguished President of the General Conference, distinguished Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Director-General, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. The 70th anniversary year of UNESCO is very important, even crucial, for this period of human civilization. In September, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda aimed at directing the common efforts of the world community towards a new humanity through the realization of sustainable development goals. As one of the most important agencies in the United Nations system, UNESCO has been given a leading role in education, and an important role in the other areas of its mandate and expertise. The recent events of barbaric destruction call

for enormous efforts from us all to protect cultural heritage from mercenaries. In this regard, we commend and support UNESCO's action, such as the recently adopted Bonn Declaration on World Heritage and the reconstitution of the heritage in Mali. In future, action to protect endangered world heritage should be linked with security issues, and a task force has been proposed by the distinguished Prime Minister of Italy, Mr Renzi, supported by the Director-General of UNESCO. Moreover, these acts, which have been called cultural cleansing, should be declared a crime against humanity and treated accordingly. In this regard, we welcome the forthcoming high-level event on preventing violent extremism through education co-sponsored by UNESCO and the United States of America.

27.2 The number of high-level conferences and events this year demonstrate the international community's keen awareness of pressing issues. Such events include the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment held in China on the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, the Muscat Agreement issued at the Global Education For All Meeting in 2014 and the World Education Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea. This year, Macedonia was proud to co-sponsor international journalists' day here at UNESCO, together with the delegations of Sri Lanka and Madagascar, supported by the Pure Land Learning College association and in the presence of Venerable Master Chin Kung, who is tirelessly working on interreligious and intercultural understanding and harmony. UNESCO has been providing and should continue to provide support on important issues linked to climate change and environmental protection. We hope that since the Copenhagen Summit the world's nations have raised awareness to the level needed to arrive at a satisfying result that will preserve the environment for future generations.

27.3 As part of one of the first group of countries to recognize the Republic of Kosovo as an independent State, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia fully supports Kosovo's application for membership in UNESCO. We can see that the young population of a new State will benefit from the programmes and activities of our Organization. Accordingly, we will benefit as neighbours, having fully integrated Kosovo. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro are two countries out of seven from the former Yugoslavia and the only two that are Members of the Executive Board. We are reaching the end of our term, but more countries are responding. This Organization has over time been enriched with many countries. Can you imagine this room in 1945, with only five Board Members from African countries?

27.4 To end on a personal note, as my term here at UNESCO and in France comes to end, I would like to say that I have fully enjoyed the diversity, the richness, being here and learning from other cultures, even when, as Chair of the Special Committee (SP) for three years, and especially when replacing the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic, Ms Chatardová, at a meeting of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), I sometimes had to confront questions that at first glance went against my convictions. But I can see now, and this is very important for the Organization and its tireless efforts to reform itself, that the Secretariat and all the people at UNESCO are doing a wonderful job. We have always tried to reach decisions by consensus and I hope this will be the case in the future, although it should be noted that reaching a decision by consensus always involves seeking the lowest common denominator. Now with an increasing awareness of many issues and the active engagement of many countries with UNESCO, I think that the common denominator will be higher, so that even decisions reached by consensus will be better than they have been until now. Thank you very much.

28.1 **Mr Veer** (Netherlands) *in extenso*:

First of all, I would like to express our sincerest condolences to Turkey; we wish it wisdom and strength to overcome the terrible attack in Ankara. On a more hopeful note, I congratulate Tunisia and the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet for winning the Nobel Peace Prize. This confirms the importance of civil society organizations in times of transformation.

28.2 The Director-General quoted leaders who spoke in New York. Let me quote His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He said, "Congratulations! Thank you for 70 years of battling against cynicism and fatalism.". I would like to repeat this message for the 70th anniversary of UNESCO: "UNESCO, thank you for battling against cynicism and fatalism." The King also said, "The Kingdom of the Netherlands believes in the power of empathy and dialogue. It is not always the loudest voices that speak the deepest truths. In fact, it is often the small Member States that show us the way forward." One example of this is the contribution of the small island developing States (SIDS). They show us the urgent need to implement the new sustainable development goals on oceans and scientific cooperation in order to fight climate change and marine pollution. The Kingdom of the Netherlands knows how important this is, because three of our countries, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, are small island States. We support the swift implementation of the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan and we believe that small island States should benefit more from UNESCO programmes.

28.3 I like to view UNESCO as the think tank of the United Nations and as the best example of the power of dialogue and ideas. If we want to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men and women, we need to stimulate these minds and develop new ideas. Dialogue is the best way to develop and exchange new ideas. Cross-cultural dialogue is needed to develop ideas that could help with constructing or, more urgently, repairing the defences of peace.

28.4 These last few months, we have seen beautiful examples of cultural diversity here in the UNESCO building. Our colleagues from Bangladesh paid tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, the great poet and philosopher. For me, this was very nice because we used to read his poems in school. Tagore is not only an example of speaking deep truths without a loud voice, but of cross-cultural dialogue. His conversation with Albert Einstein, for example, is one of most inspiring dialogues on science and religion in history.

28.5 I welcome the Director-General's remarks on the 2030 Agenda as a new vision for humanity, the planet and peace. I am pleased to see that UNESCO stands at the heart of this new agenda. I endorse in particular the Director-General's comment that UNESCO's vision of freedom of expression and access to information as a human right to advance media development, promote transparency and good governance, and strengthen the rule of law, has been taken on board. The Netherlands is happy to see that this part of UNESCO's mandate has

returned to the centre of attention, and we need to make it a success.

28.6 At this session of the Executive Board, the Netherlands, supported by many Member States, is proposing changes to improve the quality and efficiency of our work. We have already had a good debate in the Special Committee (SP) and other delegations have mentioned the idea of intersessional meetings. The basic message is simple: let's make better use of time between Executive Board sessions and let's have a more permanent dialogue between Members of the Board, non-Members and the Secretariat to improve the decision-making process and build more trust between all parties involved in running this wonderful Organization.

28.7 On a more practical note, I should like to draw your attention to UNESCO's important work to preserve our groundwater. I invite you to a short side event tomorrow for a presentation on the work of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre, the UNESCO category 2 centre in Delft.

28.8 To conclude, I repeat our message as a candidate for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for 2017-2018: the Kingdom of the Netherlands is your partner for peace, justice and development. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

TROISIÈME SÉANCE

Mardi 13 octobre 2015 à 10 h 10

Président : M. Amr

REPORTING ITEMS (*continued*)

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme execution (197 EX/4 Part I; 197 EX/4.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37C/5) as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited) (197 EX/4 Part II and Corr.; 197 EX4.INF.2-3; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (197 EX/5 Part I; 197 EX/5.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (197 EX/5 Part II and Addenda)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (197 EX/5 Part III)

Item 5.IV: Management issues (197 EX/5 Part IV and Corr. and Addenda; 197 EX/5.INF.2; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (197 EX/5 Part V and Corr. and Addenda)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING (*continued*)

Item 17: Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (197 EX/17 and Add. and Corrigenda)

Plenary debate (*continued*)

1. **The Chair** announced that the meeting would be suspended to allow for a technical explanation.

The meeting was suspended and resumed at 11.20 a.m.

(2.1) **M. Al-Ebraheem** (Koweït) *in extenso* (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la 37e session de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, j'aimerais tout d'abord remercier la Directrice générale de l'Organisation, Mme Irina Bokova, et la Présidente du Comité du patrimoine mondial, Mme Maria Böhmer, à l'occasion du lancement de la campagne mondiale #UnisPourLePatrimoine le 29 juin 2015. Le lancement de cette alliance internationale, qui constitue une réponse à une menace internationale persistante visant à détruire le patrimoine culturel de l'humanité, notamment au Moyen-Orient, berceau des anciennes civilisations humaines, intervient au moment où notre patrimoine est menacé de destruction par suite d'attaques lancées par des groupes terroristes qui se servent de nos sites culturels comme d'un « bouclier patrimonial ». Les sites de Nimrod, Our et Tadmor ne sont que des exemples de cibles visées par cette criminalité sauvage. Sur les 1 007 sites du patrimoine mondial, on dénombre actuellement 48 sites menacés de destruction. C'est pourquoi nous estimons que les

٢,١ **السيد الإبراهيم** (الكويت) *النص الكامل*:

السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرة العامة، السيد رئيس الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، زميلاتي زملائي أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، اسمحوا لنا في البداية أن نشكر كلاً من المديرة العامة لمنظمتنا، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، والسيدة ماريا بوهمر، رئيسة لجنة التراث العالمي، بمناسبة إطلاقهما حملة التحالف العالمي "متحدون مع التراث في التاسع والعشرين من حزيران/يونيو الماضي، الذي يشكل رداً على تهديد عالمي مستمر يرمي إلى تدمير التراث الثقافي الإنساني وتحديداً في منطقة الشرق الأوسط، مصدر الحضارات الإنسانية القديمة. ويأتي إطلاق التحالف العالمي، أيها الزملاء والزميلات، في الوقت الذي يتعرض فيه تراثنا للدمار من جراء هجمات تقوم بها مجموعات إرهابية اتخذت من مواقعنا الثقافية معاقل لها، وجعلتها "دروعاً تراثية" تحتمي بها. وما مواقع كنمرود وأور وتدمر إلا أمثلة على هذا الإجرام الهمجي، فمن بين ١٠٠٧ مواقع تراثية عالمية، يوجد ٤٨ موقعاً مهدداً الآن بالتدمير. لذا، فإننا نرى أن التهديد وأعمال الدمار المتواصلة التي تتعرض لها مواقعنا التراثية والتحدي الذي نواجهه في حثّ كافة الجهات على العمل معاً وبصورة دائمة على التصدي لهذه الأعمال الإجرامية، يدفعنا إلى الدعوة لتعزيز هذا التحالف العالمي وتوسيع آفاقه من خلال إطلاق عقد أممي في الفترة ٢٠١٥ – ٢٠٢٤ يهدف إلى حماية التراث الإنساني والحفاظ عليه لأجيالنا القادمة، ويحمل العنوان ذاته "متحدون مع التراث".

٢,٢ السيد رئيس المجلس، لقد تجاوز عدد اللاجئين السوريين في الخارج من جراء النزاع في سورية، حاجز الأربعة ملايين، أغلبهم من الأطفال والنساء، مما يؤكد أن هذه الأزمة هي الأكبر في العالم منذ حوالي ربع قرن من الأزمات. ومن تبعاتها أن يتحمل كل من لبنان والأردن أعباءً كبيرة لاحتضانهما هؤلاء النازحين على الرغم من ضعف مواردهما وقدراتهما على مواجهة آثار هذه الأزمة. لذا، فإن دولة الكويت لتدعو مجدداً المجتمع الدولي إلى زيادة تقديم الدعم والمساعدات الإنسانية للنازحين السوريين في دول الجوار، وتقديم الدعم لكل من لبنان والأردن ومساعدتهما على النهوض بمسؤولياتهما تجاه النازحين السوريين في أراضيهما. واتخاذ إجراءات جادة للتصدي لقضية عمالة الأطفال السوريين من خلال تحسين القدرة إلى الحصول على سبل العيش عبر توفير مزيد من التمويل للمبادرات المدرّة للدخل وتوفير التعليم الجيد والأمن لجميع الأطفال. وإن أطفال سورية ونساءها يدفعون ثمناً باهظاً لفشل العالم في إنهاء الأزمة في سورية.

٢,٣ زميلاتي زملائي أعضاء المجلس، تعرب دولة الكويت عن ترحيبها بنتائج المنتدى العالمي للتربية المنعقد في إنشيون خلال شهر أيار/مايو الماضي، وللإعلان الخاص بالتعليم لغاية عام ٢٠٣٠، الذي خلص إلى تحديد خارطة طريق عالمية للتعليم، مما سيمكن الدول والشركاء من حشد طاقاتهما لتنفيذ جدول الأعمال العالمي من أجل ضمان انتفاع الجميع بفرص تعليمية متكافئة. ونؤكد في هذا الصدد على الإمكانات الهائلة التي يوفرها التعليم باعتباره قوة تحويلية تسهم في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة والقضاء على الفقر من على وجه الأرض. كما نشدد على أن المشاركة الفعالة في التنمية المستدامة كفيلة وحدها بأن تقي عالمنا المرتبك من شر النزاعات والصراعات عبر تهيئة الظروف اللازمة لتحقيق التكامل بين الثقافات على أساس احترام القيم الإنسانية المشتركة وحقوق الإنسان ومكافحة التطرف والتعصب.

٢,٤ السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، تشهد مجتمعات دولنا تحولات اجتماعية تتسم بالسرعة والحدّة بسبب الأزمات الناتجة عن عدم المساواة والفقر والاستبعاد وغيرها. وهنا لابد من أن أشير إلى أهمية دور قطاع العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية في مساعدة دولنا على بلوغ حلول تفضي إلى قيم عالمية تتصل بالسلام والمساواة واللاعنف وعدم التمييز، وبدور النساء والشباب. وعلى ذلك، فإننا ندعو المديرة العامة والمجلس التنفيذي إلى تعزيز قدرات وإمكانات هذا القطاع بما يتلاءم مع حاجات دولنا ومجتمعاتنا في هذا المجال. وختاماً اسمحوا لي أن أقدم أحر التهاني لتونس ولجنة الحوار الديمقراطي على حصولها على جائزة نوبل للسلام، وشكراً مع تمنياتنا لهذه الدورة بالنجاح.

menaces et les actes de destruction ininterrompus auxquels sont exposés nos sites patrimoniaux, et le défi consistant à amener toutes les parties concernées à collaborer en permanence pour faire face à ces actes criminels, justifient que l'on renforce cette alliance mondiale et que l'on en élargisse le cadre en lançant, pendant la période 2015-2024, une décennie des Nations Unies intitulée « Unis pour le patrimoine » qui viserait à protéger le patrimoine de l'humanité et à le sauvegarder pour les générations futures.

(2.2) Monsieur le Président du Conseil, le conflit en Syrie a fait à ce jour plus de quatre millions de réfugiés, dont une majorité de femmes et d'enfants, ce qui montre bien que cette crise est la plus grave qu'ait connu le monde depuis 25 ans. Le Liban et la Jordanie doivent assumer une lourde charge pour accueillir tous ces réfugiés, malgré leurs faibles ressources et le peu de moyens dont ils disposent pour faire face aux incidences de cette crise. C'est pourquoi l'État du Koweït invite à nouveau la communauté internationale à renforcer son appui et son assistance humanitaire aux réfugiés syriens présents dans les pays voisins, et à aider le Liban et la Jordanie à assumer leurs responsabilités à l'égard des réfugiés présents sur leur territoire. Il convient de prendre des mesures fermes pour lutter contre le travail des enfants syriens, par exemple améliorer les moyens de subsistance en augmentant le financement des initiatives génératrices de revenus, offrir un enseignement de qualité et assurer la sécurité de tous les enfants. La communauté internationale ne parvient pas à mettre fin à la crise syrienne, et ce sont les femmes et les enfants syriens qui en paient le prix fort.

(2.3) Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, le Koweït se félicite des résultats du Forum mondial sur l'éducation, tenu à Incheon en mai 2015, ainsi que de la déclaration Éducation 2030, qui définit une feuille de route mondiale concernant l'éducation qui permettra aux États et partenaires d'unir leurs efforts pour la réalisation de l'Agenda mondial de façon à garantir l'égalité d'accès à l'éducation pour tous. À ce sujet, il convient d'insister sur les formidables perspectives qu'offre l'éducation en tant que force transformatrice qui contribue au développement durable et à la lutte contre la pauvreté à l'échelle mondiale. La participation effective au développement durable peut, à elle seule, protéger notre monde agité contre les troubles et les conflits en créant un climat de complémentarité entre les cultures, fondé sur le respect des valeurs humaines communes et des droits de l'homme ainsi que sur la lutte contre le fanatisme et l'extrémisme.

(2.4) Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, les sociétés de nos pays connaissent des mutations sociales rapides et brutales liées aux crises causées par l'inégalité, la pauvreté et l'exclusion. C'est pourquoi il faut souligner l'importance du rôle joué par le Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines, qui aide nos pays à trouver des solutions fondées sur des valeurs universelles telles que la paix, l'égalité, la non-violence et la non-discrimination, ainsi que sur le rôle des femmes et des jeunes. Nous invitons donc la Directrice générale et le Conseil exécutif à renforcer les capacités et les moyens de ce secteur pour qu'il puisse répondre aux besoins de nos pays et de nos sociétés. Pour conclure, je voudrais féliciter chaleureusement la Tunisie et le Comité du dialogue démocratique d'avoir obtenu le Prix Nobel de la paix. Je vous souhaite plein succès dans vos travaux. Merci.

3.1 **M. Lalliot** (France) *in extenso* :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, comme vous l'avez relevé hier, Madame la Directrice générale, nous sommes aujourd'hui confrontés à de multiples crises et défis où l'instabilité née de foyers de tensions anciens est aggravée de nouvelles menaces.

3.2 Dans les grands désordres de ce début de XXI^{e} siècle, trois grands enjeux s'imposent néanmoins : la lutte contre la pauvreté, la lutte contre le terrorisme, et plus largement toutes les formes d'extrémisme, la lutte contre les changements climatiques enfin. Nous devrons, sauf à nous dérober à nos responsabilités, y apporter des réponses collectives, déterminées, urgentes et concrètes. Ce triple enjeu de sécurité, de développement et de protection de l'environnement est au cœur du mandat historique de l'UNESCO. En tant qu'État co-fondateur et État hôte, nous avons, vous le savez, un attachement particulier pour cette Organisation. Nous sommes convaincus qu'elle a un rôle essentiel à jouer en ce siècle tourmenté, et que ses principes constitutifs de tolérance, de partage et de dialogue sont plus pertinents que jamais.

3.3 Convenons cependant que l'Organisation ne s'est pas encore complètement remise de la grave crise financière qu'elle traverse depuis quatre ans. Le risque était qu'à la crise budgétaire s'ajoute une crise existentielle. L'UNESCO aurait pu ne pas s'en remettre. Il n'en a rien été. Sous votre autorité, Madame la Directrice générale, l'Organisation a entamé une profonde réforme, et dans les circonstances les plus difficiles. Nous en voyons les premiers résultats manifestes notamment à New York le mois dernier.

3.4 Nous nous félicitons que l'Organisation ait ainsi conforté son rôle, qu'elle soit à la fois plus présente et plus visible, souvent à l'avant-garde des efforts menés par la communauté internationale, par exemple en ce qui concerne la protection des patrimoines, l'accent mis sur l'éducation, la promotion des sciences ou la défense des droits de l'homme. L'UNESCO nous semble ainsi en passe de sortir de la phase d'introspection où l'avait plongée la réduction drastique de son budget, pour exercer pleinement ses missions. Nous nous en félicitons.

3.5 Cet effort de réforme devra être poursuivi. C'est vrai du budget ordinaire, dans la ligne de l'accord trouvé au printemps dernier. En tant que l'un des principaux contributeurs, nous serons, bien sûr, attentifs à sa mise en œuvre. C'est vrai plus largement du financement de l'Organisation. Nous soutenons à cet égard l'initiative bienvenue de la Suède visant à renforcer le suivi des différentes contributions. C'est vrai également de la réorganisation du Siège et du réseau hors Siège. C'est vrai enfin plus largement de la gouvernance, en particulier du fonctionnement de ce Conseil exécutif qui mérite, selon nous, une réflexion d'ensemble, sans tabou, dans l'intérêt même de l'Organisation.

3.6 À cette session, le Conseil exécutif aura à débattre de projets de décision qui touchent à des sujets de fond de première importance, directement liés à l'actualité internationale immédiate, et en prise avec les attentes de nos concitoyens. C'est en responsabilité et en

confiance que la France entend participer à la discussion, en prévision des travaux qui suivront à la Conférence générale. Nous le ferons en présentant avec le Pérou et le Maroc un projet de décision sur la contribution de l'UNESCO à la lutte contre les changements climatiques. De très nombreuses délégations ont déjà accepté de cosigner notre projet, et nous les en remercions. Je lance un ultime appel à celles qui voudraient encore nous rejoindre. Nous le ferons, bien sûr, sur la question essentielle de l'éducation et de sa place dans les politiques de développement, au titre du suivi de la décision que nous avons adoptée en avril dernier sur les violences liées au genre en milieu scolaire et de la mise en œuvre de l'agenda post-2015, ainsi que dans la perspective du lancement du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, le 4 novembre prochain.

3.7 Nous le ferons également dans le domaine tout aussi important de la protection des patrimoines et de la diversité culturelle dans les zones de conflit, en particulier au Moyen-Orient, ainsi que de la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels. Nous avons, à cet égard, cosigné le projet présenté par l'Italie, qui est très bienvenu et qui s'inscrit dans la suite des initiatives prises à Paris, à Genève et à New York. La France entend d'ailleurs faire dans ce domaine de nouvelles et fortes propositions à la prochaine session de la Conférence générale. Nous le ferons enfin, en continuant à appuyer les efforts de l'UNESCO en matière de liberté d'expression, de sécurité des journalistes, de lutte contre l'impunité et de lutte contre l'extrémisme violent et la radicalisation des jeunes, autant de thèmes qui méritent à nos yeux d'être encore renforcés.

3.8 Nous sommes convaincus de la mission stratégique de l'UNESCO, de sa nécessité politique et de son utilité pratique alors qu'elle fête cette année son 70e anniversaire. Candidate aux prochaines élections au Conseil exécutif, la France a pour l'UNESCO des ambitions aussi fortes que réalistes, qui embrassent l'ensemble de son mandat. Il n'appartient qu'à nous de faire en sorte que l'UNESCO continue d'être ce lieu précieux où les hommes et femmes de bonne volonté s'arrêtent pour parler librement et agir ensemble. Je vous remercie.

4.1 **Ms Markovic** (Sweden) *in extenso:*

Thank you very much, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, Sweden fully aligns itself with the European Union statement. Let me start by recognizing and warmly congratulating this year's Nobel Prize-winners and their major contributions to culture, science and technology, education, and peace. Mr Chair, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a milestone in United Nations history. Now we need to start working together to implement this transformative agenda. We all have a responsibility for its realization. That is why the Swedish Prime Minister has launched an initiative together with nine world leaders of a high-level support group for the implementation of our new agenda. UNESCO now has an important role to play in translating the goals into concrete action. We look forward to engaging with all of you on this.

4.2 One of the critical issues of our time is countering climate change. This is of utmost importance to my Government. Crosscutting by nature, it requires coherent measures in all policy areas. UNESCO's contribution with regard to the ocean and freshwater is crucial. Sweden supports action to meet the specific challenges faced by small island developing States (SIDS) and, together with Fiji, we have taken the initiative of organizing triennial global conferences on the ocean goal under the new 2030 Agenda. Closer on the horizon is the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) here in Paris, where we are committed to reaching a global, fair and legally binding climate change agreement. Another area that features prominently in the 2030 Agenda is inclusive and quality education for all girls and boys. Education for sustainable development and global citizenship education are key components. Providing young people with technical and vocational training and skills that lead to decent jobs remains a challenge for many countries, including my own, and this is why Sweden has launched the "Friends of TVET" network at UNESCO. While the empowerment of women starts with access to education, much remains to be done in order to achieve fully equal societies and remove structures of discrimination such as gender-based violence in schools. The Swedish Government's feminist foreign policy will continue to promote women's empowerment.

4.3 Mr Chair, UNESCO also plays a vital role in promoting access to information and press freedom. We will continue engaging on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. The media owner conference in February next year will provide a unique platform for dialogue on journalists' safety. We also look forward to UNESCO's report on *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development*, to be launched here in Paris on 2 November. While we need to join our efforts in building a more sustainable future, we also need collective action in responding to the challenges of today. The current refugee situation is a global crisis and requires shared responsibility in order to ensure that people fleeing the horrors of war are treated in a spirit of humanity and solidarity. The continued destruction of cultural heritage is affecting us all. Sweden welcomes the actions undertaken by UNESCO and the global community to counter the demolition and the widespread trafficking of cultural objects. A Nordic initiative for enhanced international collaboration will start with a conference for all stakeholders in Oslo in December of this year.

4.4 Mr Chair, in order to respond to the pressing situations of our time and be able to implement the 2030 agenda, UNESCO needs to have sufficient financial resources. The Executive Board has an important task to do in ensuring that the budget level matches the goals that we have set for the Organization to achieve. That is why Sweden supports a zero nominal growth plus budget and is ready to raise our assessed contribution in 2017. That is also why Sweden last year signed a groundbreaking four-year agreement to support UNESCO's core programmes, at a value of $54 million. And that is also why we want Member States to engage in a structured dialogue on financing to increase the predictability, transparency, flexibility and alignment of budgetary resources. This goes hand in hand with the work to improve the governance of the Organization, and we look forward to participating in the ongoing reform process and the follow-up on the governance audit. We firmly believe that through further reform efforts, strengthened results-based management and the establishment of an evaluation culture, UNESCO will become more relevant and better able to focus and deliver results. Improved governance will also help it to concentrate more on real and urgent substantive issues and the upcoming General Conference is an opportunity for Member States to engage in a forward-looking and

strategic debate on the direction in which we want UNESCO to go.

4.5 Mr Chair, the realities of today's world are different from those of 70 years ago, when the United Nations system was born. But we still see a strong need to work together in order to achieve a sustainable and peaceful future. Sweden has always been a strong supporter of the United Nations, both politically and financially, and we are ready to deepen our engagement by taking a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period 2017-2018. We will work towards a more representative, transparent and effective Council that can respond swiftly to the security challenges of our time. I would like to end by quoting United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld: "Nothing is of greater importance for a peaceful and constructive development (…) toward freedom and an equal place in the world than to respect the laws of natural growth, guiding and helping the necessary change without impatience for overnight results." Thank you.

5.1 **M. Bendjama** (Algérie) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, au nom de la délégation algérienne, je vous félicite, Monsieur le Président, pour votre conduite des travaux de cette 197e session du Conseil exécutif. Je vous félicite également pour la qualité et l'efficacité que vous avez imprimées aux travaux de notre organe directeur, alors que votre mandat arrive bientôt à son terme, en vous souhaitant plein succès dans vos autres missions. Nous tenons à remercier la Directrice générale de nous avoir présenté un point de situation exhaustif sur les principales évolutions intervenues depuis notre session d'avril dernier.

5.2 Monsieur le Président, l'Algérie se félicite de la récente adoption, à New York, du programme de développement pour l'après-2015 assorti d'objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, résultat d'un processus participatif et inclusif qui a culminé à Incheon, en République de Corée, et qui vise à remplacer les OMD que mon pays a atteints bien avant l'échéance de 2015. Ces nouveaux objectifs réservent une place de choix à l'éducation, qui figure au cœur du mandat de notre Organisation. Avec l'ensemble des cibles qui les accompagnent, ils montrent que les autres domaines d'activité pertinents de l'UNESCO, notamment les sciences, la culture, la communication et l'environnement, figurent aussi parmi les priorités retenues.

5.3 Dans ce contexte, ma délégation apprécie l'action du Conseil international de coordination du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère, qui œuvre à la concrétisation des objectifs de notre Organisation en matière de biodiversité et de lutte contre les changements climatiques. Je voudrais souligner à ce titre l'engagement fort de mon pays en faveur de la protection et de la préservation de l'environnement qui se traduit, d'une part, par l'harmonisation de notre législation en vue de consolider et d'accroître notre présence dans le Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère et, d'autre part, par une orientation affirmée vers les énergies renouvelables.

5.4 Monsieur le Président, à l'instar de celle d'avril dernier, la présente session se tient dans un contexte caractérisé par la poursuite des attaques et des destructions du patrimoine culturel en Iraq, en République arabe syrienne, en Libye et au Yémen, commises par des groupes de terroristes criminels, que l'Algérie condamne fermement. La délégation algérienne salue l'action de notre Organisation qui prend la mesure de ses responsabilités en tant qu'acteur majeur dans la sauvegarde du patrimoine mondial.

5.5 À cet égard, ma délégation appuie naturellement le projet de décision présenté par le Mali concernant le soutien de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de l'accord de paix et de réconciliation dans ce pays frère. Cet accord est le résultat d'un processus de négociation facilité par une médiation internationale conduite par l'Algérie. Dans ce contexte, ma délégation encourage l'UNESCO à apporter les soutiens technique et financier sollicités en vue de l'organisation, à Bamako, d'un forum national sur le thème de la culture de la paix et de la non-violence destiné à mieux assoir les bases d'une réconciliation nationale.

5.6 Par ailleurs, la contribution de l'Algérie à l'ensemble de ces efforts s'est concrétisée par l'accueil, du 28 septembre au 2 octobre 2015, à Constantine, capitale de l'Est algérien, d'une rencontre organisée conjointement avec le Secteur de la culture, sous la forme d'un atelier qui a réuni tous les experts africains du réseau UNESCO et qui visait à renforcer les capacités en matière de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel, au bénéfice de tout le continent.

5.7 Monsieur le Président, les nobles valeurs que porte notre Organisation et sa contribution à la paix dans le monde devraient naturellement inclure la réalisation du droit du peuple palestinien à un État indépendant, y compris son droit à la promotion et à la préservation de ses sites culturels et historiques. L'UNESCO est exhortée à contribuer activement à la réalisation de ces droits, notamment par la mise en œuvre effective des décisions du Conseil.

5.8 Dans le contexte des célébrations du 70e anniversaire de l'adoption de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, nous sommes tous appelés à assurer la concrétisation des objectifs qui ont été à l'origine de la création de l'Organisation, à savoir pour construire la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes et chercher des réponses appropriées à la culture de la haine et de l'intolérance.

5.9 Dans le cadre de notre participation à cette œuvre commune, il me plaît de rappeler que les 28 et 29 septembre derniers, notre délégation permanente a fortement appuyé la tenue ici à Paris d'un colloque sur l'islam spirituel et les défis contemporains, organisé par l'Association internationale Soufie Alawiyya qui œuvre au rayonnement de la pensée du cheikh algérien Ahmed Ben Mustapha Al Alawi. Cette rencontre, qui a rassemblé de nombreux invités venus de différentes régions du monde, a été l'occasion de rappeler que l'islam est une religion de paix et de tolérance, complètement étrangère aux discours haineux et à l'extrémisme violent commis en son nom. Je vous remercie.

6.1 **Mr Singh** (India) *in extenso*:

Mr President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Board, friends and colleagues, 70 years ago the people of this world made an accord for peace in the aftermath of the horrific devastation wrought by the Second World War. As the Prime Minister of India noted on his visit to UNESCO earlier this year: "The seeds of our collective destiny are sown in human minds.". And no other organization has done more to lay the foundations for a more peaceful and sustainable society using culture, education, the sciences, as well as other areas of its mandate, than UNESCO. We have achieved much in the

past seven decades in our mission to educate the children of the world, to strive to save our planet from cultural and environmental destruction and to encourage the benign applications of science. And yet we are still far from achieving the goals that we have set out to reach. As a founding member of this Organization, India sees the 70th anniversary as much as an occasion for the celebration of UNESCO's achievements as a moment for reflection on the path UNESCO should take in the future.

6.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in New York last month recognizes that what the world needs today is a transformative approach to the problems confronting our planet, which will address the challenges of today while building the capacities for facing the uncertainties of tomorrow. UNESCO has a critical role to play in the articulation of our vision for education, science and culture for sustainable development, and in translating that vision within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda. It is UNESCO's firm belief that education is the light that will guide the way to eliminating gender inequalities, reducing poverty, creating a sustainable planet and fostering peace. And in a knowledge economy, education is the new currency by which nations maintain economic competitiveness and global prosperity, the bedrock on which we must try to build an enlightened society committed to the universal values of compassion, pluralism, respect for women, inclusion of the marginalized and betterment of the deprived.

6.3 The success of the World Education Forum earlier this year is testimony to UNESCO's unparalleled leadership in education. It should now seek to build on that success to ensure that the Education 2030 Framework for Action, which is to be adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session, renders our educational goals achievable, acceptable and relevant to all countries, while acknowledging their unique contexts and socioeconomic diversities. But for this transformative agenda, we will need to go beyond dichotomous and conflictual modes of thought that see the world as a battleground between developed and developing countries, believers and non-believers, liberals and conservatives, and move towards ensuring cooperation for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The contemporary discussion on education will have to revolve around an integrated, holistic philosophy in which human existence is looked upon as a gift to be utilized both for inner development and for the welfare of society and the world.

6.4 UNESCO will need to leverage all its resources and strengths if we are to achieve our goal. This may well entail a recalibration of UNESCO's priorities and programmes in the years ahead. And I say with the utmost confidence that the New Delhi-based Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) **–** a UNESCO category 1 institute which I have the honour of chairing – stands ready to help governments transform education systems, drawing on UNESCO's experience and inspired by Mahatma Ghandi's legacy.

6.5 And yet, even as we seek to build and transform, we see around us the pillage and destruction of centuries of priceless heritage, perpetrated through barbaric attacks of violent extremism taking place with an alarming frequency around the world. We saw this earlier with the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan, and sadly we are seeing this again in Iraq and Syria, Yemen and Mali. This wanton destruction of humanity's cultural heritage must stop. We commend the Director-General for providing a counter narrative to sectarian propaganda through her spirited response on social media, and for exploring ways to bring this issue to the frontiers of peace efforts. Together, we must put forward a new narrative of shared values, of humanity as a single family, convinced that we need to make new alliances to meet the challenges of violent extremism.

6.6 Friends, we are at a momentous crossroads in history. We have been entrusted with the responsibility of transforming the world and leaving a positive legacy for generations yet unborn. Our ability to shoulder that responsibility will depend on our capacity to come up with creative answers to the new challenges posed to us, while remaining true to our long-term ideals. There must be a sense of urgency because, as the Chinese saying goes, "It is later than you think.". And as the Sanskrit saying goes, "Siddhirbhavati Karmaja" which means "Success is born of action". Now is the time for action. Thank you.

7.1 **Mr Lee** (Republic of Korea) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, distinguished delegates, let me start by conveying my deep appreciation for the hard work done by the Secretariat to faithfully implement the programmes and to complete this biennium within the expenditure plan. This year marks the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda. At the United Nations summit in September, we took a step towards a society that leaves no one behind and a future for our planet where man and nature coexist in harmony. In the face of many global challenges, UNESCO's role becomes more important than ever in responding to the call for peace and sustainable development. In this regard, I would like to renew my gratitude to the Secretariat for its efforts to protect and promote UNESCO's values and reflect them in the post-2015 agenda.

7.2 As President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea emphasized in her speech to the United Nations summit, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be translated into practical goals that we must attain. It is my hope that UNESCO will deliver on the new global Sustainable Development Goals with a strong sense of responsibility. Our solemn responsibility is effectively reflected in the education goals of the 2030 Agenda. Education is a driving force for sustainable development that helps to empower the individual and achieve national development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders for their efforts to make the World Education Forum 2015 a success and arrive at a significant outcome in the Incheon Declaration. Moreover, I expect that the framework for action to be adopted at the forthcoming General Conference will guide the implementation of the future education agenda, fully reflecting the core values of the Incheon Declaration. Also, I commend UNESCO's efforts in elaborating a strategy for global citizenship education, which is one of the three major priorities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI), especially in the current global context where lasting peace is being jeopardized by violent extremism.

7.3 As for science, I highly appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to ensure the inclusion of water, oceans, biodiversity and science policy in the Sustainable Development Goals. I look forward to UNESCO's leadership in these fields of its competence with such programmes as the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)

and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Similarly, I welcome the adoption of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 during the recent meeting of the MAB Council. In addition, I welcome the fact that the Secretariat has been implementing IOC programmes effectively, even with limited resources. I note with satisfaction that the draft budget of IOC for the next biennium has increased to 2% of the total budget.

7.4 When it comes to culture, UNESCO has been playing a leading role in protecting world heritage and building mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue. Moreover, UNESCO has a key role to play in providing insight into the links between culture and sustainable development. It has demonstrated how these links can be forged through policy and implementation. In this context, I should like to highlight the recent evaluation of UNESCO's work on culture and sustainable development. Further, I applaud efforts by UNESCO to include cultural areas as crosscutting issues on the 2030 Agenda. I hope that UNESCO will continue to cooperate with Member States throughout the period of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7.5 Let me now turn to UNESCO's internal matters, namely document 38 C/5. UNESCO has shaped the draft document 38 C/5 on the basis of the zero nominal growth plus scenario with a view to strengthening its visibility within the post-2015 framework. Meanwhile, it is indeed important that UNESCO still be mindful of the delicate consensus reached on the budget. For this, I encourage the Secretariat to be more disciplined in cost saving and budget implementation for efficient programme delivery. Last but not least, I would like to focus on the ongoing discussions on governance. I believe that UNESCO can build on the in-depth discussions of the informal task force of the Executive Board on governance through further consideration and wider participation. I support the idea of streamlining governance arrangements and enhancing accountability and transparency. Good governance is indeed vital for the future of our Organization. Also, I welcome the final report by the External Auditor and hope that UNESCO will benefit from its recommendations for better governance of the Organization. Thank you.

8.1 **Sra. Lizaranzu Perinat** (España) *in extenso*:

Señora Directora General, señores presidentes de la Conferencia General y el Consejo Ejecutivo, señoras y señores delegados permanentes: como han señalado la Directora General y muchos de los embajadores que me han precedido, la interrelación de los encuentros de la agenda internacional de este año está marcando los trabajos de la propia UNESCO y nos permite orientar nuestros esfuerzos y programas de manera coherente y coordinada. Dicha agenda, que engloba nuestras prioridades para los próximos decenios, está determinada por decisiones que han sido fruto de largas negociaciones entre los Estados, que nos llevan desde la Cumbre de Nueva York del pasado mes de septiembre, relativa a la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, hasta la reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO en la que se aprobará, entre otros, ese importante instrumento que es el Marco de Acción Educación 2030, sin olvidar la venidera Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático que tendrá lugar en París.

8.2 Permítanme hacerme eco en este foro del firme compromiso de España, que actualmente preside el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, con el multilateralismo. Estamos convencidos de que la UNESCO y los valores que representa son hoy en día más necesarios que nunca, y que las dimensiones de paz y seguridad, de desarrollo y de derechos humanos están íntimamente vinculadas.

8.3 Por ello, frente a la proliferación de actos de violencia y terrorismo contra las personas y contra nuestro patrimonio cultural, el mandato de la Organización cobra una mayor actualidad. La destrucción del patrimonio cultural es equiparable a la pérdida de la memoria de los pueblos, ya que un ataque indiscriminado contra los mismos constituye un ataque contra su esencia, un intento de borrar su historia. Es por tanto nuestra responsabilidad, la de todos los Estados Miembros y la de la Organización, poner en práctica todos y cada uno de los mecanismos de los que dispone la UNESCO, reforzando la aplicación de las convenciones y buscando también nuevas vías para que la Organización pueda cumplir sus objetivos. A ello responde muy adecuadamente, considera España, la "Estrategia para reforzar la labor de la UNESCO en materia de protección de la cultura y promoción del pluralismo cultural en caso de conflicto armado" preparada por la Directora General y su equipo tras la petición que formuló el Consejo Ejecutivo en su reunión de abril, cuyos trabajos al respecto fueron impulsados activamente por España e Italia y apoyados por muchos otros Estados. Todo ello con el fin de lograr un instrumento que permita a la UNESCO reforzar su labor en tres dimensiones que otros delegados permanentes han glosado ampliamente. En primer lugar, en su dimensión preventiva, actuando "ex ante" para fortalecer las capacidades de los Estados Miembros y mitigar posibles pérdidas por conflictos o debidas a catástrofes naturales. En segundo lugar, en su vertiente de acción, incorporando la protección de la cultura a la acción humanitaria, a las estrategias de seguridad y a los procesos de consolidación de la paz. En tercer lugar, en su vertiente de reconstrucción, aportando su amplia experiencia de asistencia a la reconstrucción en zonas de conflicto y otras zonas afectadas por catástrofes naturales. Y para ello apoyaremos propuestas que den a la UNESCO una operatividad propia y abogaremos por una mejor coordinación y engarce con otras instancias de las Naciones Unidas.

8.4 La protección del patrimonio cultural ha sido una constante en las prioridades de España dentro y fuera de sus fronteras. La cooperación española ha sido muy activa en la preservación del patrimonio cultural, tanto a través de nuestro programa "Patrimonio para el Desarrollo", que lleva ya 30 años haciendo labores en Iberoamérica, como a través de la propia UNESCO, y nos felicitamos por ello del décimo aniversario del Fondo Africano del Patrimonio Mundial, apoyado, entre otros países, por España.

8.5 En el campo fundamental de la educación, la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible nos ha dado en su objetivo 4 una pauta clara para avanzar en esta materia, gracias al trabajo de la Directora General y de todo su equipo. Mantiene así la UNESCO el peso y el papel que le corresponden en este ámbito. España apoya firmemente la labor de la UNESCO y de sus institutos especializados en planificación, calidad y estadísticas, compartiendo los objetivos estratégicos para crear sistemas educativos que promuevan sistemas de calidad, inclusivos y equitativos. El compromiso de mi país con la Agenda 2030 es decidido, como afirmó Su Majestad el Rey Felipe VI en la Cumbre de Nueva York, declarando que España ya ha constituido el primer fondo para los

Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, a través del cual se respaldan actualmente proyectos en 17 países.

8.6 Tampoco quiero dejar de mencionar la labor pendiente de la UNESCO en el ámbito del cambio climático, y por ello doy la bienvenida a las propuestas de Francia, Marruecos y el Perú, que España ha apoyado. Quiero reconocer asimismo los esfuerzos realizados en materia de reforma de la Organización, tanto los esfuerzos de la Directora General como las distintas propuestas de los países. España participará de forma constructiva y activa en la labor de reforma, al igual que lo hace en otras instancias del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, con un fin común: hacer de la UNESCO una organización más eficaz en la consecución de sus objetivos y eficiente en el uso de sus recursos, todo ello a través de acuerdos que fortalezcan la legitimidad y eficacia de la UNESCO y recurriendo al consenso que siempre, en sus setenta años de existencia, ha presidido su quehacer. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(8.1) **Mme Lizaranzu Perinat** (Espagne)
in extenso (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Directrice générale, Messieurs les présidents de la Conférence générale et du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués permanents, comme l'ont souligné la Directrice générale et de nombreux ambassadeurs avant moi, les liens étroits entre les différentes rencontres sur l'agenda international qui ont lieu cette année conditionnent les travaux de l'UNESCO et nous incitent à donner à nos efforts et programmes une orientation cohérente et coordonnée. Cet agenda, qui englobe nos priorités pour les prochaines décennies, repose sur des décisions qui sont le fruit de longues négociations entre les États, depuis le Sommet de New York le mois dernier, concernant le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, jusqu'à la session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO qui verra l'adoption, entre autres, de cet instrument majeur que sera le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, sans oublier la prochaine Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, qui aura lieu à Paris.

(8.2) Permettez-moi de me faire ici l'écho de l'engagement résolu de l'Espagne, qui préside actuellement le Conseil de sécurité de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, en faveur du multilatéralisme. Nous sommes convaincus que l'UNESCO et les valeurs qu'elle porte sont plus que jamais nécessaires, et que la paix et la sécurité, ainsi que le développement et les droits de l'homme, sont étroitement liés.

(8.3) C'est pourquoi, face à la multiplication des actes de violence et de terrorisme contre les personnes et contre notre patrimoine culturel, le mandat de l'Organisation n'a jamais été autant d'actualité. La destruction du patrimoine culturel équivaut à la disparition de la mémoire d'un peuple, car une attaque sans distinction contre un peuple constitue une attaque contre son essence même, une tentative d'effacer son histoire. Il nous appartient donc, nous États membres, ainsi qu'à l'Organisation, de mettre en œuvre tous les mécanismes dont dispose l'UNESCO, en renforçant l'application des conventions, mais aussi en recherchant de nouvelles voies pour permettre à l'Organisation d'atteindre ses objectifs. Cette exigence trouve une réponse adéquate, selon l'Espagne, avec la « Stratégie de renforcement de l'action de l'UNESCO en matière de protection du patrimoine culturel et de promotion du pluralisme culturel en cas de conflit armé », élaborée par la Directrice générale et son équipe conformément à la demande formulée par le Conseil exécutif à sa session d'avril, dont les travaux à ce sujet ont été entrepris à l'initiative de l'Espagne et de l'Italie, avec l'appui de nombreux autres États membres. Cet effort a pour but de mettre en place un instrument qui permette à l'UNESCO de renforcer trois aspects de son action, que d'autres délégués permanents ont amplement évoqués. Premièrement, la prévention, en agissant en amont pour renforcer les capacités des États membres et atténuer les risques de pertes dues à des conflits ou à des catastrophes naturelles. Deuxièmement, l'action, en intégrant la protection de la culture dans les interventions humanitaires, les stratégies de sécurité et les processus de consolidation de la paix. Troisièmement, la reconstruction, en apportant la vaste expérience de l'Organisation en matière d'aide à la reconstruction dans les zones de conflit et les zones touchées par des catastrophes naturelles. À cette fin, nous appuierons toute proposition tendant à donner à l'UNESCO les moyens d'opérer indépendamment, tout en plaidant pour une meilleure coordination et coopération avec d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies.

(8.4) La protection du patrimoine culturel a toujours été l'une des priorités de l'Espagne, que ce soit sur son territoire ou en dehors de ses frontières. L'Espagne fait preuve d'une coopération active en matière de préservation du patrimoine culturel, tant à travers son programme intitulé « Le patrimoine au service du développement », à l'œuvre depuis déjà 30 ans dans la région ibéro-américaine, qu'à travers l'UNESCO elle-même, et nous nous réjouissons à ce titre du dixième anniversaire du Fonds pour le patrimoine mondial africain, soutenu par de nombreux pays, dont l'Espagne.

(8.5) Dans le domaine fondamental de l'éducation, le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 définit à notre intention, dans son objectif 4, une ligne claire pour aller de l'avant, grâce au travail de la Directrice générale et de toute son équipe. C'est ainsi que l'UNESCO conservera l'importance et le rôle qui lui reviennent en la matière. L'Espagne appuie vigoureusement l'action menée par l'UNESCO et ses instituts spécialisés dans les domaines de la planification, de la qualité et des statistiques, partageant les objectifs stratégiques pour mettre en place des systèmes éducatifs qui soient de qualité, inclusifs et équitables. L'engagement de mon pays en faveur de l'Agenda 2030 est un engagement résolu, comme l'a affirmé Sa Majesté le Roi Felipe VI lors du Sommet de New York, déclarant que l'Espagne avait créé le premier fonds pour les Objectifs de développement durable, grâce auquel plusieurs projets bénéficient d'un appui dans 17 pays.

(8.6) Je ne peux pas non plus ne pas mentionner le travail que mène actuellement l'UNESCO en ce qui concerne le changement climatique, et je salue à cet égard les propositions formulées par la France, le Maroc et le Pérou, qui ont l'appui de l'Espagne. Je souhaite également saluer les efforts déployés en vue de la réforme de l'Organisation, ainsi que l'action de la Directrice générale et les différentes propositions des pays. L'Espagne prendra une part active et

constructive aux efforts de réforme, tout comme elle le fait dans d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies, avec un but commun : rendre l'UNESCO plus efficace dans la réalisation de ses objectifs et plus efficiente dans l'utilisation de ses ressources, le tout grâce à des accords qui renforcent la légitimité et l'efficacité de l'Organisation, avec le même esprit de consensus qui a guidé son action tout au long de ses soixante-dix années d'existence. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

9.1 **Sr. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente, señora Directora General: en el mundo expoliado y saqueado se acumulan los problemas y se imbrican las crisis, que ya son permanentes. Guerras atroces y actos terroristas de extraordinaria crueldad ponen en entredicho los baluartes de la paz. Nuestra rica diversidad está siendo socavada por el extremismo fanático de quienes consideran que sus opciones son las únicas y pretenden imponer una monótona e inaceptable uniformidad, incluso mediante la destrucción deliberada de sitios del Patrimonio Mundial. El acelerado cambio climático, consecuencia, entre otros factores, de los irracionales modelos de producción y consumo del primer mundo, pone en peligro la supervivencia misma de la especie humana.

9.2 La UNESCO, cuando se cumplen setenta años desde su fundación, está llamada a realizar una contribución aún mayor en la búsqueda de la paz y la promoción del desarrollo sostenible. En este empeño destaca la Proclama de América Latina y el Caribe como Zona de Paz dimanante de la 2ª Cumbre de la CELAC, celebrada en La Habana, en la que se consagra el respeto de los principios y normas del derecho internacional en una cultura de paz. En los valores y mandatos de la UNESCO están las mejores herramientas para enfrentar los nuevos y viejos desafíos. La educación es esencial para vencer la ignorancia; la ciencia es el mejor antídoto contra el obscurantismo y en la lucha contra virus y pandemias; la cultura es la clave para comprender la riqueza de la diversidad y apreciar las insustituibles maravillas del patrimonio universal de la humanidad; y la información y las comunicaciones facilitan el conocimiento mutuo y el debate de ideas.

9.3 Señor Presidente: como revolucionarios, somos obstinadamente inconformes y críticos, incluso con nuestra propia obra. Por ello hemos abogado siempre por una reforma holística e integral de la UNESCO y su gobernanza. En los últimos años hemos constatado los incansables esfuerzos y la dedicación de la Directora General a la labor de revitalizar y modernizar la Organización, que carga con sus luces y sus sombras. Pero como expresara nuestro héroe nacional, José Martí: "Los hombres no pueden ser más perfectos que el sol. El sol quema con la misma luz con que calienta. El sol tiene manchas. Los desagradecidos no hablan más que de las manchas. Los agradecidos hablan de la luz." Por ello, si se dejaran a un lado los egoísmos e intereses estrechos, si se escogiera el camino de la inclusión y el diálogo participativo y si se reafirmase el compromiso de una Organización al servicio de todos y con todos, estaríamos dispuestos a debatir cualquier idea, incluso las irritantes y sospechosas propuestas del grupo informal de amigos de la gobernanza, pese a que no ha habido mandato alguno del Consejo para que se institucionalice un grupo dedicado a esa tarea. Llegados a este punto no hay tarea más urgente y necesaria, a juicio de Cuba, que concentrar todas nuestras energías y esfuerzos en la implementación de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible que acaban de adoptar nuestros Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Cuando la bandera del Estado de Palestina ondea ya en la Sede de las Naciones Unidas de Nueva York, es de esperar que desaparezcan los pretextos y obstáculos para que el principal contribuyente y mayor deudor de la Organización cumpla sus obligaciones financieras para con la UNESCO, que fue pionera en el reconocimiento de los siempre postergados derechos del pueblo palestino. Cuba, que ha sembrado tanta solidaridad, espera el 27 de octubre un apoyo abrumador de la comunidad internacional con ocasión de la votación en que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas demandará una vez más que se ponga fin a la larga e injusta política de bloqueo que impone a Cuba su poderoso vecino. Muchas gracias.

9.4 Sin embargo, no he terminado. Quiero dejar ahora un breve mensaje de carácter más personal. Termina el mandato de Cuba en el Consejo Ejecutivo y concluye por tanto mi representación. Para algunos quizás resulte un alivio. Para otros, será la entrañable partida de un amigo fiel. En cualquier caso, solo deseo decir que de todos aprendí y a todos respeté por igual. Y que, por encima de todas las cosas, me llevo el grato recuerdo de una organización de la cual me enamoré y por la que vale la pena luchar. Nuevamente, muchas gracias por su atención.

(9.1) **M. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) *in extenso* (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice générale, dans un monde spolié et mis à sac, les problèmes s'accumulent et les crises s'entremêlent de façon désormais permanente. Les atrocités de la guerre et les actes terroristes d'une cruauté hors du commun font vaciller les défenses de la paix. Notre riche diversité est sapée par l'extrémisme fanatique de ceux qui considèrent que leurs opinions sont les seules valables et qui entendent imposer une uniformité monotone et inacceptable, y compris par la destruction délibérée de sites du patrimoine mondial. Par ailleurs, l'accélération du changement climatique, qui résulte des modes de production et de consommation irrationnels du monde développé, entre autres facteurs, met en péril l'existence même de l'humanité.

(9.2) Alors qu'elle célèbre le soixante-dixième anniversaire de sa création, l'UNESCO est appelée à contribuer de manière encore plus importante à la recherche de la paix et à la promotion du développement durable. À cet égard, il convient de mettre l'accent sur la proclamation de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes comme zone de paix lors du 2e Sommet de la Communauté des États latino-américains et caribéens (CELAC), tenu à La Havane, qui consacre le respect des principes et des normes du droit international dans l'optique d'une culture de la paix. Les valeurs et le mandat de l'UNESCO renferment les meilleurs outils pour affronter les défis, nouveaux et anciens. L'éducation est essentielle pour vaincre l'ignorance. La science est le meilleur remède contre l'obscurantisme et la meilleure arme contre les virus et les pandémies. La culture est la clé pour comprendre la richesse de la diversité et apprécier les merveilles irremplaçables du patrimoine universel de l'humanité. La communication et l'information favorisent la connaissance mutuelle et le débat d'idées.

(9.3) Monsieur le Président, en tant que révolutionnaires, nous sommes obstinément anticonformistes et critiques, y compris à l'égard de notre propre action. C'est pourquoi nous avons toujours plaidé pour une réforme holistique et intégrale de l'UNESCO et de sa gouvernance. Ces dernières années, nous avons pu nous rendre compte du dévouement et des efforts inlassables de la Directrice générale pour redynamiser et moderniser l'Organisation, avec ce que cela comporte de bon et de moins bon. Mais comme l'a dit notre héros national, José Martí : « Les hommes ne peuvent atteindre la perfection du soleil. La lumière du soleil brûle autant qu'elle réchauffe. Le soleil a des taches. Les ingrats ne parlent que des taches. Les reconnaissants parlent de la lumière ». C'est pourquoi, si l'on laissait de côté les égoïsmes et les petits intérêts, si l'on empruntait le chemin de l'inclusion et du dialogue participatif, et si l'on réaffirmait l'engagement d'une Organisation au service de tous et avec tous, alors nous pourrions débattre de n'importe quelle idée, y compris les propositions irritantes et suspectes formulées par le groupe informel des amis de la gouvernance, dont aucune décision du Conseil n'a demandé l'instauration. À ce stade, il n'y a aucune tâche plus urgente et indispensable, selon Cuba, que celle de consacrer toute notre énergie et tous nos efforts à la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 que viennent d'adopter nos chefs d'État et de gouvernement à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Alors que le drapeau de l'État palestinien flotte à présent au Siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies à New York, il y a lieu d'espérer voir disparaître les prétextes et obstacles qui empêchent le principal contributeur et principal débiteur de l'UNESCO de s'acquitter de ses obligations financières à l'égard de l'Organisation, qui fut la première à reconnaître les droits sans cesse négligés du peuple palestinien. Cuba, qui s'est efforcée de répandre tant de solidarité, espère obtenir le 27 octobre prochain l'appui écrasant de la communauté internationale lors du vote au cours duquel l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies demandera une fois encore que soit mis fin au long et injuste blocus imposé à Cuba par son puissant voisin. Je vous remercie.

(9.4) Je n'en ai pas tout à fait terminé. Je souhaiterais à présent vous adresser un bref message à caractère plus personnel. Le mandat de Cuba au Conseil exécutif arrive à expiration, ce qui met donc un terme à mes fonctions de représentant. C'est peut-être un soulagement pour certains. Pour d'autres, ce sera le départ d'un ami cher et fidèle. Quoi qu'il en soit, je voudrais seulement vous dire que j'ai appris de tous, accordant à chacun le même respect, et que par-dessus tout, je garderai le souvenir agréable d'une Organisation dont je suis tombé amoureux et qui vaut la peine que l'on se batte pour elle. Je vous remercie une nouvelle fois de votre attention.

10. **The Chair** congratulated Mr Fernández Palacios on behalf of the Executive Board and wished him luck for the future.

11.1 **Ms Katagum** (Nigeria) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, my delegation endorses the statement made on behalf of the Africa Group. Let me also extend our condolences to the delegation of Uganda for the passing away of our dear colleague, who used to sit just to my right.

11.2 At this point in the Organization's programme cycle, we are faced with the results, albeit partial, of the implementation of the programme for the present biennium. At the same time, we are fortunately also called upon to take the final steps in the preparation of the programme and budget for the next biennium. We welcome this happy overlapping of the Board's responsibilities. Indeed, the experiences of the past and the present should feed into the thinking and planning for the future. The biennium has been full of challenges for the Organization. Apart from the usual financial challenges, which we have been able to meet with reasonable success, there were also important challenges of mounting responsibilities both for UNESCO's programmes and those emanating from demands from the global community. The 2030 Agenda will not be less demanding or less challenging. Our preparation for assuring the performance expected of us must be based on rigor and reality. That is why Nigeria will support initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency of the Board and reducing the cost of governance.

11.3 Member States, the Secretariat and the Director-General must continue to work in concert for the attainment of our common goal. My delegation congratulates the Secretariat and all Member States who worked tirelessly to ensure the completion of the draft framework of action and look forward to its adoption at the General Conference. We also welcome the many evaluations that have taken place for the improvement of our performance, especially those that have been directed towards the governance of the Organization.

11.4 UNESCO field reforms in Africa are of particular interest to us. Recently, the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) undertook a review of the state of the reform in Africa for the purpose of drawing lessons and providing the Director-General and the governing bodies with information on possible action that may be necessary for adjusting the programme. We thank IOS for its detailed findings and clear analysis of some of the sources of weakness in the system, which have confirmed our earlier observations on the subject, just as the representative of Namibia said yesterday. We consider that a further thorough examination is indicated before deciding on what steps need to be taken for the way forward. As host country of one of the multisectoral offices, Nigeria is resolved, in concert with stakeholders, to continue contributing to the search for ways to develop and establish a viable and efficient system that will eventually serve as an example for possible use elsewhere.

11.5 My delegation welcomes the organization of the first education ministers' international meeting on preventing violent extremism through education, to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in November. It is worth pointing out that work has started in Nigeria, in cooperation with some of our development partners, to reconstruct the educational system in the north-eastern part of the country, badly affected by the Boko Haram insurgencies. This includes the Safe Schools Initiative and the Back to School campaign. It is for this reason that we are co-sponsoring the draft decision on UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism.

11.6 In the area of culture, Nigeria commends the work of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention, as well as other related culture conventions. We also commend the African World Heritage Fund for its achievements and impact in Africa and beyond, as it celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016. At this session of the Board, the Institute for African culture and international understanding, a category 2 institute in Abeokuta, Nigeria, is tabled for renewal in line with UNESCO's new comprehensive partnership strategy. The Institute will now focus on the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. We look forward to the support of all Member States in this endeavour.

11.7 Dear colleagues, we wish to applaud the series of events within the framework of the initiative "UNESCO: Future Prospects", which brought in high profile personalities, experts and Nobel laureates to share with us their knowledge and perspectives on a wide range of issues. These exchanges have been very enlightening and have provided a forum for the cross-fertilization of ideas, and should be continued in the coming years.

11.8 Let me close by drawing the Board's attention to the Nassau Declaration, emanating from the 19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers held in Nassau (Bahamas) in June 2015. The conference saw the official inclusion, for the first time, of a specific forum for small States to ensure that their voice continues to be heard on the world stage. The ministers highlighted the Commonwealth values of equity, access and development; the role of education in sustainable development and in building resilience; early childhood education; gender; technology and the role of youth and teachers. They also established a Commonwealth Accelerated Development Mechanism for Education (CADME) to assist with the implementation of the sustainable development goals, as well as a Commonwealth Education Ministers' Action Group (CEMAG) to ensure momentum and continued action on the points contained in the Nassau Declaration. I thank you for your kind attention.

12.1 **Ms Chatardová** (Czech Republic) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, allow me to begin by welcoming the recent adoption of the ambitious new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The success of its implementation can only be measured by how it will affect the everyday lives of millions of people. If its global objectives are to be achieved, the mainstay will have to be: respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal participation of women in society, functioning and effective institutions; rule of law; good governance and an environment free of corruption. UNESCO seems to be on the right track in finding its appropriate role in this process. At the same time, with the very limited means at UNESCO's disposal, the Organization needs to further improve its performance and focus, and truly reform itself in order not to lose sight of its core mandate.

12.2 My delegation fully supports UNESCO's commendable work in protecting the cultural heritage imperilled by wars, but much more needs to be done. The ongoing, deliberate destruction of cultural heritage we are witnessing mainly in Syria and Iraq calls urgently for further action on the ground. To that end the Czech Republic has decided to make a contribution to the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. We also support the work currently under way on a well-defined UNESCO strategy in this field, and we look forward to building the broadest possible coalition across the international system to implement it. We welcome the recent action before the International Criminal Court regarding deliberate acts of destruction of cultural monuments in Timbuktu. International institutions must demonstrate that the appalling impunity for these war crimes is finally coming to an end. The Czech Commission for UNESCO recently organized an expert seminar aimed at an exchange of information on the dangers of trafficking of cultural items from Syria, Iraq and other parts of the world. This was the start of a long-term awareness-raising campaign in my country.

(*The speaker continued in French*)

12.3 Monsieur le Président, nous sommes très fiers que la République tchèque ait hérité de la Tchécoslovaquie la situation qui fait d'elle l'un des 20 États membres fondateurs de notre Organisation et nous tenons beaucoup à ce que nos enfants en prennent conscience dès l'école. En septembre, les membres tchèques du Réseau du système des écoles associées de l'UNESCO se sont réunis, comme ils le font traditionnellement chaque année, et ont décidé que le thème de la semaine de l'UNESCO pour l'année scolaire 2015-2016 serait le 70e anniversaire de l'UNESCO. Les débats de la rencontre étaient axés sur la promotion de la protection des droits de l'homme, droits qui sont au cœur de la mission principale de notre Organisation, et sur la formation dans ce domaine.

12.4 La République tchèque quitte le Conseil exécutif à la prochaine session de la Conférence générale. Parmi toutes les activités auxquelles nous avons pris part, je tiens à souligner notre présidence du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations. Il y a deux ans, lorsque nous avions présenté notre candidature à ce poste, nous tenions à montrer notre engagement constant en faveur de la protection des libertés fondamentales, ainsi que notre foi dans l'importance absolue du cadre juridique qui s'applique sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. La conjonction des deux mandats exercés par la République tchèque constituait une union en soi très symbolique. C'était là une conviction du professeur Karel Vasak, cet ancien conseiller juridique de l'UNESCO qui fut l'initiateur de l'outil dont dispose le Comité CR sous la forme de la procédure 104. Le professeur Vasak, dont les racines étaient françaises et tchèques, nous a malheureusement quittés le 1er mai dernier.

12.5 Chers collègues, tout au long de nos travaux au sein du Comité CR comme au sein du Conseil exécutif, nous nous sommes toujours efforcés d'appliquer un processus de recherche du consensus, qui permet de trouver des solutions positives, même dans les situations apparemment impossibles à résoudre. À chaque instant, nous avons cherché à construire des ponts entre les régions, entre les convictions de chacun. Le maintien de cet esprit de compréhension mutuelle lors des sessions à venir serait une source de grande satisfaction. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

13.1 **Г-жа Митрофанова** (Российская Федерация) *полный текст*:

Уважаемый Председатель Исполнительного совета, уважаемый Председатель Генеральной конференции, уважаемая госпожа Генеральный директор, дамы и господа, сегодня, в условиях глубоких перемен, связанных, прежде всего, с формированием системы многополярного мироустройства, осмысление

ключевых тенденций глобального развития, поиск эффективных ответов на общие для всех вызовы приобретают особую актуальность. Эффективно преодолеть многочисленные угрозы современности, включая беспрецедентный всплеск нетерпимости, терроризма и экстремизма на Ближнем Востоке, севере Африки и других регионах планеты можно лишь сообща и только на основе координации действий мирового сообщества с опорой на принципы международного права.

13.2 Последовательно исходим из того, что наше благополучное будущее и процветание невозможны без признания многообразия современного мира, без партнерства ведущих мировых культур, религий и цивилизаций. Как отметил Президент России в выступлении на 70-й сессии Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН: «Мы все разные, и к этому нужно относиться с уважением». В этом контексте у нас не может не вызвать удовлетворение то, что повестка нынешней сессии Исполнительного совета весьма насыщена вопросами, затрагивающими крайне актуальные гуманистические проблемы и вызовы, с которыми нам пришлось столкнуться в последнее время. Нам представляется весьма важным и своевременным обращение Исполнительного совета к проблеме сохранения от уничтожения культурно-исторического наследия, в том числе в Ираке и Сирии. Приветствуем усилия Генерального директора и инициативы соответствующих государств-членов в этой связи. ЮНЕСКО, конечно же, не может не реагировать самым энергичным образом на преступное уничтожение нашего общего достояния. Считаем, что меры на этом важном и крайне чувствительном направлении должны быть решительными и при этом максимально выверенными и продуманными с тем, чтобы строго соответствовать мандату ЮНЕСКО и не пересекать линии, за которыми начинается политика.

13.3 Российская сторона убеждена, что сегодня ЮНЕСКО должна больше внимания уделять проблемам, с которыми сталкиваются страны, оказавшиеся в конфликтном или постконфликтном состоянии. Здесь мы в полной мере солидарны с тем, что нам необходимо активно заниматься восстановлением культурного наследия, бороться с проявлениями религиозной и иной нетерпимости. Более того, мы готовы активно сотрудничать со всеми государствами-членами в том, чтобы вопросы образования, формирования зрелого гражданского общества, основанного на проявлении терпимости, уважении различных культур, религиозного мировоззрения стали бы инструментом, формирующим неприятие крайнего радикализма, сопряженного с терроризмом и вандализмом. Такой подход и выдвигаемые предложения государств-членов, по нашему убеждению, будут способствовать и успешному преодолению проблем, связанных с ростом миграционных процессов.

13.4 Мир культуры поистине переживает чрезвычайное время. В одних странах мы с болью и горечью видим волну откровенного вандализма и фанатического невежества, которые сопровождаются массовыми убийствами людей и уничтожением бесценных памятников человеческой цивилизации. В других – составляются «черные списки» деятелей культуры и искусства, вводятся запреты на ввоз и публикацию книг, преследуются журналисты, сносятся памятники, напоминающие о вековой совместной культурной и духовной истории народов. Считаем, что ЮНЕСКО должна обращать внимание на подобные случаи попрания фундаментальных гуманитарных ценностей и прав человека. Удивило вчерашнее выступление нашего украинского коллеги. Нет ни времени, ни желания комментировать ряд его совершенно абсурдных пассажей, касающихся России и положения в Крыму. Все прозвучавшие претензии, на мой взгляд, прямо относятся к действиям самих украинских властей на своей территории.

13.5 Завершая свое выступление, хочу высказать мнение о том, что, планируя стратегию Организации на период после 2015 г., нам надлежит гибко реагировать на вызовы времени и сконцентрироваться на основных направлениях, где ЮНЕСКО могла бы внести свой реальный и весомый вклад. Кроме того, нам следует быть более аккуратными и избегать попыток искусственной политизации нашей Организации. В системе международных отношений существует много площадок как раз и предназначенных для детального обсуждения острых политических проблем. ЮНЕСКО же создавалась 70 лет назад как гуманистический форум, имеющий перед собой совершенно иной круг крайне нужных и важных вопросов. Благодарю за внимание.

(13.1) **Mme Mitrofanova** (Fédération de Russie) *in extenso (traduit du russe)* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames, Messieurs, aujourd'hui, dans un contexte de profonds bouleversements liés principalement à l'avènement d'un ordre mondial multipolaire, il est plus que jamais nécessaire de mener une réflexion sur les grandes tendances du développement mondial et la recherche de réponses efficaces à des défis communs à tous. Nous ne pourrons surmonter les nombreuses menaces de notre époque, notamment la flambée sans précédent d'intolérance, de terrorisme et d'extrémisme au Proche-Orient, en Afrique du Nord et dans d'autres régions de la planète, qu'ensemble et sur la base d'une action coordonnée de la communauté mondiale s'appuyant sur les principes du droit international.

(13.2) Par conséquent, nous ne pouvons aspirer à un avenir meilleur et à la prospérité sans une reconnaissance de la diversité de notre monde actuel, ni sans un partenariat entre les grandes cultures, religions et civilisations du monde. Comme l'a souligné le Président de la Fédération de Russie dans son discours devant la 70e session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies : « nous sommes tous différents, et nous devons respecter ce fait ». Dans ce contexte, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter que figurent à l'ordre du jour de la présente session du Conseil exécutif de nombreux points relatifs aux problèmes et défis humanitaires d'une actualité brûlante auxquels nous avons récemment été confrontés. Il nous semble très important et opportun que le Conseil exécutif s'empare du problème de la protection contre la destruction du patrimoine culturel et historique, notamment en Iraq et en Syrie. Nous saluons les efforts de la Directrice générale et les initiatives des États membres concernés à cet égard. Il est évident que l'UNESCO ne peut pas ne pas réagir de la façon la plus énergique face à la destruction criminelle de notre bien commun. Nous considérons que les mesures à prendre dans ce domaine important et très sensible doivent être résolues et en même temps parfaitement ajustées et réfléchies, afin de se conformer strictement au

mandat de l'UNESCO et de ne pas franchir la ligne au-delà de laquelle commence la politique.

(13.3) La Fédération de Russie estime que l'UNESCO doit aujourd'hui prêter une plus grande attention aux problèmes auxquels se heurtent les pays en situation de conflit ou de post-conflit. Dans ce domaine, nous souscrivons entièrement à l'idée qu'il nous faut impérativement prendre une part active à la restauration du patrimoine culturel et combattre les manifestations d'intolérance, religieuse ou autre. En outre, nous sommes prêts à collaborer activement avec tous les États membres pour que l'éducation et la constitution d'une société civile évoluée, fondée sur la tolérance et le respect de la diversité culturelle et religieuse, servent d'instrument au rejet du radicalisme extrême qui conduit au terrorisme et au vandalisme. À notre sens, une telle approche, de même que les propositions avancées par les États membres, permettront aussi de surmonter avec succès les problèmes liés à l'accroissement des phénomènes migratoires.

(13.4) Le monde de la culture traverse en vérité des temps exceptionnellement difficiles. Dans certains pays, nous assistons avec douleur et peine à une vague de vandalisme brutal et de barbarie fanatique qui donne lieu au massacre de populations et à la destruction de monuments inestimables de la civilisation humaine. Dans d'autres pays, on établit des « listes noires » de personnalités du monde de la culture et de l'art, on interdit l'importation et la publication de livres, on persécute les journalistes et on démolit des monuments séculaires de l'histoire culturelle et spirituelle commune des peuples. Nous pensons que l'UNESCO doit s'intéresser à ces atteintes aux valeurs fondamentales de l'humanité et aux droits de l'homme. Nous avons été surpris par les propos tenus hier par notre collègue ukrainien. Nous n'avons ni le temps ni le désir de commenter ses affirmations parfaitement absurdes sur la Russie et la situation en Crimée. À mon avis, tous les griefs prononcés concernent directement les agissements des autorités ukrainiennes elles-mêmes, sur leur propre territoire.

(13.5) En conclusion, je souhaiterais dire qu'en élaborant la stratégie de l'Organisation pour l'après-2015, il nous incombe de réagir avec souplesse aux défis de notre époque et de nous concentrer sur les domaines fondamentaux dans lesquels l'UNESCO est en mesure d'apporter une contribution concrète et substantielle. En outre, nous devons nous recentrer et parer à toute tentative de politisation spécieuse de notre Organisation. Dans le système des relations internationales, il existe beaucoup de forums dont le rôle est de débattre en profondeur des problèmes politiques critiques. L'UNESCO a été créée il y a soixante-dix ans pour être un forum humaniste ayant vocation à traiter un tout autre genre de questions aussi nécessaires qu'importantes. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

14.1 **Mme Alaoui** (Maroc) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, chers collègues, le Conseil exécutif se tient dans un contexte international difficile marqué par la montée des instabilités politiques, l'exacerbation du radicalisme et de l'intolérance et la banalisation de la misère humaine. Dans ce contexte sensible, et au-delà des multiples points qui seront examinés lors de cette session, de véritables interrogations nous interpellent.

14.2 Premièrement, quel intérêt cette session du Conseil exécutif aura-t-elle pour nos États ? Se focalisera-t-elle sur une réflexion stratégique capable d'accompagner nos objectifs de développement durable, de culture de la paix et de stabilité dans le monde ? Deuxièmement, le Conseil exécutif sera-t-il en mesure de réaffirmer les liens qui nous unissent, de faire preuve de solidarité agissante ou bien, au contraire, cette session marquera-t-elle le début d'une fracture dangereuse entre nos pays au sein de l'Organisation ? Troisièmement, le Conseil sera-t-il à la hauteur des défis actuellement posés à la communauté internationale ? Sera-t-il capable de faire entendre, en dehors de cette salle, la voix des États membres de l'UNESCO ? En d'autres termes, dans ce contexte difficile, assumerons-nous nos responsabilités pour réfléchir et travailler ensemble sur des thèmes rassembleurs, mobilisateurs et de grand intérêt pour la communauté internationale ?

14.3 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais attirer votre attention sur deux axes de réflexion. Premièrement, l'avenir de l'UNESCO devient, de façon inévitable, étroitement tributaire de sa capacité à faire de la prospective, à anticiper les futurs enjeux mondiaux et à y apporter des éléments de réponse car, aujourd'hui, au regard de la conjoncture internationale, il ne suffit plus d'analyser correctement les défis posés. Deuxièmement, la conjoncture internationale a placé *de facto* l'UNESCO au centre de l'actualité mondiale. Désormais, qu'on le veuille ou non, l'éducation, la préservation du patrimoine et la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels entrent dans le cadre global de la lutte contre le terrorisme. Vue sous cet angle, cette réalité exclut toute fragilisation de l'Organisation.

14.4 À mon sens, et à la lumière de ce qui précède, les véritables questions qui se posent aujourd'hui à l'Organisation sont les suivantes : l'adéquation des programmes de l'UNESCO avec la réalité du terrain ; l'adéquation des orientations et recommandations du Conseil exécutif avec la situation budgétaire de l'Organisation ; l'adéquation des mécanismes de suivi afin d'assurer notamment une articulation coordonnée et efficace entre les organes directeurs de l'Organisation ; et la crédibilité du Conseil exécutif, lorsque nous prenons des décisions qui ne sont pas suivies d'effet. À ce sujet, nous notons avec une très grande préoccupation que des décisions du Conseil exécutif au sujet de la Palestine occupée et des institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires arabes occupés restent inappliquées à ce jour, alors que la situation se dégrade toujours plus sur le terrain. Comment, dans ce cas, rester crédibles ?

14.5 Une autre véritable question est celle de la complémentarité entre le budget ordinaire et les ressources extrabudgétaires pour une cohérence d'ensemble de l'application des programmes de l'UNESCO. Enfin, puisque l'on parle de gouvernance, il convient de ne pas se limiter à la gouvernance des organes directeurs de l'UNESCO, et de poser la problématique de fond, à savoir la gouvernance entre les différentes institutions des Nations Unies. On observe de plus en plus, en effet, un grignotage inquiétant du mandat de l'UNESCO qui, s'il n'est pas combattu, finira par réduire à néant toute valeur ajoutée de cette Organisation.

14.6 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, toutes ces questions se posent à l'échelle du système des Nations

Unies. Il est de notre responsabilité de nous imposer dans cette réflexion globale, qui est conduite ailleurs et dont l'UNESCO risque fort d'être exclue. Les objectifs à l'horizon 2030 sont une opportunité qu'il est de notre devoir de saisir pour assurer un positionnement central de l'Organisation à la lumière de la nouvelle configuration mondiale. Sans notre entière mobilisation, ce positionnement risquerait d'être compromis au moment même où la communauté internationale a besoin de l'UNESCO et où l'UNESCO, moins que jamais, ne saurait faillir à sa mission légitime. Je vous remercie.

15.1 **Mr Kokk** (Estonia) *in extenso*:

Dear Director-General, Mr Chair, ladies and gentlemen, firstly, Estonia would like to align itself with the European Union statement. Secondly, the world has a new plan. We have recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are universal and reflect many of UNESCO's priorities. Estonia welcomes the fact that the SDGs include a commitment to realizing the human rights of all, to mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women across all goals and targets. These important values are among Estonia's development cooperation priorities as well. UNESCO has been particularly successful in positioning inclusive and equitable quality education high on the agenda. The single universally applicable education goal puts emphasis on lifelong learning, including higher education. Estonia fully supports the proposal for a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications that will be examined during this session of the Board. We consider this initiative to be very timely and relevant as academic and professional mobility is growing and the world of study and research is no longer limited by national boundaries. Our experts have contributed to the preparation of the global convention and we are also ready to support the process financially.

15.2 We welcome the discussion paper before the Board on UNESCO's role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. How to achieve the ambitious goals and targets, or in other words, how to transform the world? There is no doubt that UNESCO can offer valuable support to Member States in capacity development, policy advice and normative support, but in the end it all comes down to national ownership. It is up to governments to pave the way to sustainable economic growth and human development. We would like to underline the vital importance of monitoring and innovative financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) combining different sources.

15.3 Mr Chair, Estonia is a strong advocate of the opportunities that information and communication technology can provide for development. We are also convinced that freedom of expression and access to independent media, including social media and the Internet, are indispensable for fostering citizen participation in the 2030 Agenda. UNESCO has been a strong promoter of the safety of journalists but unfortunately we are still far from a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations.

15.4 Mr Chair, the armed conflicts and ongoing crises in the world have tested UNESCO's ability to respond to the intentional destruction of cultural heritage. We congratulate Mali and UNESCO on their successful cooperation which resulted in the reconstruction of the 14 mausoleums in Timbuktu this summer. I personally consider it fantastic. The #United4Heritage campaign is also very relevant. Unfortunately, attacks on cultural heritage, organized looting and trafficking, notably in Iraq, Libya and Syria, are today still being carried out on an unprecedented scale. UNESCO has been strong and visible in its global efforts to advocate for the protection of cultural heritage, provide technical expertise and facilitate a coordinated international response. We support the strategy for reinforcing UNESCO's action in this field.

15.5 Ladies and gentleman, Mr Chair, there is one more important milestone on the horizon this year – the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), which France will host in December. We are glad to note that the UNESCO Youth Forum will also tackle the climate change issue this year. In the same vein, we will be organizing a climate change seminar next month for schools in Estonia so that young people can share their bright ideas with the delegation representing Estonia at the COP 21 meeting. So, a lot of work on multiple fronts for all of us. To conclude I would like to say that we welcome and support the French draft decision on climate change, which is very well done, and on that positive note I would like to thank you all for your attention.

16.1 **Mr Birabi** (Uganda) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, colleagues of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour to present myself to you as one of the new Members of this distinguished Board, particularly as we look forward to celebrating 70 years of UNESCO's existence. Permit me, ladies and gentlemen, to ask you to perform a symbolic gesture to mark this celebration, by turning to both your left and right and giving a firm congratulatory handshake to your neighbour. Thank you.

16.2 Mr Chair, our delegation accepts the numerous condolences and tributes to the late Professor Eric Edroma. I am glad to inform you that a few weeks ago, we in Uganda marked UNESCO at 70. We were honoured to have the Speaker of Uganda's parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, to officiate at the event. The celebration transformed into a lively platform for rekindling a renaissance of UNESCO and its aspirations. Permit me also to congratulate you, Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, and your diligent Secretariat for enabling UNESCO to remain relevant in accordance with its noble mandate. Special thanks to you, Mr Chair, for the vision and final achievement of the renovation of room X. We thank the donors who supported you.

16.3 Mr Chair, our delegation associates itself with the remarks made by the distinguished delegate of Angola on behalf of the Africa Group. Similarly, we applaud the Director-General for her very concise and articulate elaboration of the achievements and future aspirations of our Organization under her charge. We also acknowledge the role played by you, Mr Chair, and the Secretariat in this joint effort to keep UNESCO focused and on course. Therefore, I urge all of us to reciprocate by giving the Director-General's proposal wholehearted support in all the Organization's programmes as our humble contribution to building peace among men and women worldwide.

16.4 On a special note, Mr Chair, I would like to congratulate the Director-General and the entire UNESCO family and its partners for the successful organization of the World Education Forum in the Republic of Korea last May. Now that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we

need to focus our action on SDG 4 and the other goals relevant to UNESCO's mandate. As we follow up on the 2030 education agenda, we may wish to keep in mind the unfinished business of education for all (EFA). We in Uganda are particularly concerned about education for sustainable development and global citizenship education as areas needing close attention. Other areas of importance include the status of teachers in the delivery of quality education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and curriculum relevance. This in line with Uganda's policy of promoting vocational education for job creation and employment, which is called the Skilling Uganda programme. We note with pleasure, Mr Chair, that under the current conditions of political tranquillity in Uganda, we have ably tapped the intellectual, material, financial and advisory treasure trove of UNESCO in enhancing national development.

16.5 Last but not least, Mr Chair, I would like to conclude with the insight that UNESCO was established as one of the peacebuilding tools and incubators of mutual coexistence for mankind. We in Uganda further salute UNESCO for being a laboratory of ideas, a standard setter, a clearing house, a capacity builder and a catalyst for cooperation within and among nations. While this may sound rosy, we in Uganda also note serious challenges given the fact that the tide of chaos, armed conflicts, insanity, terrorist confrontations and cultural intolerance is on the rise in many parts of the world. And yet UNESCO's key ethos is "building peace in the minds of men and women". Sadly, almost all these conflicts occur in UNESCO Member States. At 70, therefore, UNESCO will have to take stock of its Member States and review, revisit and rededicate their commitment to the initial values they signed on for when they joined the Organization. Hopefully, the equilibrium of global peace, mutual respect and tolerance will then return. I thank you for being an excellent audience.

١٧,١ **السيدة الطرهوني** (تونس) *النص الكامل:*
السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرة العامة، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، حضرات الزميلات والزملاء أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، إنه لمن دواعي الغبطة والارتياح أن يجدد وفد بلدي، الجمهورية التونسية، اللقاء معكم حضرات الزميلات والزملاء وقد تم تجديد قاعة المجلس التنفيذي. ويسعدنا أن نتقدم بالشكر جزيلاً ومستحقاً إلى السيد محمد سامح عمرو، رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، والسيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرة العامة، على هذا الإنجاز، والشكر موصول إلى كل من سعى ومن أهدى ومن أنجز.

١٧,٢ إن تونس تعيش اليوم على وقع الإحراز على جائزة نوبل للسلام لسنة ٢٠١٥ المسندة للرباعي الراعي للحوار وهو تتويج يبرهن على أهمية الحوار في تكريس التوافق والتفاهم وبناء الديمقراطية. وإن بلدي الذي يعتز بهذا الفوز أيما اعتزاز ليعبر عن امتنانه للسيدة المديرة العامة على تفاعلها الحيني والمتميز مع هذا الحدث، ويقدر عالياً جهودها المبذولة في سبيل تعزيز التعاون بين تونس والمنظمة في مختلف مجالات اختصاصها. ويطيب لي بهذه المناسبة أن أتوجه بالتحية إلى الدكتور محمد سامح عمرو، رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، وأن أهنئه على ما يبديه من حنكة وحكمة في إدارة أشغال مجلسنا الموقّر.

١٧,٣ الزميلات والزملاء، نجتمع اليوم في هذه الدورة المتميزة ومنظمة اليونسكو تحتفل بالذكرى السنوية السبعين لتأسيسها، لتدارس إنجازاتها ومستقبل عملها وتوجهاتها في ظل وضع عالمي سريع التغير وكثير التعقيد ومتعدد المشاكل والتهديدات المتنامية للأمن والسلم. وإننا اليوم أمام تحديات جسام لعل أولها دور منظمتنا في مواجهة الأوضاع العالمية واستنباط الحلول الملائمة لمواجهة ما تتعرض له التربية والثقافة والعلوم والإعلام من نكسات وتهديدات جسام تهدد السلم الدولي، وفي مقدمتها تهديد انتشار الإرهاب الأعمى الذي جعل من ضرب التربية والثقافة أول أهدافه. وإن مسؤوليتنا جسيمة، فنحن لا نمثل مجموعة من الدول أو مجموعات إقليمية فحسب، بل علينا أن نكون بحق ضمير الإنسانية، وليس ذلك بالأمر الهيّن في ظل تنامي النزاعات المسلحة فعلينا أن نجعل صوت الحكمة أعلى من دويّ طبول الحرب. وعلينا أن نبلغ إصرارنا على بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر بفضل تعاوننا لإيجاد مسالك الحوار والبحث عن الحلول السلمية. فلا تقدّم ولا نمو ولا سلام ولا أمن بدون حوار بنّاء وقناعة بجدوى العمل الدولي المشترك.

١٧,٤ ولقد تقدمت تونس في تعهد نظامها التربوي بالمراجعة الجذرية وإصدار نتائج الاستشارة الوطنية الواسعة من أجل إعادة بناء نظام تربوي يتمشّى مع ما أفرزته الثورة من أولويات وما أبرزته من إخلالات. وفي هذا السياق، يؤكد التقرير أهمية التعليم الجيد والجامع للجميع في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة، وانخراط تونس لتحقيق تلك الغاية في المبادرة العالمية بشأن "التعليم أولاً" التي أطلقها الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة، مما يوفر إطاراً مثالياً لتحقيق ما جاء في إعلان إنشيون الذي اعتمدته مائة وخمسون دولة عضواً ومجتمع التعليم في المنتدى العالمي للتعليم للجميع المنعقد بجمهورية كوريا في أيار/مايو ٢٠١٥. وإني لواثقة في أن اليونسكو ستكون كما عهدناها، شريكاً داعماً للعمل في هذا المسار.

١٧,٥ السيد الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، إن أمكن لتونس أن تؤمّن معالم الاستقرار وأن تسعى لتدارك الأمور، فإن الأمر ليس كذلك في أماكن أخرى من العالم. فكم هو مؤلم ومحزن أن نرى آلاف الأطفال والشبان اللاجئين بعيداً عن مكانهم الطبيعي – الذي هو مقعد الدراسة – بفعل الأزمات المتتالية والحروب التي جعلت عائلاتهم تتحدى المخاطر وتتوجه نحو خيار الهجرة بعيداً عن الديار والاستقرار بحثاً عن الأمل في حياة كريمة. ما هو مستقبل هؤلاء الأطفال والشبان؟ إن مصير الإنسانية من مصيرهم، وعلينا أن نسرع بالبحث عن حلول لأوضاعهم الكارثية.

١٧,٦ وكم هو مؤلم ومحزن أن نرى معالم ومواقع وقطعاً أثرية ظلت آلاف السنين شاهداً على عبقرية الإنسان تتعرض للنهب والتدمير والاتجار غير المشروع. ولقد أضحى الأمر على غاية من الخطورة. وتونس تساند مساندةً تامة مواقف السيدة المديرة العامة وما تتخذه من تدابير وما تدعو إليه من أجندة عمل لإنقاذ التراث الإنساني. وإني أُكبّر موقفها الداعي لعقاب المجرمين والمذنبين في حق التراث وتعزيز مكافحة الاتجار غير المشروع بالممتلكات الثقافية مكافحة صارمة. وإني أدعو بالمناسبة، ونحن على أبواب اتخاذ قرارات هامة في مؤتمرنا العام القادم، إلى تعزيز التربية على التراث ودعم برنامج المدارس المنتسبة لليونسكو

(17.1) **Mme Tarhouni** (Tunisie) *in extenso (traduit de l'arabe)* :
Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, la délégation de mon pays, la République tunisienne, a grand plaisir de se retrouver parmi vous dans cette salle rénovée du Conseil exécutif. Nous tenons à remercier et à saluer le Président du Conseil exécutif, M. Mohamed Sameh Amr, et la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, pour cette réalisation, et je remercie également tous ceux qui y ont contribué sous une forme ou une autre.

(17.2) La Tunisie vit aujourd'hui à l'heure du Prix Nobel de la paix 2015, décerné au Quartet parrainant le dialogue national, ce qui démontre l'importance du rôle que joue le dialogue dans le renforcement de l'entente et de la compréhension et l'édification de la démocratie. Mon pays, qui est fier de cette distinction, tient à remercier la Directrice générale pour sa réaction à cet événement, d'autant qu'il apprécie au plus haut point les efforts qu'elle déploie pour développer la coopération entre la Tunisie et l'Organisation dans ses domaines de compétence. Je saisis d'ailleurs cette occasion pour féliciter le Président du Conseil exécutif, M. Mohamed Sameh Amr, et saluer l'expérience et la sagesse avec lesquelles il dirige les travaux du Conseil.

(17.3) Chers collègues, nous sommes réunis aujourd'hui, 70 ans après la création de l'UNESCO, afin d'examiner les réalisations de l'Organisation, son action future et ses orientations dans un contexte mondial très complexe marqué par des mutations rapides et des problèmes et menaces accrus qui pèsent sur la paix et la sécurité. Nous sommes confrontés à des défis considérables, tels que la définition du rôle que l'Organisation doit jouer au regard de la situation internationale, et la recherche de solutions appropriées pour faire face aux fléaux et lourdes menaces qui touchent l'éducation, la culture, les sciences et l'information et qui mettent en péril la paix internationale, notamment pour empêcher la propagation du terrorisme aveugle qui prend pour principales cibles l'éducation et la culture. Notre responsabilité est grande car nous ne sommes pas qu'un groupe de pays ou que des groupements régionaux. Nous devons être la conscience de l'humanité, ce qui n'est pas chose aisée au vu de la multiplication des conflits armés. La voix de la sagesse doit couvrir les tambours de la guerre. Nous devons faire connaître notre volonté d'élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes par la coopération et la recherche du dialogue et de solutions pacifiques. Le progrès, la croissance, la paix et la sécurité passent par un dialogue constructif et la foi en l'utilité de l'action internationale commune.

(17.4) La Tunisie est en train d'honorer l'engagement qu'elle a pris de revoir complètement son système éducatif et de diffuser les résultats de la vaste consultation nationale visant à réformer ce système afin de tenir compte des priorités fixées par la révolution et de remédier aux dysfonctionnements dans ce domaine. Le rapport établi à cette fin souligne l'importance du rôle joué par une éducation de qualité et inclusive pour tous dans le développement durable, ainsi que de l'action menée par la Tunisie à cet égard au titre de l'Initiative mondiale pour l'éducation avant tout qu'a lancée le Secrétaire général de l'ONU et qui offre un cadre idéal pour la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration d'Incheon adoptée par 150 États membres ainsi que par la communauté éducative lors du Forum international sur l'éducation pour tous, tenu en République de Corée en mai 2015. Je suis persuadée que l'UNESCO sera, comme à l'accoutumée, un partenaire actif dans ce domaine.

(17.5) Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, si la Tunisie a réussi à jeter les fondements de la stabilité et à traiter les problèmes, tel n'est pas partout le cas ailleurs dans le monde. Il est douloureux et triste de voir des milliers d'enfants et de jeunes réfugiés loin de leur cadre naturel, c'est-à-dire le banc de l'école, en raison de crises successives et de guerres qui forcent leurs familles à braver les dangers et à émigrer loin de chez eux dans l'espoir de mener une vie décente. Quel est l'avenir de ces enfants et de ces jeunes ? Le destin de l'humanité est lié au leur, et nous devons trouver rapidement des solutions à cette situation catastrophique.

(17.6) Il est tout aussi douloureux et triste de voir des monuments, des sites et des pièces archéologiques, témoins millénaires du génie de l'humanité, exposés au pillage, à la destruction et au trafic illicite. Cette situation est devenue extrêmement dangereuse et la Tunisie appuie pleinement la position de la Directrice générale, les mesures qu'elle a prises et son appel en faveur d'un plan d'action pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine de l'humanité. Je souscris pleinement à ses propos, à savoir qu'il faut sanctionner les criminels et ceux qui portent atteinte au patrimoine, et lutter avec force contre le trafic illicite de biens culturels. À la veille d'adopter des résolutions importantes à la prochaine session de la Conférence générale, j'invite à renforcer l'éducation relative au patrimoine et à appuyer le programme des Écoles associées de l'UNESCO.

18.1 **Mr Zandamela** (Mozambique) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, allow me first of all to salute you and congratulate you for the wise manner in which you have been conducting the business of this meeting, particularly at the time when the world is faced with great challenges and seeks to realign common strategies for a new global agenda centred on the pillars of peace and sustainable development, pillars that, all in all, are inspired by the UNESCO Constitution, which guides us towards the successful accomplishment of UNESCO's foremost noble mission. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the delegation of Angola on behalf of the Africa Group.

18.2 Excellencies, this session of the Executive Board draws on many other fora around the world at which government institutions and national and international non-governmental organizations, among other players, have been tasked with assessing the results of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and seeking to redefine the strategies for the post-2015 development agenda. Mozambique aligns itself with the global strategy of the United Nations, and UNESCO in particular, which places sustainable development at the centre of action in all areas of activities. Next month, the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference will be held and will allow our countries to once again revisit the strategies, and to draw up an appropriate post-2015 roadmap for its difficult but very noble task.

18.3 Excellencies, during the years that followed the millennium agenda, particularly after the Millennium Summit in 2000, Mozambique registered substantial advances. We are happy therefore to report that the number of children, particularly of girls, in school has increased substantially, and the illiteracy rate has declined significantly. In Mozambique, children represent approximately 52% of the global population. As such, this population group continues to be our greatest challenge, especially with respect to health and education. We note with satisfaction that in recent years children's enrolment in and exit from primary schools occur within the ages envisaged and with continuously growing rates: from 45% to 73% in primary schools between 2004 and 2011; from 36% to 72% between 2002 and 2012. In Mozambique the Government continues to invest heavily in education throughout all of its segments, as a cross-cutting and strategic vector in the fight against poverty, in addition to its role as a basic and fundamental right for all citizens of the land. Special attention continues to be placed on distance learning, literacy and adult education.

18.4 As we are still far from fulfilling effectively the Millennium Development Goals, not only in education but also in other key areas of development, the commitments to the international agenda will continue. In this context, the Government of Mozambique remains committed to the building of educational infrastructure, in particular increasing the number of classrooms and equipping

existing ones, in order to provide students across the country with the basic conditions for achieving excellent results during the learning process. Mozambique fully associates itself with the World's Largest Lesson (WLL) initiative, a commitment aimed at providing education for all. On 30 September, the Government, through its Ministry of Education and Human Development, launched the World's Largest Lesson initiative, the dissemination of which will continue throughout the country until the end of this year.

18.5 Ladies and gentlemen, the protection and promotion of cultural diversity, in particular its multiple forms and expressions, including local and native languages, which are vectors for social and economic development at all levels, continue to play a major role. Cultural and creative industries, when well supported and encouraged, especially in a young country like Mozambique, can turn into viable solutions for the integration of young people into social and economic life with better prospects for their future. We take this opportunity to once again commend UNESCO for the great effort it has made in supporting country initiatives by providing funds for convention-related activities, an effort that has motivated and made possible various programmes and projects in the country. For our Government, culture, today more than ever, represents a true pillar of development, which will find in the new global agenda the proper alignment for capitalizing on all its forms and possible contributions in all fields. Mozambique will continue to develop in a creative manner and to encourage the dissemination of cultural diversity, cultural exchange and intercultural dialogue. Under the cooperation between Mozambique and UNESCO, the Island of Mozambique, the Chopi timbila and the Nyau brotherhood, part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity, continue to receive special attention from the Government, serving not only as an outstanding expression of our cultural mosaic but also as a symbolic affirmation of Mozambicans and national unity.

18.6 Excellencies, sustainable development cannot occur without the controlled and responsible management of our resources. Fauna, flora and the environment represent today a challenge to human life without second-guessing. Our country is aligned with the global challenges on these issues. That is why educational and awareness-raising activities involving governmental and non-governmental institutions, including schools, are being implemented. In the field of science, the Government of Mozambique is granting priority to areas like the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and water and oceans. In that regard, Mozambique is well ahead in preparatory activities for establishing biosphere reserves in the country. Under UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Mozambique and other Portuguese-speaking African countries have established a technical committee for strengthening water education for sustainable development. In the field of oceanography, Mozambique hosted a Western Indian Ocean planning meeting for the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition. Other science-related activities are being implemented including "one pupil, one tree", "a district, a forest", the "school vegetable garden project" and "without water, no life". We hope to see more resources allocated to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

18.7 Ladies and gentlemen, Mozambique reaffirms its determination to make its territory a place where men and women feel free to express their ideas and opinions and have free access to information of public interest, which enables them to strengthen their knowledge and develop their life skills. We join the concerted efforts to improve our educational systems and tackle the communication and information challenges of globalization in order to ensure the interests of all and provide quality education for our citizens, while at the same time guaranteeing the ethics of information so that no Mozambican citizen can have their values or rights violated. We reaffirm our commitment to promote education for all and lifelong learning to ensure that our citizens are prepared to adapt to the new dynamics in the world today, while we consolidate our self-esteem and social progress. To conclude, I would like to renew our commitment to continue participating in international efforts to implement the new global agenda in the name of all, particularly with regard to Africa. Thank you very much.

19.1 **M. Seddoh** (Togo) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, la délégation togolaise s'associe à l'intervention faite par le représentant de l'Angola en sa qualité de vice-président du Conseil pour le groupe des États d'Afrique. Elle voudrait commencer son propos en félicitant le Président du Conseil pour la maîtrise avec laquelle il assume sa mission et conduit nos travaux. En témoigne l'inauguration hier de la salle X et du salon des délégués qui font la fierté du Conseil. Nous espérons que la technologie ne nous fera pas défaut. Nous avons également apprécié le programme riche et varié qui nous a permis d'échanger tout au long de l'exercice biennal, dans le cadre des célébrations du 70e anniversaire de l'Organisation, avec des personnalités prestigieuses œuvrant dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, et ce dans le respect de la promesse de ne pas faire appel au budget de l'Organisation.

19.2 Nous adressons nos remerciements et nos félicitations à la Directrice générale et au Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents de travail présentés à notre appréciation à l'occasion de la 197e session du Conseil. Tout au long de la préparation du programme de développement pour l'après-2015, le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, sous la houlette de la Directrice générale, s'est acquitté de sa mission de plaidoyer de façon parfaite. L'Organisation sort renforcée après la publication du texte final présentant les 17 objectifs de développement durable et les 169 cibles. Son rôle de leader se trouve confirmé pour plusieurs objectifs et notre délégation s'en réjouit.

19.3 Nous avons été très heureux de constater que les Déclarations de Mascate et d'Incheon constituent désormais l'armature du programme de développement pour l'après-2015 en ce qui concerne l'éducation, et principalement de son objectif 4. Offrir une éducation de qualité à tous, filles et garçons, accroître le pourcentage d'enseignants qualifiés et garantir à tous un environnement sûr, non violent, inclusif et efficace font partie des priorités de notre Organisation.

19.4 En outre, nous avons noté avec satisfaction que, conformément au Programme d'action d'Addis-Abeba sur le financement du développement, la communauté s'est engagée à accroître l'investissement et la coopération pour assurer à tous les enfants un enseignement préscolaire, primaire et secondaire gratuit, améliorer l'enseignement technique et professionnel et

l'enseignement supérieur et accroître le nombre de bourses dans les domaines liés au développement.

19.5 Cette approche holistique du développement de l'éducation constitue une avancée considérable que les États en développement attendaient depuis longtemps. Nous convenons que les résultats de cet ambitieux programme ne pourront pas être atteints en 2030 sans la participation de tous, à commencer par les États membres eux-mêmes. Leur contribution au budget de l'éducation doit atteindre au moins 4 à 6 % de leur PIB et 15 à 20 % des dépenses publiques. Je signale que plusieurs pays ont déjà atteint ce pourcentage, et que les dépenses consacrées par le Togo à l'éducation représentaient déjà en 2011 27,6 % du budget de l'État.

19.6 Nous nous félicitons que l'impulsion donnée par l'UNESCO ait permis de prendre en compte les autres programmes de l'Organisation : la science et la technologie, les océans, la culture, la communication et l'information, les sciences sociales et humaines. Quel mécanisme de suivi sera mis en place dans le cadre d'action qui sera soumis à l'appréciation d'une réunion de haut niveau pendant la 38e session de la Conférence générale, principalement en ce qui concerne l'enseignement secondaire et supérieur ainsi que l'enseignement technique et la formation professionnelle ? Comment les pays qui n'ont pas atteint les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous seront-ils traités pour pouvoir aborder avec confiance le programme pour l'après-2015 ? Que faire pour les pays en conflit ?

19.7 Mesdames et Messieurs, la tâche qui attend notre Organisation est immense et nous ne pouvons pas cacher notre préoccupation face au niveau de ses ressources financières et humaines. Que faire pour améliorer les financements extrabudgétaires avec un personnel capable d'initier et de gérer des projets de qualité ? Que faire pour renforcer la gouvernance à tous les niveaux ? Les États membres devront se ressaisir et accorder à l'UNESCO des moyens à la mesure de l'ampleur de son mandat et de sa mission, pour que le Programme de développement à l'horizon 2030 se traduise en projets concrets sur le terrain. N'est-ce pas la meilleure réponse à la crise aux conséquences multiples que nous connaissons ? Je vous remercie de votre attention.

20.1 **Sra. Sol de Pool** (El Salvador) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, distinguidos delegados: El Salvador suscribe la declaración que en nombre del GRULAC ha hecho el Ecuador. Es un honor dirigirme a ustedes en esta ocasión de gran trascendencia, cuando conmemoramos el septuagésimo aniversario de la creación de la UNESCO. Ahora más que nunca, en esta nueva etapa del futuro de la humanidad, la UNESCO es pertinente. Los desafíos que tenemos por delante son inmensos, y por ello necesitamos una Organización más transparente, más participativa, más eficaz y más inclusiva.

20.2 Vemos con preocupación que el proceso de reestructuración de la UNESCO no solo ha llevado a perder la "memoria institucional", sino que también ha engendrado un desequilibrio en cuanto a la distribución geográfica del personal, que afecta al GRULAC, y particularmente a pequeños Estados como El Salvador, que no están representados. Es hora de darle al GRULAC la oportunidad de que sus candidatos sean tenidos en cuenta como corresponde.

20.3 La adopción del objetivo 4 de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, relativo a la educación, plantea a nuestros países muchos retos con los cuales estamos comprometidos. Pero también a la UNESCO se le presentan grandes desafíos, principalmente el de brindarnos un acompañamiento oportuno para cumplir con la responsabilidad histórica que hemos asumido. Por ello El Salvador reafirma que la educación es un derecho humano fundamental, básico para garantizar que puedan ejercerse otros derechos y esencial para la prosperidad y el crecimiento pacífico, inclusivo, equitativo y sostenible de nuestras sociedades. El objetivo 4 nació en la UNESCO, gracias a cuatro años de un trabajo intenso y coordinado entre los Estados Miembros, la sociedad civil, los organismos asociados y la Secretaría. Por ello hacemos nuestro este objetivo, que seguirá confiriendo protagonismo a la UNESCO en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

20.4 Agradecemos a la Directora General su liderazgo y apoyo, pues ella fue quien impulsó las acciones que nos permitieron lograr tan ambicioso objetivo, del cual seguirá siendo la mayor promotora. Agradecemos al Gobierno del Japón y a la UNESCO el "Premio UNESCO-Japón de educación para el desarrollo sostenible", que compartimos orgullosamente con Guatemala por el trabajo realizado por los jóvenes en esta materia.

20.5 Señor Presidente: los países de Centroamérica, además de compartir similares condiciones sociales, económicas e institucionales, son muy vulnerables al cambio climático. Se señala que Centroamérica será el "punto caliente" de las regiones tropicales, esto es, el más vulnerable a las consecuencias de este cambio. La evidencia muestra la necesidad de generar conocimiento y construir capacidades de adaptación ante un fenómeno que podría afectar significativamente territorios, ecosistemas, actividades económicas y poblaciones ya de por sí vulnerables. Estas mismas características se dan en los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo (PEID), por lo cual apoyamos la implementación del proyecto de Plan de Acción para los PEID e invitamos a la Directora General a buscar, a través de los ahorros realizados en este bienio o recurriendo a fondos extrapresupuestarios, la financiación necesaria para realizar acciones urgentes destinadas a mitigar los estragos del cambio climático en esta región.

20.6 En estos momentos de grandes conflictos armados, pérdida de vidas, migraciones forzadas, terrorismo y destrucción de la cultura de los pueblos, los Estados Miembros de la UNESCO deben cerrar filas y erigirse en defensores y promotores de una cultura de paz, respeto, justicia social, solidaridad, tolerancia y diálogo intercultural. Solo así podremos soñar el mundo que queremos. Muchas gracias.

(20.1) **Mme Sol de Pool** (El Salvador) *in extenso* (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, distingués délégués, El Salvador souscrit à la déclaration prononcée par l'Équateur au nom du GRULAC. C'est un honneur pour moi que de m'adresser à vous en cette occasion d'une importance capitale, à l'heure de célébrer le soixante-dixième anniversaire de la création de l'UNESCO. Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, en cette nouvelle étape de l'histoire de l'humanité, l'UNESCO est utile. Les défis qui se présentent à nous sont immenses, c'est pourquoi nous avons besoin d'une

Organisation plus transparente, plus participative, plus efficace et plus inclusive.

(20.2) Nous sommes préoccupés de constater que le processus de restructuration de l'UNESCO a non seulement conduit à la perte de la « mémoire institutionnelle », mais a également engendré un déséquilibre de la répartition géographique du personnel, qui affecte le GRULAC et en particulier les petits États comme El Salvador, qui ne sont pas représentés. Il est temps de faire en sorte que les candidats du GRULAC soient dûment pris en considération.

(20.3) L'adoption de l'objectif 4 du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, relatif à l'éducation, soulève pour nos pays de nombreux défis que nous nous sommes engagés à relever. Mais l'UNESCO elle aussi doit faire face à d'importants défis, notamment celui de nous accompagner comme il convient dans l'exercice de la responsabilité historique que nous avons assumée. C'est pourquoi El Salvador réaffirme que l'éducation est un droit humain fondamental, indispensable pour garantir l'exercice d'autres droits et essentiel pour la prospérité et la croissance pacifique, inclusive, équitable et durable de nos sociétés. L'objectif 4, né à l'UNESCO, est l'aboutissement de quatre années de travail intense et coordonné entre les États membres, la société civile, les organismes partenaires et le Secrétariat. Voilà pourquoi nous adhérons à cet objectif, qui continuera de conférer un rôle de premier plan à l'UNESCO dans le cadre du Programme 2030 de développement durable.

(20.4) Nous sommes reconnaissants à la Directrice générale de son esprit d'initiative et de son soutien, car c'est elle qui a instauré les mesures qui nous ont permis d'atteindre un objectif d'une telle ambition, dont elle restera le principal promoteur. Nous remercions le Gouvernement du Japon et l'UNESCO pour le Prix UNESCO-Japon d'éducation en vue du développement durable, que nous sommes fiers de partager avec le Guatemala pour le travail réalisé par les jeunes en la matière.

(20.5) Monsieur le Président, les pays d'Amérique centrale, qui présentent des conditions sociales, économiques et institutionnelles similaires, sont également très vulnérables face au changement climatique. On estime que l'Amérique centrale sera le « point chaud » des régions tropicales, c'est-à-dire la zone la plus sensible aux conséquences de ce changement. Les études montrent qu'il est nécessaire de produire des connaissances et de renforcer les capacités d'adaptation face à un phénomène qui pourrait durement toucher des territoires, des écosystèmes, des activités économiques et des populations déjà vulnérables en soi. Les petits États insulaires en développement (PEID) présentent ces mêmes caractéristiques, aussi appuyons-nous la mise en œuvre du projet de Plan d'action pour les PEID et invitons-nous la Directrice générale à rechercher, en utilisant les économies réalisées au cours de l'exercice biennal ou en recourant à des fonds extrabudgétaires, le financement nécessaire pour mener des actions urgentes destinées à atténuer les ravages du changement climatique dans cette région.

(20.6) En ces temps marqués par de grands conflits armés, la perte de vies humaines, des migrations forcées, le terrorisme et la destruction de la culture des peuples, les États membres de l'UNESCO doivent serrer les rangs et s'ériger en défenseurs et en promoteurs d'une culture de la paix, du respect, de la justice sociale, de la solidarité, de la tolérance et du dialogue interculturel. Ce n'est qu'ainsi que nous pourrons rêver le monde que nous voulons. Je vous remercie.

21.1 **Mr Anthony** (Belize) *in extenso*:

Your Excellency, President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, Your Excellency, Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Members and colleagues of the Executive Board and other honourable men and women, it is my great pleasure and honour to attend this 197th session of the Executive Board and address my distinguished colleagues. Mr Chair, I want to say how proud I am of this honourable Organization. Belize will continue to commit itself to the ideals, principles, programmes, policies, strategies, mission statement and Constitution of UNESCO, which govern its structure, direction and unity in the world. Belize is also committed to Global Priority Africa and gender equality. Mr Chair, this Organization is an influential one that provides inspiration and eminence to diverse peoples throughout the world. Most recently, we were singing a song of negativity. Because we had not received a huge donation from our precious Member State for three years, we felt that we had regressed into oblivion. It felt like we were not competent to do more with less. Some of us even felt powerless, unable to carry on; we felt inadequate, felt that there were insufficient resources to carry on successfully; we felt bruised and felt that the task of serving our fellow human beings was impossible. So we procrastinated and complained and played the blame game with a disdainful and pernicious attitude. But Mr Chair, this competent, capable, adequate and distinguished Organization called UNESCO has refused to be preoccupied with negativity.

21.2 I can see, feel, taste, smell and hear a new tune, a new song, Mr Chair. This new song is called "Transformation; the best is yet to come". We are aware of the over $8 million received from donor countries, the general fund, the special accounts and the transfers from the emergency fund from January to June 2015. Donor funds show an increase of 63.3% compared with the same period of the preceding biennium. We are mindful of the donations and special contributions made from January 2014 to June 2015 worth over $20 million, with over $15 million representing new cash received from donors. We offer kudos, thanks and much appreciation to all the donor States. We are aware of the revised appropriation under document 37 C/5. We are cognizant of the $507 million in resources from the regular programme, $16.5 million in additional appropriations, $1.7 million allocated from the emergency fund and another $2.6 million from the emergency fund, and over $300 million dollars allocated from extrabudgetary resources. We are aware of restructuring, staff cost savings, limited recruitment, use of temporary assistance, all of which became assets and thus eliminated the budget deficit. Budgetary restrictions on the use of savings against vacant posts have now been lifted. Mr Chair, we have a new song, "Transformation, the best is yet to come".

21.3 The Director-General has taken into account the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme (VMSP), field security measures, filling of the Director's post in the UNESCO Office in Kingston, inflationary and salary increases, and the filling of posts internally and externally. Many thanks to the Director-General for filling the

Director's post in a timely manner. We still need to fill the culture and social and human sciences specialist posts. Mr Chair, programme implementation is showing good results. Field office situations are improving, execution of extrabudgetary programmes is on track, the emergency fund is being utilized. Albert Einstein once said, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid". Let us not judge and let us use our genius to build and prevail. All of us have faults and if you live in a glass house you should not throw stones. Mr Chair, the small island developing States (SIDS) have benefited immensely. A young woman from Belize will be attending the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum, which is only the second time that a young Belizean has accomplished this feat, and for that we thank the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information (ADG/ERI) and the Youth Forum Secretariat. Mr Chair, we have a new song, "Transformation, the best is yet to come". Belize submitted 11 names of smart, qualified young professionals to the Young Professionals Programme. But some of them received their application two days before the deadline; there was no reason for that and I would like to know what happened. We continue to support the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) budget scenario.

21.4 Mr Chair, we have to accept the fact that certain things will never go back to the way they used to be, so let us move on and be happy. We are making progress. We are improving by making the best use of our tact. Winston Churchill once said, "Tact is the ability to tell someone to go to hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip." I think we have done that too. Mr Chair, our new song is, "Transformation, the best is yet to come." Thank you all and God bless.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

QUATRIÈME SÉANCE

Mardi 13 octobre 2015 à 15 h 10

Président : M. Amr

REPORTING ITEMS (*continued*)

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme execution (197 EX/4 Part I; 197 EX/4.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37C/5) as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 30 June 2015 (Unaudited) (197 EX/4 Part II and Corr.; 197 EX4.INF.2-3; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (197 EX/5 Part I; 197 EX/5.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (197 EX/5 Part II and Addenda) (*continued*)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (197 EX/5 Part III) (*continued*)

Item 5.IV: Management issues (197 EX/5 Part IV and Corr. and Addenda; 197 EX/5.INF.2; 197 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (197 EX/5 Part V and Corr. and Addenda) (*continued*)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING (*continued*)

Item 17: Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (197 EX/17 and Add. and Corrigenda) (*continued*)

***Plenary debate** (continued)*

1.1 **Ms Zugaib** (Brazil) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, two memorable dates coincide this year: the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and the approval of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The former illuminates our past achievements; the latter shows us the road ahead, while both stress, in a similar way, the relevance of UNESCO's mandate for past, present and future generations. The number and complexity of the challenges our world faces today can hardly be overemphasized. Waves of intolerance and extremism, the scourge of cultural cleansing, and the growing numbers of displaced people and refugees are but a few examples of the issues that call for strong and focused UNESCO action. We salute the commitment the Director-General has shown to the promotion of tolerance and the protection of our common heritage. We strongly support the strategy for reinforcing UNESCO's action in this field, and we highlight the importance of strengthening the Culture Sector and all cultural conventions. Brazil also congratulates the education community for the Incheon Declaration, which lays the foundation for the policies to be implemented in order to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". In the process of implementing Sustainable Development Goal 4, UNESCO has the pivotal role of both providing assistance and fostering the exchange of best practices. We must live up to our mandate as the main United Nations agency devoted to education. Brazil would like to welcome as well the results of the two recent meetings of the new drafting group under the Education 2030 Framework for Action, which highlight the diversity of educational systems worldwide and the different needs and challenges of our countries and regions. This is the culmination of a long and fruitful debate, to which Brazil has continuously affirmed its commitment.

1.2 Dear colleagues, as we all know, financial and budgetary restrictions have been conditioning UNESCO's activities for some years now. In this adverse scenario, the only way forward lies in seeking more efficiency through the renewal and improvement of administrative practices, including the governance of this Organization. We are thus called upon to join forces with the Secretariat in order to find the solutions we need. We have recently adjusted and updated the EX/4 document, the new format of which will help us to visualize and understand project implementation, so that we can entertain more realistic demands and expectations. The new performance indicator guidelines are also an important contribution that will allow us to follow the results of UNESCO's programmes in an adequate manner. We are convinced, however, that we can do more. We can enhance UNESCO's governance not only by restructuring its programmes, but also by improving the work and methods of the Executive Board. That is why we welcome the Board's consideration of a draft resolution aimed at strengthening and streamlining the Executive Board's operations. If we really want to make this Organization the best it can be, we cannot miss this unique opportunity to discuss its governance methods and to put into action the necessary measures. This is the place and the time to do so. This is our responsibility. Let us act accordingly. Thank you.

2.1 **Mr Maynard** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, the delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis comes to this session of the Board with a strong sense of gratitude and optimism. Let me, from the outset, stand in full solidarity with the Government and people of Dominica, our neighbours, who recently experienced a devastating storm, resulting in the loss of life of over 40 people and damage to the region of approximately $1.3 billion, and setting their development plans back by at least 20 years. Sadly, Mr Chair, this occurrence brings the SAMOA-inspired Action Platform for small island developing States (SIDS) into sharp focus. Adaptation and mitigation mechanisms and strategies must be at the forefront of, and central to, our efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. The frequent incidence of natural disasters poses a regular threat to SIDS countries, especially considering their small size and diseconomies of scale. Not only does it affect their infrastructure, but it also disrupts the whole education system, resulting in many students missing school for long periods of time. UNESCO's expertise in adaptation measures must be deployed and be an integral part of the UNESCO work programme for SIDS countries, to enable these small States to survive the brutal effects of climate change. Central also to this same action plan should be UNESCO's lead role in the sustainable development goals (SDGs) that ensure the conservation, availability and sustainable management of fresh water for all, as well as

the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources that physically surround our island States. As reggae superstar Bob Marley said in one of his popular songs: “In the abundance of water, a fool is thirsty”.

2.2 Saint Kitts and Nevis is grateful for the services provided by UNESCO, especially in recent times, in delivering added value on the ground and raising the profile of the Organization in the region. For example, a Slave Route conference this summer drew delegates from across the Caribbean subregion, who issued a solid declaration aimed at reinforcing awareness-raising activities and recommended that UNESCO strengthen its strategic partnerships and financial assistance for the Slave Route Project. The conference also supported the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) reparations initiative by mobilizing public opinion and support in order to ensure the achievement of reparatory justice during this International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). We are grateful to UNESCO for enabling my Government and our National Commission to host the first UNESCO/Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Conference on the Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Internet Privacy in the Caribbean region. Organized in the framework of the Information for All Programme (IFAP), the conference examined the current information ethics challenges that are gripping our small nation States, and the development of ethical principles in respect of Internet usage. We urge UNESCO to support research and to engage actively with all stakeholders in our subregion in developing a holistic approach to the challenges posed by the Internet, which is still not fully understood. Also, in addition to the meaningful UNESCO-related activities being implemented in my country, the Organization is concluding a strategic review of the Saint Kitts and Nevis education policy, with major implications for enhancing the whole spectrum of how the Government delivers education and training from primary to high school. My Government sincerely thanks the Director-General and her staff for these very important interventions.

2.3 As we celebrate 70 years of this great Organization, we note with satisfaction and optimism that UNESCO is strategically poised to actively engage in the delivery of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. We remain optimistic that as UNESCO undergoes reform to deliver more effectively on the ground, it is now well positioned to make significant contributions, especially to SDG 4 (Quality education). We are also optimistic because we know that National Commissions stand as major, and critical, partners with UNESCO in the delivery of programmes to Member States. We urge the Director-General to further capitalize on the extensive resources that lie within the National Commissions and to ensure that they are a part of the extensive consultation carried out in determining and consolidating the budget and the quality of programmes agreed on for the Organization.

3.1 **M. Sita-N’sadisi** (Angola)
in extenso :
Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous voici à la veille des festivités marquant les 40 ans d’indépendance de l’Angola et du 70e anniversaire de la création de l’UNESCO. Les dates commémoratives sont l’occasion de dresser un bilan du passé et d’envisager le futur. L’Angola est membre de l’UNESCO depuis 1977. La première assistance d’envergure qu’il a reçue de l’UNESCO a été l’appui à la campagne nationale d’alphabétisation menée dans un pays qui comptait à l’époque plus de 85 % d’analphabètes, après cinq siècles d’esclavage et de colonisation. Aujourd’hui, le taux d’alphabétisation se situe autour de 80 %. Plus de six millions d’enfants sont scolarisés aux niveaux primaire et secondaire. Plus de 200 000 étudiants fréquentent l’enseignement supérieur. Dans le cadre du plan national de formation des cadres, nous travaillons avec le Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles de l’UNESCO à l’élaboration du programme national de formation doctorale en sciences et technologies. Avec l’assistance de l’UNESCO, nous préparons le dossier de candidature de l’ancienne ville de Mbanza Kongo, capitale du royaume du Kongo, en vue de son inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. La carte scolaire du sous-système de l’enseignement primaire et secondaire et la banque de données statistiques sont en cours d’expérimentation. Le programme national de renforcement de l’inspection scolaire est déjà en bonne voie. Des unités de radios communautaires sont mises en place dans quelques provinces. L’Angola participe à l’effort de révision de l’Histoire générale de l’Afrique destinée à une utilisation pédagogique à tous les niveaux d’enseignement dans les écoles africaines.

3.2 Le peuple angolais est profondément attaché aux idéaux de la liberté, de la démocratie, du respect de la dignité humaine, du vivre-ensemble dans la diversité culturelle, et de la paix. La paix, durement conquise en avril 2002, signifie pour nous l’acceptation de l’Autre dans toute sa singularité, et surtout la réconciliation nationale. Le maintien de la paix favorise le combat contre l’obscurantisme et contribue à l’éducation inclusive, équitable et de qualité, à l’appropriation des progrès scientifiques et à la valorisation des cultures endogènes pour le développement. Pour l’État angolais, présidé par S. E. M. José Eduardo Dos Santos, la paix est la première priorité. L’Angola a conclu un accord de partenariat stratégique avec l’Union africaine et l’UNESCO pour la promotion d’une vaste campagne en faveur de la culture de la paix et de la non-violence à l’échelle du continent africain sous un format biennal, dont la première édition devrait avoir lieu dans un an. Suite à l’adoption du programme de développement pour l’après-2015, il est nécessaire de réévaluer le contenu de l’accord-cadre de coopération entre l’UNESCO et l’Angola, en vigueur depuis 2013.

3.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, une question qui préoccupe le monde et au sujet de laquelle l’UNESCO doit réfléchir est celle de l’extrémisme radical revendiqué par des jeunes qui font l’apologie de la haine et de l’extrémisme sur les réseaux sociaux que nous avons conçus. Ces jeunes, dans leur obstination à vouloir changer le monde, participent délibérément à la destruction de la mémoire collective du patrimoine culturel de l’humanité, mouvement qui s’amplifie jour après jour. Ce sont des jeunes formés dans nos systèmes scolaires, des systèmes que nous avons mis en place. Nous devons nous pencher très sérieusement sur cette question.

3.4 Nous touchons à la fin de notre mandat au Conseil exécutif de l’UNESCO en tant que représentant de l’Angola. Mesdames et Messieurs, l’Angola s’est porté candidat au Comité du patrimoine mondial et nous espérons pouvoir obtenir votre appui en vous donnant l’assurance que nous honorerons cette noble tâche en toute conscience et en toute compétence. Nous aimerions féliciter et remercier le Président du Conseil exécutif, les Présidents de la Commission du programme et des

relations extérieures (PX) et de la Commission financière et administrative (FA) et Mesdames et Messieurs les Présidents du Comité spécial (SP), du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations (CR), du Comité sur les partenaires non gouvernementaux (PNG) et du Groupe préparatoire pour leur engagement et les contributions très positives qu'ils ont faites dans le souci constant d'obtenir une issue consensuelle à nos discussions. Madame la Directrice générale, nous vous remercions de votre engagement personnel en faveur d'une amélioration de l'accord de coopération que nous avons signé en 2013, et réaffirmons notre pleine disponibilité et notre attachement à toutes les grandes causes de l'UNESCO. Avant de conclure, nous nous déclarons solidaires de l'intervention faite au nom du Groupe V(a). Je vous remercie.

4.1 **M. Camara** (Guinée) *in extenso* :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et les représentants, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais pour commencer dire que je m'associe à la déclaration faite hier par le représentant de l'Angola au nom du Groupe des États d'Afrique et présenter mes condoléances à nos amis de l'Ouganda à l'occasion du décès de notre ancien collègue. À l'heure où la planète connaît des heures graves, force est de constater que le monde n'est pas seulement « malade » et « étrange », comme je le faisais remarquer l'année dernière dans cette même salle, il est devenu insupportable. Il ne suffit plus de dénoncer les actes de terreur et de vandalisme. Il nous faut entrer en résistance contre la barbarie, agir de concert, nous, les institutions internationales, les gouvernements, les ONG, la société civile. Sur quoi pouvons-nous nous guider pour ce faire ? Sur la Charte des Nations Unies, mais aussi l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation et ses référents universels que sont les principes démocratiques, l'égale dignité des individus, la solidarité intellectuelle et morale, la liberté d'expression, la responsabilité.

4.2 Dans ses domaines de compétence, l'UNESCO doit en effet rappeler à tous, avec la hauteur et le discernement nécessaires, les valeurs d'humanité qui sont les siennes. Je ne parle pas d'un « humanisme » entendu comme le simple respect des différentes cultures, mais d'un humanisme de reconnaissance de l'Autre, qui proclame que « la diversité est le trésor de l'unité humaine, tout comme l'unité est le trésor de la diversité humaine », pour citer Edgar Morin. Assurément, la construction d'un humanisme universel est le grand enjeu moral et éthique qui nous permettra de lutter contre la violence née de la misère et de l'ignorance et d'édifier un développement humain et durable. Mais comment être efficace ? Pour cela, il nous faut anticiper, prévoir ce que l'avenir nous réserve pour détourner, si nécessaire, le cours du destin. L'UNESCO sait qu'elle peut compter sur les esprits éclairés du monde entier pour la guider sur le chemin de la prospective ainsi que sur des hommes et des femmes de bonne volonté pour l'accompagner dans sa mission consistant à empêcher l'espèce humaine de s'entretuer comme elle le fait régulièrement. Je rappellerai à cet égard que mon pays, la Guinée, se réjouit d'une victoire récente, digne de l'engagement de notre Organisation en faveur du savoir, puisque Conakry, sa capitale, a été désignée par l'UNESCO et trois organisations professionnelles internationales de l'industrie du livre « Capitale mondiale du livre » pour l'année 2017. Que tous en soient remerciés.

4.3 Vous aviez souligné à ce propos, Madame la Directrice générale, que la ville avait été ainsi nommée pour « son attention accordée aux communautés mais aussi pour ses objectifs de développement qui mettent l'accent sur les jeunes, notamment les jeunes filles, et l'alphabétisation ». Ceci correspond à la priorité de notre gouvernement, qui est de promouvoir la scolarisation de la jeune fille. Dans le cadre de ses engagements en faveur de l'égalité entre les sexes, la Guinée est particulièrement attachée à la réalisation de cet objectif. Ces dernières années, la scolarisation des filles a connu une importante progression et la fracture entre filles et garçons en matière d'éducation primaire s'est fortement réduite. L'autre axe majeur de la réforme du système éducatif guinéen est le développement de l'enseignement et de la formation techniques et professionnels, dont la vocation est de satisfaire les besoins du marché de l'emploi en main-d'œuvre qualifiée, et qui reste le maillon faible de notre système. Notre gouvernement a décidé de réformer profondément ce sous-secteur afin d'en faire un puissant levier pour l'éducation et la formation de citoyens capables de s'insérer d'une manière constructive dans le processus de développement socioéconomique du pays.

4.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, en ce qui concerne l'Agenda 2030, nous attendons avec beaucoup d'intérêt la tenue du prochain Forum conjoint de l'Union africaine et de l'UNESCO, dans le cadre de la mise œuvre de la résolution 37 C/18 visant à aider les pays africains à rattraper leur retard dans la réalisation des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) avant 2015 et à débattre de l'applicabilité des nouveaux objectifs de développement durable et du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, compte tenu des réalités à l'échelle nationale et du continent. Je suis convaincu pour ma part que l'amélioration de l'éducation passe par un investissement massif, qui, dans ce secteur, n'est jamais vain.

4.5 Nous attendons toujours de voir ce qu'apporte à l'Afrique son statut de priorité. Pour ma part, je reste sceptique. Concernant la présence de l'UNESCO sur le terrain à travers les bureaux hors Siège, peut-on véritablement parler de décentralisation si ces bureaux ne disposent pas de moyens humains et financiers suffisants ? Je conclurai en disant que, selon moi, la survie et le bien-être des générations futures devraient être notre souci commun. Je vous remercie pour votre attention et votre engagement.

5.1 **Mr Jobe** (Gambia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director General, Excellencies, Members of the Executive Board, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, my delegation thanks the Director-General and the Chair of the Executive Board for their opening statements and introduction to the debate. We fully support the statement made on behalf of the Africa Group. The Director-General has stayed the course and we congratulate her for her steadfastness and fortitude which continue to sail the UNESCO ship placidly amidst its current financial turbulence and new forms of challenges.

5.2 Gambia recognizes UNESCO's effort in leading the preparatory process of the post-2015 education agenda and acknowledges with satisfaction the outcome of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including the African regional consultations on the sustainable development goals. It is hoped, however, that the goals and targets outlined so far will reflect an integrated and transformative agenda, which should

ultimately build upon the gains made from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to fully address the many difficult challenges we face today. This is indeed pertinent and timely as it gives fresh impetus to our ardent desire to identify a set of global priorities to steer the international development agenda once the Millennium Development Goals expire at the end of 2015. Nonetheless, in launching this new initiative for transformative change, we must not allow novelty to mask any shortcomings of the MDG experiment. There is a need to take stock of the MDG achievements and failures and indeed to renew support to those developing countries, especially the least developed, landlocked, and small island developing States, that may still have difficulties in meeting their critical MDG targets by the end of 2015. Furthermore, in the process of this global discourse on education, we should not forget the less advantaged or those with disabilities. We must ensure that they are provided with the conditions necessary for them to enjoy equitable quality education; lifelong learning opportunities including higher education; universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5.3 Studies show that lack of capacity in science, technology and innovation (STI) has hindered the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While this underscores the critical role of STI for the accomplishment of the goals, it also provides valuable lessons for the post-2015 agenda, especially in Africa. In light of this, Gambia welcomes the forthcoming UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit (UNESCO-MARS), which aims to build scientific research capacity in Africa and provide networking opportunities to strengthen the scientific community and its impact on African society and during which scientists will exchange experience, knowledge and best practices (especially in Ebola management) and establish international cooperation for future research and development projects. Gambia endorses UNESCO's involvement in and support for this venture and urges the Director-General to share the outcomes of the summit with all Member States with a view to encouraging the transformation of knowledge into action to improve health research and secure public confidence in science. Gambia also attaches great importance to the empowerment of women. Consequently, our delegation strongly supports UNESCO's Priority Gender Equality Action Plan. We also strongly support Global Priority Africa and the full implementation of the reform in field offices, particularly those in Africa, and we hope that UNESCO will set its priorities to achieve more substantial impact and that the funds in hand will be managed judiciously to derive optimal value from these programmes. Taking into account the priority accorded to technical and vocational education and training (TVET), Gambia advocates particular consideration of TVET programmes in the post-2015 agenda. By the same token, we encourage further efforts to assist Member States in the formulation and implementation of their TVET policies. In conclusion, I am pleased to affirm Gambia's recognition of UNESCO's remarkable efforts over the past 70 years towards the realization of peace and sustainable development in its Member States. My Government encourages UNESCO to continue to promote and uphold the ideals of this noble Organization. I thank you all for your kind attention.

6.1 **M. Rault** (Maurice) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, c'est un grand honneur pour moi de m'adresser à cette assemblée à l'occasion de la 197e session du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO. Cette année, qui est marquée par le 70e anniversaire de la création de notre Organisation, doit surtout être l'occasion de réaffirmer notre détermination à protéger nos fondamentaux, que sont la paix et la sécurité, à travers l'éducation, la science et la culture. La contribution inestimable de notre Organisation à la promotion de nos idéaux, malgré parfois le manque de moyens, est indéniable, et je tiens d'ores et déjà, Madame la Directrice générale, à vous féliciter et surtout à vous soutenir dans les actions que vous menez pour relever les défis rencontrés dans la réalisation de nos objectifs.

6.2 Maurice puise sa force dans la diversité de sa population, venue d'Afrique, de Chine, d'Europe et d'Inde. Ce bouquet coexiste dans une multiplicité de croyances religieuses, de langues et de coutumes. Maurice est un pays où la diversité est perçue comme un atout et certainement pas comme un obstacle à l'harmonie. C'est dans cet esprit d'ouverture que nous condamnons avec la plus grande indignation les génocides culturels qui sont quotidiennement entrepris sous couvert d'observance religieuse. Détruire les vestiges d'une civilisation, c'est détruire notre lien avec nos racines, et détruire nos racines, c'est détruire l'humanité. Il est essentiel, eu égard aux proportions que prennent ces destructions, que l'UNESCO, au-delà du constat, passe à l'offensive et se donne les moyens de prévenir les destructions et d'assurer la préservation de notre patrimoine.

6.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais en venir à un sujet tout à fait différent et évoquer l'épée de Damoclès qui, plus que jamais, menace d'anéantir mon pays, tout comme d'autres petits États insulaires en développement. Alors que le dérèglement climatique, bien qu'universellement reconnu, est encore perçu par certains comme une menace théorique, voire abstraite, je tiens à vous confirmer, Mesdames et Messieurs, que lorsque vous habitez sur une île d'une superficie d'à peine 2 000 km^2, les mises en perspectives sont tout à fait traumatisantes. La montée des eaux, l'érosion, les changements de courants affectent en premier lieu, cela va sans dire, les côtes. Et lorsqu'un pays qui n'a comme ressource naturelle que la beauté de ses plages constate quotidiennement, à chaque changement de marée, le grignotage boulimique et incessant de ses plages, il est de son devoir de bouleverser les usages et de crier sa détresse. La position des petits États insulaires en développement est claire. Nous sommes en première ligne en termes de vulnérabilité et nous sollicitons l'aide et la coopération de tous les États membres dans les actions menées pour lutter contre le réchauffement climatique. Il est essentiel qu'il y ait un transfert de compétences entre États membres. Il est essentiel que nous soyons tous impliqués dans ce combat contre la destruction de la planète.

6.4 Nous sommes reconnaissants à l'UNESCO d'avoir accueilli et coorganisé une série d'événements sur la question et nous soutenons, plus que jamais, les efforts qu'elle déploie dans le cadre des dispositifs mis en place, notamment de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale. Plus encore, Maurice salue et soutient l'initiative, émanant de la France, du Maroc et du Pérou, d'un projet de décision sur la lutte contre le dérèglement climatique. La COP-21 sera le catalyseur d'un tel combat. Nous souhaitons tous qu'elle débouche sur un plan d'action réaliste, concret, pragmatique et applicable. Le succès ne dépend que de nous et de notre

réelle volonté de nous attaquer, ensemble, aux causes comme aux effets de ce dérèglement. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

7.1 **Sra. Faxas** (República Dominicana) *in extenso:*

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo, señora Directora General, excelencias, estimados colegas: la 197ª reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo se desarrolla en una coyuntura internacional marcada par acontecimientos importantes tanto a nivel global como para la UNESCO. Una mirada al escenario actual nos permite identificar una trilogía de hechos que han movilizado positivamente a la comunidad internacional. Se trata de: la tercera Conferencia Internacional sobre la Financiación para el Desarrollo que se reunió en julio en Addis Abeba; la aprobación, a fines de septiembre, de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), que van a alimentar la hoja de ruta del desarrollo hasta 2030; y la COP 21, que tendrá lugar en París en diciembre, y que buscará generar un consenso y un acuerdo sustantivo para paliar los efectos del cambio climático. Gracias, señora Directora General, por llevar, con firmeza, en estos diferentes escenarios, la voz y la visión de la UNESCO, que son fuente de esperanza.

7.2 Señor Presidente: en el día de hoy, quisiera también hablar de la crisis. No de la crisis financiera de la Organización. Quisiera hablar de la crisis que sacude el mundo, en particular el Medio Oriente, donde los riesgos de una desestabilización global son cada vez más palpables. Quiero referirme además a las consecuencias de estos conflictos, como es el flujo migratorio masivo que esas guerras han generado en los países limítrofes y en Europa. En este momento grave, nosotros, Estados Miembros, nosotros, la UNESCO, tenemos más que nunca una obligación ante el mundo. Nacimos de las cenizas de la Segunda Guerra Mundial hace justo 70 años, para erigirnos en el proyecto más noble del que quiso dotarse la humanidad: el de cultivar las ideas y el conocimiento para consolidarnos en la paz. Asumamos nuestras responsabilidades. De esta 197ª reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo y de esta 38ª Conferencia General, la UNESCO debe salir doblemente fortalecida. El mundo necesita una UNESCO fuerte, una UNESCO renovada e innovadora, que sepa aliar memoria y proyecto.

7.3 Para la República Dominicana, el desafío de construir la cultura de paz debe ser un eje central y una prioridad de trabajo de la Organización, y debe figurar claramente en el C/4. Una reflexión, en este sentido, con propuestas concretas, podría integrarse en el programa del Foro de dirigentes de la Conferencia General.

7.4 Fortalecer la UNESCO pasa también por mejorar la gobernanza. El informe del Auditor Externo abre numerosas pistas para mejorar dicha gobernanza. Debemos osar el cambio. Un buen número de sus recomendaciones, así como las del lOS y las recogidas en el punto 44 sobre la reforma del Reglamento del Consejo, aunque parezcan trastocar la cultura de la Organización, van en la buena dirección.

7.5 Nuestra Delegación apoya y expresa su adhesión al discurso del GRULAC y del G-77 y China.

7.6 Reafirmamos el imperativo de fortalecer las ciencias sociales y el Programa MOST. También las diferentes iniciativas presentadas par varios países africanos sobre la educación y la cultura de paz. Solo trabajando en el terreno, a través de la educación, podremos algún día lograr esa “paz perpetua” evocada par Emmanuel Kant.

7.7 Los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible para 2030 abren una nueva etapa para el mundo. Felicitamos a la Directora General y a su equipo por lograr que la UNESCO mantuviese su liderazgo en la educación y en la cultura, así como en otros objetivos. Para la UNESCO, los ODS son la oportunidad de reposicionarse y fortalecer su presencia dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Nos congratulamos de que la agenda para el desarrollo haya integrado los principios de la Declaración de Incheon y de que la educación fuese reconocida como un bien público, un derecho humano fundamental, central para garantizar el acceso a otros derechos. De igual manera, aprobamos la iniciativa de la UNESCO sobre la primera infancia, STEPP, de la cual la República Dominicana es beneficiaria.

7.8 Defendemos el fortalecimiento del IESALC y saludamos su rol en la articulación de su agenda con la Cumbre Académica CELAC-UE, en lo relativo a las convalidaciones de títulos y diplomas en la región. La República Dominicana saluda los avances en la elaboración del Plan de Acción para los PEID y los esfuerzos realizados por la Secretaría para identificar fuentes de financiamiento. Enese sentido, apoyamos el proyecto de decisión presentado por Saint Kitts y Nevis.

7.9 Señor Presidente: para terminar, quisiera felicitarlo y darle las gracias por los esfuerzos de renovación de la sala X, la cual no hubiera sido posible sin su perseverancia. Agradecemos igualmente a los donadores. Muchas gracias.

(7.1) **Ms Faxas** (Dominican Republic) *in extenso* (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, the 197th session of the Board is taking place in an international situation marked by important events both at the global level and for UNESCO. With a glance at the current picture we can identify a trilogy of events which have positively mobilized the international community. These are the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in July in Addis Ababa; the adoption in late September of the Sustainable Development Goals, which will guide the development agenda until 2030; and COP 21, which will take place in Paris in December and will seek to generate a consensus and a substantive agreement to alleviate the impact of climate change. Madam Director-General, we thank you for having shown firm leadership for UNESCO’s voice and vision, which are a source of hope.

(7.2) Mr President, today I also wish to refer to the crisis. Not the Organization’s financial crisis. I refer to the crisis shaking the world, particularly the Middle East, where the risks of global destabilization are increasingly palpable. I also wish to refer to the consequences of those conflicts, such as the massive migratory flow which these wars have generated in neighbouring countries and in Europe. At this grave moment, we Member States, we of UNESCO, have a greater than ever duty to the world. We were born out of the ashes of the Second World War exactly 70 years ago and became the noblest project that humanity has ever created: an organization to cultivate ideas and knowledge to consolidate peace. Let us face up to our responsibilities. UNESCO must be doubly strengthened by this 197th session of the Executive Board and 38th session of the General

Conference. The world needs a strong UNESCO, renewed and innovative, which can combine memories and future projects.

(7.3) My Government believes that the challenge of building a culture of peace must be a central focus for UNESCO and a priority in its work and should feature clearly in the C/4 document. Suggestions in this regard, with practical proposals, might be included in the programme for the Leaders' Forum of the General Conference.

(7.4) Strengthening UNESCO also requires improved governance. The report of the External Auditor offers many opportunities for improving that governance. We must dare to change. Many of those recommendations, in addition to those of IOS and those covered under agenda item **44** on reform of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, lead in the right direction although they may appear disruptive of the Organization's culture.

(7.5) Our delegation expresses its support for the statement made on behalf of GRULAC and the Group of 77 and China.

(7.6) We reaffirm the necessity of strengthening social sciences and the MOST programme, as well as the various initiatives proposed by a number of African countries on education and a culture of peace. Only by working in the field, and through education, will we eventually achieve that "perpetual peace" referred to by Immanuel Kant.

(7.7) The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 represent a new beginning for the world. Let us congratulate the Director-General and her team for ensuring that UNESCO maintained its leadership in education and culture and in other goals. For UNESCO, the Sustainable Development Goals are an opportunity to reposition and strengthen its presence within the United Nations system. We welcome the fact that the development agenda has included the principles of the Incheon Declaration and that education has been recognized as a public good, a fundamental human right and crucial for ensuring access to other rights. We also welcome UNESCO's initiative on the Survey of Teachers in Pre-primary Education (STEPP) project, of which the Dominican Republic is a beneficiary.

(7.8) We support the strengthening of the International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) and commend its role in coordinating its agenda with the EU-CELAC Academic Summit, regarding the recognition of diplomas and degrees in the region. The Dominican Republic welcomes progress in the programme of action for small island developing States (SIDS) and the efforts of the Secretariat to identify sources of funding. In that regard, we support the draft decision presented by Saint Kitts and Nevis.

(7.9) Mr President, lastly, I wish to congratulate you and thank you for the renovation work in Room X, which would not have been possible without your perseverance. We are also grateful to the donors. Thank you.

8.1 **Mr Kalinoe** (Papua New Guinea) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chair. Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, firstly, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (ASPAC). Let me also congratulate you, Mr Chair, for your leadership in facilitating our work. Secondly, my delegation joins the other Members of the Board in acknowledging and commending the Director-General and her team for their tireless commitment and active collaboration with Member States, regional bodies and the international community in promoting peace and security through the Organization's various mandated programmes and activities. As the Director-General rightly identified at the last Executive Board session in April, "new times of turbulence and change" give us all the more reason to unite as one body in upholding the founding principles of UNESCO, renewing our commitments, strengthening our collaborative efforts and continuing the good cause of our Organization. This is important as we begin the formal process of transition from an era of millennium development goals to an era of Sustainable Development Goals. In congratulating UNESCO for its active involvement in helping to craft the sustainable development goals, which are universal, ambitious and people-centred, it is my delegation's hope that implementation in the areas of UNESCO's competence will be equally successful. As Papua New Guinea focuses its efforts on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, we will be looking for support and guidance from UNESCO and its Member States. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have undoubtedly allowed my country to realign its national development strategies and have also set us on a progressive journey of development, especially in the areas of education, science and technology, culture and heritage. The new global goals will allow Papua New Guinea to take stock of its progress and refocus its efforts to address key development priorities.

8.2 On the issue of small island developing States, the majority of which are in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, we are pleased to note that UNESCO has embarked on strategies to assist in the challenges facing those States. My delegation acknowledges in particular the ongoing work in relation to the SIDS Action Platform, including the identification of specific activities associated with SIDS countries within the current quadrennial programme and related budget allocations, a preliminary assessment of the funding gap for the period 2016-2017, and the SIDS resource mobilization strategy. Education for development and challenges relating to climate change impact will no doubt remain important considerations for small island States in the years to come. In respect of education, the results of the recently completed study on efficient resourcing of the education for all agenda need to be pursued. This is particularly relevant for SIDS countries where some communities living in isolated and remote geographical locations are not adequately covered by the national education system, with teachers and teaching aids often not reaching these locations, or simply not being available. Innovative means of access such as e-learning is one proposal my delegation views as important and which could be part of UNESCO's SIDS Action Platform.

8.3 With reference to climate change and conservation, adaptation and mitigation measures, my delegation looks forward to a successful outcome at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris. While developed countries are expected to agree on an emissions reduction framework, developing resource-rich nations, including some SIDS

countries, have taken steps to conserve their land and sea resources for the benefit of others, including the developed nations. Papua New Guinea, which has one of the largest rainforests in the world, has made a deliberate decision to conserve its forest and completely eliminate commercial round log exports by 2020. Other Pacific island states are looking at preserving their oceans through the Blue Economy framework. Such initiatives would lead to opportunity costs in terms of their respective overall development agendas. This should be acknowledged and included in the UNESCO Action Platform for SIDS where conservation efforts bring economic rewards under countries' respective sustainable development ambitions.

8.4 Papua New Guinea's four-year term on the Executive Board expires in November and we will not seek re-election. In this regard, I wish to thank you, Mr Chair, for your excellent leadership and to thank all the Members of the Board and the Director-General and her staff for the cooperation and support accorded to us during our term. We value highly the professional and informative debates in the meetings of the Board and its commissions and committees on issues and outcomes relating to our work, and remain committed to the collective pursuit of UNESCO's agenda. I thank you, Mr Chair.

9.1 **Ms Magreta (Malawi)** *in extenso*:

Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, ladies and gentlemen, Mr Chair, my delegation would like to endorse the statement made by the representative of Angola on behalf of the Africa Group. As we celebrate 70 years of UNESCO's existence, the Organization is called upon to actively participate in providing advice or solutions, or in being part of the solution to myriad problems. In the spirit of its founders, this makes UNESCO even more relevant today. Four years ago Malawi joined the Board amid the sweeping reforms initiated by the Director-General for further improvements to the Organization. We congratulate the Director-General for her passion and sincerity, which has seen most of the reforms accomplished despite the daunting financial challenges.

9.2 In terms of implementing the Education 2030 Framework for Action, my delegation would like UNESCO to use its leadership and advocacy roles to ensure that the lessons learned from the unfinished education for all (EFA) agenda, including the elusive financing of education, are firmly integrated; otherwise we will have the same unfinished business come 2030. My delegation wishes to thank the cooperating partners that continue supporting Member States in realizing some of their EFA goals. We wish to commend the Korean National Commission for UNESCO for its innovative Africa BRIDGE Programme, which is making a difference in achieving EFA goals at grass-roots level in some six African Member States. One of Malawi's top priority development goals is youth skills development to enable youth in rural areas to acquire gainful and employable skills. My delegation therefore welcomes the proposed activities in innovation and entrepreneurship that UNESCO is earmarking for youth.

9.3 Climate change issues are real and serious. In our part of the world the effects of climate change like flooding, flash floods and landslides are, in part, due to massive deforestation to meet the energy needs of households through production of fuel wood and charcoal. That is why my delegation has always underscored the importance of the renewable energies programme, which is in line with the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024). UNESCO's leadership in its fields of competence will be tested in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. The United Nations family and the people outside of it will be expecting a great deal from UNESCO. The challenge now is how UNESCO will support its Member States in delivering on this ambitious agenda. UNESCO will need to do "business as unusual".

9.4 My delegation welcomes the recognition of culture as an enabler for sustainable development in the 2030 Agenda. Culture is the hub of any development agenda. As the Secretariat has said, UNESCO will be "holding the pen" in the preparation and coordination of the annual report of the United Nations Secretary-General on United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerning: (i) follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and (ii) promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace. To us, this is a demonstration of the confidence that other United Nations organizations have in UNESCO's comparative advantage in its fields of competence. Lastly for all these programmes to have impact and meaning at country level, we should never lose sight of the importance of the synergy between field offices and National Commissions. Consequently, there is a need for constant dialogue and retooling of staff. In this regard we are hoping that the German Commission for UNESCO will continue the good work it has been carrying out. Madam Director-General, please be assured of Malawi's continued support. I thank you all for your attention.

10.1 **Ms Rampersad** (Trinidad and Tobago) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, Honourable Ambassadors, colleagues, members of the Secretariat and guests, Trinidad and Tobago commends you on your stewardship and inspiring leadership of UNESCO as we transition our global communities from the millennium development targets to more sustainable targets. We acclaim the influence of UNESCO's vision in framing the sustainable development goals, and particularly its pivotal role in shaping the goals on education, oceans, clean water, science, technology and innovation, culture as a driver and enabler of development, information as a right and key to transparent governance, and the transformational powers of advancing the status of women and girls, as detailed in the Director-General's report. We commend your prompt response to our request for the return of the Young Professionals Programme, through which we hope to see many of our skilled and talented youth explore career options at UNESCO.

10.2 We thank the Preparatory Group for its core work on these processes and we endorse the statement made on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), which emphasized support for strengthening implementation of the regional and subregional action plans devised for our region under the various culture conventions. We have done a tremendous amount of work through UNESCO and regional governments, and with the help of extrabudgetary funds, particularly from the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands. So now, having developed action plans, we hope for more extensive implementation. Trinidad and Tobago, along with other small island developing States and those of us categorized as developing countries, continues to underscore the importance of UNESCO's efforts to

address core issues of development from the ground up. We are convinced that the new Sustainable Development Goals offer opportunities to reset the clock and to revise the failing approaches that have seen such tremendous gaps in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We believe that the roadmap for implementation of the new goals offers us all an opportunity to recreate development and its approaches and perspectives in the image of the world we want, and to combat persistent poverty and inequalities. In this regard, we commend the extremely important work being done by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in pursuing further the analysis of development indicators in the light of the MDG targets, and we support the draft resolution concerning SIDS countries, which are needed to broaden the process if the Sustainable Development Goals are to meet their targets effectively, for development that is truly sustainable, inclusive and egalitarian. The time has come for us to focus our attention and revisit and redress the misrepresentation of development indicators and the skewed categorizations of development generated by international economic databanks, and there is no better place to begin than here at UNESCO through the work of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. This skewing of realities by the development banks has deformed categorizations of development at global and national levels, in the developing world and in small, medium and large economies, and has misguided policy, decision-making, budgets and resource allocation, with the result that bad economic and consumption habits and practices of power and influence become entrenched, and contribute to the spiral of poverty, inequality, underdevelopment and the unfulfilled dimensions of the MDGs. We are dubbed small island States, but we challenge any representation of us as helpless and needy, that denies our rich resources of talent and people who function, against tremendous odds, to survive the high-handed, high-powered, hand-me-down directives and policies, institutional constipation and historically entrenched status quos that hinder our capacity to carve our societies in our own image and create the world we want. This is one of the core components of the democratic deficit that we believe needs to be redressed if we are to begin to correct the imbalances and fill the gaps in meeting the proposed sustainable development goals. UNESCO's relevance and its work to define development, to factor in intangible and marginalized components, and the nexus between social, cultural and economic development is now more relevant than ever. In this light too, we support the External Auditor's report in principle. We caution against the adoption of budgetary and programme recommendations that threaten diversity and inclusiveness, and participatory measures that do not fully recognize the more intangible and unique dimensions of UNESCO's work, as an incubator of ideas and a global think tank. We will support, in principle, reform of UNESCO's governance and operational mechanisms that will make this a more effective Organization but we also caution against any measures that do not honour the principles of diversity, participation and inclusiveness which are all part of UNESCO's raison d'être. I thank you.

11.1 **M. Niiazov** (Turkménistan) *in extenso* :

Les pères fondateurs de notre Organisation, il y a 70 ans, ont élaboré son Acte constitutif en se proposant 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, afin d'assurer le respect universel de la justice, de la loi, des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales pour tous, sans distinction de race, de sexe, de langue ou de religion, que la Charte des Nations Unies reconnaît à tous les peuples ». Un examen rétrospectif nous montre que les fondateurs de l'UNESCO ont décidemment été précurseurs. Soixante-dix ans plus tard, l'UNESCO est devenue une organisation internationale incontournable.

11.2 Hier, nous avons écouté attentivement la Directrice générale nous présenter des résultats rassurants sur l'activité de l'UNESCO, et nous rappeler que l'Organisation est reconnue par la communauté internationale comme une institution hautement spécialisée et qualifiée du système des Nations Unies. Nous avons également évoqué les problèmes qui se posent, ainsi que des propositions concrètes pour les surmonter. Si je compare l'UNESCO d'aujourd'hui à ce que j'ai découvert en 1991 en franchissant pour la première fois les portes de cette noble maison, je remarque qu'un grand pas a été fait, avec des changements considérables, ces dernières années notamment. Je tiens à féliciter la Directrice générale, le Président de la Conférence générale et le Président du Conseil exécutif qui ont travaillé en harmonie et avec imagination. Je voudrais par ailleurs faire observer que l'une des clés du succès de l'UNESCO est, bien sûr, la contribution du pays hôte, la France.

(*L'orateur poursuit en russe*)

11.3 Что касается Туркменистана и его отношений с ЮНЕСКО, то, безусловно, главное – это полное совпадение их целей. Туркменистан, через свое сотрудничество с ЮНЕСКО, с одной стороны, получает доступ к накопленному богатейшему опыту этой Организации для собственного развития, а с другой стороны, Туркменистан оказывает ей всяческое содействие, чтобы эта Организация успешно достигла своих весьма сложных уставных целей. Для Туркменистана приоритетом является, как это было объявлено с трибуны Генеральной Ассамблеи Организации Объединенных Наций Президентом Туркменистана Гурбангулы Бердымухамедовым, дальнейшее развитие науки, образования, культуры на примере лучшего мирового опыта. Устойчивое развитие каждой страны, и Туркменистана в частности, на наш взгляд, во многом зависит от состояния этих трех компонентов, они же определяющим образом влияют на гармоничное развитие международных отношений – взаимное доверие, уважение и сотрудничество.

11.4 Вот уже 20 лет, то есть со дня принятия Генеральной Ассамблеей Организации Объединенных Наций резолюции 50/80.А относительно постоянного нейтралитета Туркменистана, Туркменистан строго придерживается постоянного нейтралитета, и при этом принимает активное участие в работе многих международных организаций, в частности, системы Организации Объединенных Наций. Как мне кажется, гармоничное внутреннее развитие Туркменистана, в сочетании с его нейтральной внешней политикой приносит свои плоды в широком региональном масштабе и, на наш взгляд, этот опыт востребован далеко за пределами моей страны, особенно в условиях резкого обострения международной обстановки в наши дни. Туркменистан имеет достаточно развитую систему образовательных заведений всех уровней. В школах Туркменистана обязательно изучение трех языков. Вся наша образовательная система пронизана воспитанием высоких принципов национальной культуры, возрождению и развитию которой государство уделяет большое внимание. Нам кажется, что высокообразо-

ванный человек, и лишь он, может оценить и приумножить культурное наследие народов мира, способен терпимо относиться к культурному разнообразию других народов.

11.5 Внимательное отношение к этим двум взаимозависимым сферам нас обязывает к международному опыту, и мы считаем, что наиболее выгодной и наиболее эффективной инвестицией является инвестиция в образование и культуру. Конечно, нас, как и многих других, волнуют вопросы изменения климата, сохранения памятников мирового наследия во всех формах. И во всех этих вопросах мы поддерживаем начинания ЮНЕСКО. В заключение хотел бы еще раз подчеркнуть, что Туркменистан всесторонне поддерживал и будет поддерживать ЮНЕСКО во всех ее начинаниях для достижения целей, определенных на период до 2030 г. Спасибо за внимание.

(11.3) (*translation from the Russian*) Concerning Turkmenistan and its relations with UNESCO, the most important aspect is undeniably its agreement with the goals of the Organization. Through its cooperation with UNESCO, on the one hand, Turkmenistan has access to its accumulated wealth of experience for its own development, and on the other hand it renders assistance to the Organization in many areas, enabling it to successfully achieve its highly complex constitutional objectives. As the country's President, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, made clear during his statement to the General Assembly of the United Nations, it is a priority for Turkmenistan to ensure the continuing development of science education and culture in line with best international experiences. It is our view that the sustainable development of all countries, including Turkmenistan, depends to a great extent on the status of those three areas, which have a crucial effect on the harmonious conduct of international relations with mutual trust, respect and cooperation.

(11.4) It has been 20 years since the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 50/80 A on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, and Turkmenistan is strongly committed thereto, playing an active part in the work of many international organizations, including those of the United Nations system. I believe that the harmonious internal development of Turkmenistan, in combination with its neutral foreign policy, bears its fruits on a wide regional scale and, as we see it is needed far beyond my country's borders, particularly in the context of the rapid deterioration of today's worldwide situation. Turkmenistan has a well-developed system of educational institutions at all levels. Students in our schools are required to study three languages. Our whole education system is permeated by the teaching of the high principles of national culture, to whose revival and development the Government attaches great importance. We believe that highly educated people, and only such people, can appreciate and increase the cultural heritage of the peoples of the world and be able to take a tolerant approach to the cultural diversity of other peoples.

(11.5) Careful attention to these two interdependent areas binds us to international experience and we believe that the most beneficial and effective investment is in education and culture. We are, of course, like many others, concerned about climate change problems and the safeguarding of monuments. In all these areas we support UNESCO's initiatives. Lastly, I wish to emphasize once again that Turkmenistan comprehensively supports and will continue to support UNESCO in all its undertakings for the achievement of the goals which have been set for the period up to 2030. Thank you for your attention.

12.1 **Ms Nix-Hines** (United States of America)
in extenso:

Thank you Mr Chair. Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of its 70th anniversary, President Obama highlighted the international community's many accomplishments, including diplomatic cooperation between the world's major powers; a global economy that has lifted more than a billion people out of poverty; the spread of democracy and development on every continent; diseases conquered and hunger abated. Nonetheless, we face significant global challenges, from radical terror networks and the increased threat of foreign fighters to human suffering and the flight of refugees, devastating destruction and looting of cultural artefacts to attacks on journalists and suppression of dissent, a warming planet to persistent economic and gender inequality. Added to this daunting list is the fact that 126 million children are not in school.

12.2 As President Obama has noted, the scale of these problems has drawn criticism from some quarters to the effect that the ideals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations are unachievable or outmoded; that the Organization is an outdated legacy of a long-gone post-war era, and is unable to address present needs. UNESCO has faced similar sceptics who doubt the efficacy of an organization dedicated to international cooperation through education, science and culture. But to these deniers of the value of multilateral engagement, my Government's response is unequivocal: the mandate of UNESCO to build peace in the minds of men and women has never been more relevant or more pressing. Recognizing UNESCO's role in promoting peace and security, the United States recently invited the Director-General to speak, at the United Nations Leaders' Summit, on UNESCO's use of education as a tool to combat violent extremism. On 6 November, with the support of the United States and other partners, UNESCO will bring education ministers together to discuss the kinds of tools needed to equip young people to resist violent extremism and embrace global citizenship. Our draft resolution, co-sponsored by over 40 delegations, aims at solidifying and enhancing UNESCO's role in this crucial area. Clearly, we need a new, bold approach that diverts impressionable young people from taking up arms or strapping on suicide bombs.

12.3 Given UNESCO's engagement on a spectrum of strategic, urgent issues, it is not surprising that so many countries are vying for a place on its Executive Board. As a founding Member of this Organization, America understands and shares that interest. One overarching consideration prompted – indeed compelled – our conclusion that we should seek to preserve our leadership role: UNESCO embodies values and priorities that resonate deeply with the United States. For the 27 years I have known him, Barack Obama has pursued the values and priorities he believes are right. So much of what his Administration has been able to accomplish reflects an understanding that through dialogue, collaboration and relentless determination, we can make significant progress. Just look at what we have been able to

accomplish by applying those principles with our partners in the United Nations system – from reaching an historic deal with Iran to combating the threat of the Ebola virus in West Africa. Secretary of State John Kerry will come to UNESCO this Sunday for the exclusive purpose of discussing with Member States our commitment to advancing the Organization's work. His visit speaks volumes about the importance we attach to this institution. And so we must. All over the world, hurting, desperate, forgotten people need real help, and we must continue – every single day – to find creative and effective ways to bring them the very best UNESCO can offer. That requires innovation: not only in the field but also among ourselves, with improvements in our governance that will create opportunities for more strategic discussions and better follow-up of decisions. We believe America has a great deal to contribute to that mission, including implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, we understand the importance of being a full partner in this Organization, and in standing for re-election, we reiterate our determination to find a solution to our funding limitations. But even as we work to address these challenges, I firmly believe that right now, even with our constraints, my Government's commitment to this institution has never, ever been stronger. So as you consider the future of UNESCO and its leadership going forward, we hope you will count us in, not out. The United States of America and UNESCO, together, can still do big things. *Les Etats-Unis, ensemble avec l'UNESCO, peuvent faire de grandes choses. Merci*.

13.1 **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies and dear colleagues, a Board speech is a chance to reflect, but also a chance to look forward. For me it is a chance to reflect on four years serving the Board, the Member States and my own country. Over those four years, the Organization has faced many challenges. For us this is hard to watch, because this Organization was born in London, and it was born out of huge ambitions that still hold today. Thankfully we realized quickly that even a crisis brought an opportunity. The Board responded well by setting clear programme priorities, something which was very tough to do but is a consensus that still holds today. And this crisis gave the Organization the push it needed to cut back on waste and duplication, but we know that many cherished programmes have suffered, and many countries see less from UNESCO today than they did before.

13.2 Four years ago the process for developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was a complex and far off mystery, but we went through it and the result is a clear endorsement of the role and mandate of the Organization. But that is only the beginning. The Sustainable Development Goals are a fundamentally different set of development objectives and an approach which none of us has yet fully come to terms with. On the agenda of this Board, we have a very interesting paper that helps us start the discussion. In fact many of the papers proposed by Member States do the same thing. For instance, the paper proposed by Argentina and others gives us the chance to discuss how the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) can contribute. This is just the kind of discussion we should be having throughout the programmes. And of course in this Board we will also discuss the impact that extremism is having across all our programmes. From cultural destruction to radicalization in education, we see every day the expressions of hatred but we know that hatred is taught, not born. We have to make sure that future generations don't grow up becoming tomorrow's extremists, while simultaneously facing up to today's extremists. And we have to balance all that while responding to the basic challenge about education as a whole. Such is the impact of extremism across our programmes that I am beginning to wonder whether we shouldn't in fact designate that as our new global priority. Whatever we do in that area, we must make sure it is situated squarely within the United Nations effort and part of the United Nations plan for preventing violent extremism.

13.3 We will need to reimagine UNESCO to cope with all these challenges. For the United Kingdom, our guiding principle will always be the interests of the Organization, above everything else. We will need to work together to find sustainable financial solutions for the programmes people expect from UNESCO. And we will need an Organization that is capable of delivering on our ambitions, globally and in the field. Delivering on this will require attention to both programmes and the institution itself. And I am confident that this is a shared agenda. For instance, we share the ambitions set out by France for the Organization's future, the idea of Sweden's proposal for a sustainable finance dialogue, the concerns of Nigeria and Namibia about our field offices, and the concerns of Germany and El Salvador on recruitment. We share the wish expressed by China that when we talk of reform for UNESCO, we do so in the interests of the Organization. We recognize, like Brazil, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands and others that we have an opportunity right now to reform our governance, if we work together.

13.4 Numerous recent audits have come forward, arising out of worrisome situations. And those reports show that we were right to be concerned. But we are also optimistic because the reports show an Organization capable of facing its problems, and optimistic because of the commitment we are hearing from the Director-General to implement the recommendations: this shows an Organization willing to improve. Going forward, we want to be sure we are recruiting the best people transparently and fairly, and as quickly as possible; we want to be sure that donors can be confident that when they fund UNESCO, we will deliver on their expectations, and protect their money; and we want to be sure that what little resources we have are used to maximum effect. I challenge anyone to say they don't care about those things, especially if they care about UNESCO. But let us strike an optimistic note about those reforms needed. Maybe we should stop talking about reform and instead let's use the word rejuvenation. One example of responding to current challenges is that in the United Kingdom we will be significantly enhancing our own effort on cultural protection. We have just established a UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace; our ministers have committed to ratifying the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the Hague Convention); and we will establish a fund for cultural protection to support that work from next year. Mr Chair, I also want to thank you for your leadership, your friendship, and your guardianship of the Board's interests. I have one challenge to all of us Member States: you modernized the boardroom – can we modernize how we use it? The ball is in our court. I want to end with a special message to my friend from Belize. He said "The best is yet to come", and he is right. "The Best is Yet to Come" has been recorded by 17 different artists in the United Kingdom charts, and so far, it hasn't

made it to number one. Let's ask the UNESCO choir whether we can change that. Thank you.

14.1 **Ms Kadaré** (Albania) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Board, Albania aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Since this is the last session under your chairmanship, at the outset I would like to thank you, Mr Chair, for your outstanding work. It was an honour and a pleasure to work under your wise, firm and fair leadership, which successfully guided us through some quite complex discussions. I would also like to thank you for your tireless efforts to provide us with a beautifully renovated Room X.

(The speaker continued in French)

14.2 Chers collègues, il est certain que nous avons tous des ambitions élevées pour notre Organisation. Il nous semble qu'il existe aujourd'hui un consensus sur le fait que l'UNESCO ne peut plus continuer d'agir comme si de rien n'était au regard de l'adoption récente des nouveaux objectifs de développement durable pour 2030 mais aussi des enjeux financiers. En effet, avec un budget annuel de 250 millions de dollars, l'UNESCO est l'une des institutions les plus pauvres du système des Nations Unies. C'est pourquoi la gouvernance de l'Organisation doit s'adapter et devenir à la fois plus fluide, moins coûteuse et plus réactive. Dans cette optique, l'audit sur la gouvernance propose plusieurs recommandations intéressantes qui vont souvent dans la bonne direction, celle d'une gouvernance plus efficace, qui permettrait aux États membres de participer pleinement aux processus de décision et de suivi. Par ailleurs, elles complètent et rejoignent les propositions contenues dans le document relatif aux méthodes de travail du Conseil exécutif, dont l'Albanie est cosignataire. Nous soutenons ces propositions, notamment la mise en place d'un mécanisme de gouvernance continue, à travers des réunions intersession auxquelles participeraient, avec un statut d'observateur renforcé, les États qui ne sont pas membres du Conseil exécutif. En tant que petit pays qui siège rarement au Conseil, l'Albanie est particulièrement favorable à cette proposition. Plus généralement, il est temps pour l'Organisation d'oser un changement constructif, fondé sur les meilleures pratiques observées dans les autres organisations internationales.

14.3 En ce qui concerne la culture, la destruction déplorable du patrimoine culturel à laquelle nous assistons jour après jour est une source de préoccupation majeure. Dans ce contexte nous soutenons le renforcement de l'action de l'UNESCO visant à protéger le patrimoine culturel en cas de conflit armé et accueillons avec satisfaction les efforts déployés par l'Organisation pour tenter de répondre à ces menaces croissantes. La mise en œuvre des conventions, en particulier de celles qui touchent à la protection des biens culturels en cas de conflit armé et au trafic illicite des biens culturels, est également un important moyen d'action pour protéger le patrimoine dans ces situations, même si, nous le constatons chaque jour, leur impact reste malheureusement limité. Il est cependant nécessaire de rester pragmatiques et d'envisager des actions à la mesure des capacités réelles de l'Organisation, de ses missions et de ses priorités. Un équilibre viable devrait être trouvé pour permettre à l'UNESCO, sans négliger sa mission fondamentale, d'agir dans les situations de crise. Le Secteur de la culture devrait continuer à poursuivre ses objectifs primordiaux, qui visent à soutenir les pays du monde entier dans la mise en œuvre des conventions, afin d'élever des remparts face aux attaques intolérables perpétrées contre le patrimoine et la diversité culturelle.

(*L'oratrice poursuit en anglais*)

14.4 We are facing an unprecedented increasing threat of rising violent extremism worldwide. At such a critical moment, UNESCO has the responsibility to ensure that education is a central part of any policy response to prevent and counter violent extremism. UNESCO must lead the international community to an understanding of the power of education in creating a culture of peace, in fostering tolerance and respect - respect for others but also respect for oneself. Such a mission lies at the heart of the mandate of our Organization, created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The actors and challenges have since changed, but quality education still remains the most powerful defence against the propaganda of violence and hatred. This is why Albania supports the draft resolution under item 46 concerning UNESCO's leadership role in assisting the international community in implementing policies and programmes that use education to counter our common enemy: violent extremism.

14.5 Finally, my delegation would like to welcome the timely request of the Republic of Kosovo to join UNESCO. Dear colleagues, regardless of whether your country recognizes Kosovo or not, I hope we can all agree that leaving this country and its people isolated, without access to UNESCO programmes in education, science and culture, is not a good approach to help post-war Kosovo develop its society and economy. With a very young population, Kosovo has immense potential, and in order to channel this energy positively, it needs UNESCO's assistance and expertise in reforming its education system, building capacity in science and technology, building an inclusive knowledge society, and better protecting the rich and diverse cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, in its territory. Granting the citizens of Kosovo access to a global platform such as UNESCO will serve as a very positive incentive to encourage social cohesion, advance intercultural dialogue and promote human rights. We believe that there is no reason for an intellectual, multilateral forum such as UNESCO to say "no" to a country's aspiration for dialogue and cooperation. As the Director-General said yesterday, let's not forget that UNESCO is guided by a vision of humanity moving forward together, against all challenges, leaving no one behind. Thank you.

15. **The Chair** invited observers of Member States and of non-Member States to address the Board under Rule 30.3 of it Rules of Procedure.

16.1 **Mr Godia** (Permanent Delegate of Kenya to UNESCO) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides us with a framework for global action to build the future we all want. Kenya concurs on the relevance of UNESCO's mandate, which should be strengthened by building on our comparative advantage. The multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach to programme delivery is a strong point, which should be entrenched in UNESCO's action. UNESCO's role in the development of the Education 2030 Framework for Action clearly demonstrates how the Organization can take the lead in mobilizing governments and relevant stakeholders in the post-2015 development agenda. UNESCO is also well placed to contribute to the promotion of education as a tool to prevent violent extremism. The

social and human sciences are central to UNESCO's mandate and critical for social cohesion and reduction of inequalities. In this regard, Kenya welcomes the contribution of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) to the post-2015 development agenda. Further, Kenya welcomes the strong emphasis that the Sustainable Development Goals have placed on access to information and fundamental freedoms, which can be addressed particularly through our work in communication and information. Kenya also supports efforts to reinforce UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism. Finally, the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a specific sustainable development goal on education (SDG 4). I call on Member States to emphasize UNESCO's mandate in leading and coordinating SDG 4. Thank you for your attention.

17. **Mr Tanaskovic** (Permanent Delegate of Serbia to UNESCO) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair, Serbia attaches great importance to UNESCO and is dedicated to its mission. But today our hands are tied by an unacceptable political diversion – the introduction of a request from the so-called Republic of Kosovo for membership. This issue is of great concern to us and to many other Member States. Why? There are several "becauses". This request is a breach of international law, the Constitution of UNESCO, the legally binding Security Council resolution 1244 and the Charter of the United Nations. This unilateral attempt disrupts the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, where the issue of the Serbian cultural heritage has not yet been discussed. This is a politicization of UNESCO which should not override the competence of the Security Council or serve as the affirmation of the unilaterally declared independence of one part of a United Nations Member State. Because this would be a dangerous precedent, harmful for many countries. Besides not being a State, Pristina does not have moral credibility. Anyone aspiring to UNESCO membership must prove their commitment to its goals. That is incompatible with the deliberate demolition of Serbian cultural heritage, comparable to what the world is witnessing and UNESCO strongly condemning in the Middle East and elsewhere. Because the way this item has been included in the provisional agenda raises concerns about compliance with procedure and UNESCO's rules and practices. We hope that this kind of procedural game will not continue. We believe that this political issue should be discussed in Brussels, not in Paris. Are we really ready to bear the consequences that this choice will inevitably produce, from international illegality to the fate of Serbian cultural heritage in the provinces of Kosovo and Metohija. Are you really ready for that?

18.1 **Ms Spatolisano** (Permanent Delegate of the European Union to UNESCO) *in extenso:*

Mr Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. We have circulated the full European Union statement electronically to all, and it is available in paper form outside this room in case we cannot complete its delivery. This year has provided us with significant roadmaps to address the challenges ahead. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, following a truly inclusive process, demonstrates a renewed intent to move our collective commitments forward on every front of UNESCO's mandate. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the COP 21 agreement on climate change provide us with additional frameworks for action. Their effectiveness depends on all of us. The European Union will implement the 2030 Agenda in its internal and external policies, and it supports others in doing the same. United Nations system efforts to achieve this aim need to be cohesive and coherent; the role of UNESCO, including that of the Director-General, is central in this regard. We look forward to concrete and immediate discussions on this issue, and the debate on the Organization's next programme period will be an important step in this direction.

(*The speaker continued in French*)

18.2 Préoccupés par la persistance des destructions du patrimoine culturel, nous soulignons l'importance de la stratégie visant à renforcer l'action de l'UNESCO et des autres décisions des Nations Unies à cet égard. L'Union européenne s'engage à poursuivre sa collaboration étroite avec l'UNESCO et soutient les efforts que celle-ci mène, en lien étroit avec l'ensemble de ses partenaires clés.

(*L'oratrice poursuit en anglais*)

18.3 The European Union will continue also to uphold freedom of opinion and expression online and offline as a fundamental human right and cornerstone of democracy and peace. We welcome the decision on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. I also have to say that we remain concerned about the situation in Crimea (Ukraine) and request the Director-General to provide the Executive Board with an assessment of the situation together with information on planned action in its fields of competence.

١٩ **السيد زينال** (مجموعة السبعة والسبعين والصين) *النص الكامل:*

سيدي الرئيس، حيث أن المجتمع الدولي يواجه أزمات متعددة، فإن رسالة اليونسكو لتعزيز التفاهم المتبادل والحوار بين الثقافات وثقافة السلام لم تكن أبداً بالأهمية التي هي عليها اليوم، لذلك فإن مجموعة السبعة والسبعين والصين تدعم مبادرة اليونسكو "#متحدون مع التراث" ، وتدين تدمير التراث الثقافي، بما في ذلك المواقع الدينية في العراق والجمهورية العربية السورية، من قبل الجماعات الإرهابية كداعش وغيرها من الحركات المتطرفة.إن مجموعة السبعة والسبعين والصين تعيد التأكيد على رسالة اليونسكو ومبادئها الأساسية في الذكرى السنوية السبعين لتأسيسها، ونحن نعتقد أن هذه الدورة للمجلس التنفيذي ستعزز دور اليونسكو في تحقيق أهداف الأمم المتحدة للتنمية المستدامة، وخاصة الهدف الرابع حول التعليم. وإن مجموعة السبعة والسبعين والصين ترغب في أن ترى اليونسكو قوية لإحداث تغيير إيجابي على أرض الواقع في حياة الفئات الأكثر ضعفاً التي لا تزال تعيش في فقر مدقع، لذلك يتوجب تعزيز جميع البرامج المتعلقة بالقطاعات الخمسة والأولويتين العامتين والخاصتين بالمساواة بين الجنسين وأفريقيا، وذلك لتحقيق فوائد ملموسة تستفيد منها البلدان النامية والبلدان الأقل نمواً والدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية.وإن للاضطراب المناخي آثاراً سلبية على صحة وموارد وأمن شعوبنا، ونحن نرحب بالقرار ١٧٩م ت/٤٥ الذي اعتُمد في هذا الصدد، ونؤيد البند ٤١ بشأن اليوم الدولي للدفاع عن النظام الإيكولوجي لغابات المانغروف، كما أننا نسلط الضوء على دور إدارة برنامج التحولات الاجتماعية ، وندعم مشروع القرار ١٩٧م ت/٣٩ بشأن تنفيذ اتفاق السلام والمصالحة الموقَّع في مالي. وإن مجموعة السبعة والسبعين والصين تؤيد بقوة التعاون فيما بين بلدان الجنوب والجنوب. وشكراً جزيلاً.

(19) **Mr Zainal** (Group of 77 and China) *in extenso* (*translation from the Arabic*):

Mr Chair, as the international community faces multiple crises, UNESCO's mission to promote mutual understanding, dialogue among cultures and the culture of peace has never been as important as it is today. The Group of 77 and China thus supports

UNESCO's initiative "#Unite4Heritage" and condemns the destruction of cultural heritage, including religious sites, in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic by terrorist groups such as Daesh and other extremist movements. The Group of 77 and China reaffirm the mandate and fundamental principles of UNESCO on the occasion of its 70th anniversary and we believe that this session of the Executive Board will strengthen UNESCO's role in the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 4 on education. The Group of 77 and China wishes to see a UNESCO that is empowered to make positive change on the ground, in the lives of the most vulnerable that remain in extreme poverty. All five programme sectors of UNESCO must therefore be promoted, as well as the global priorities of gender equality and Africa, so as to deliver concrete benefits to developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States. Climate disruption has adverse effects on the health, resources and security of our peoples and we welcome the draft decision under item **45** on this matter. We support item **41** regarding the international day for the defence of the mangrove ecosystem. We highlight the role of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) and we support the draft decision in document 197 EX/39 on implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Group of 77 and China also strongly advocates South-South cooperation. Thank you.

20. **The Chair** thanked the observers and invited the President of the General Conference to take the floor.

21.1 **The President of the General Conference** (*in extenso*)*:*

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Members of the Executive Board, Ambassadors, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It is my great pleasure to be here with you again. This is the last session of the Board before the 38th General Conference. We spent two years working together and we have become good friends and got to know each other better. At this last session, we have a lot to share with each other, about the Organization, about its future, and about things we want to do together. I listened carefully to your speeches and I learned a lot. We have so much common understanding and shared vision of our common destiny. It is also the last session that I attend as President of General Conference. Time flies. It feels like yesterday when I opened the 193rd session of the Executive Board. Since then, I have had the honour to attend four sessions of the Board and work with ambassadors and delegates to ensure the effective implementation of adopted programmes. I wish to thank the Director-General for her very informative report. Under her leadership UNESCO has met over 90% of the targets and goals set by the last General Conference. These achievements would not have been possible without the joint efforts of and close cooperation between the Executive Board, the Secretariat and all the Member States.

21.2 Ladies and gentlemen, this Board meeting comes at a time when we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Organization; 70 years of history is not short for an organization whose importance is revealed with time. Looking back on the history of the Organization, I would like to recall my recent visit to the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Havana, Cuba. I wish to thank the Ambassador of Cuba for her generous hospitality and kind organization. I was deeply impressed by the preservation of the archives of the creation of the Havana Office, which was the first field office established outside Headquarters, 70 years ago. I also had the privilege to read the earliest series of *The UNESCO Courier* magazine, released in the year 1968, demonstrating the intercultural dialogue and exchanges at that time. Today, I feel more than ever the need to call for the reaffirmation of our commitment and the continuity of our actions to fulfil the mission of the Organization.

21.3 Ladies and gentlemen, as highlighted by ambassadors in the general debate, UNESCO's mission is far from being accomplished. Terrorism, conflicts and violence are still challenging our world. The recent tide of refugees is a warning that immediate action should be taken to stop the tragedy. A new period for UNESCO will start now, as this Board meeting will be preparing for the 38th session of the General Conference. The future of the Organization depends on how well it can respond to the needs of the Member States for equitable and sustainable development, and contribute to the peace of humanity. We need to treasure the core value leading to the achievements of the Organization, which is the solidarity and mutual support of all Member States of this family. We may have differences, sometimes sharp disagreements, but we can always find a way in the spirit of mutual respect and equal dialogue.

21.4 Ladies and gentlemen, in the coming meetings, we will have a range of important subjects to deal with. In particular, we will continue to put forward reforms of the Organization, to bring effective responses to challenges in a profoundly transformed world. Yet, I believe that we will tackle every challenge with united commitment and synergy. After this session new Executive Board Members will be elected at the 38th session of the General Conference. Some permanent delegates will leave the Board, and some will go on to new positions. Despite this change, the solidarity and friendship among Board members will go on. As for me, I'll cherish their dear friendship forever. Finally, I would like to express my highest appreciation to Mr Mohamed Amr for his leadership, and to the Board for overseeing the implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to you, Madam Director-General, for your great efforts to lead the Organization to fit its purpose. I am confident that the work of this session will ensure a successful 38th session of the General Conference. Thank you.

22. **The Chair** thanked the President of the General Conference for the support he had shown the Executive Board over the past two years by attending its meetings and sharing his wisdom. He invited the Director-General to make her reply to the statements made during the plenary debate.

Reply by the Director-General to the plenary debate

23.1 **La Directrice générale** *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer ma gratitude pour la confiance que vous m'avez témoignée en tant que Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pendant le débat général. Je suis très reconnaissante de la confiance que vous placez dans le Secrétariat et dans son personnel. Ce Conseil est unanime à souligner, comme l'a clairement exprimé

l'Indonésie, que « le rôle de l'UNESCO n'a jamais été aussi important ». Cette déclaration, explicite et précise, a trouvé un fort écho dans de nombreuses interventions, notamment dans celle que la distinguée représentante des États-Unis vient de faire, quand elle a déclaré : « le mandat de l'UNESCO consistant à édifier la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes n'a jamais été si pertinent ni si urgent ». Et au milieu des défis, immenses, dont vous avez lucidement dressé le panorama – les défis du développement durable, les défis de l'extrémisme violent, les défis de l'éradication de la pauvreté, les défis du changement climatique –, vous avez tenu à évoquer les avancées positives, la « confiance » dans l'avenir et un certain « optimisme » – souligné par le Brésil, par Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis et bien d'autres – quant à la « transformation » de l'UNESCO, maître mot du discours du distingué représentant du Belize. Cette confiance, c'est le message du Prix Nobel de la Paix attribué au quartet pour le dialogue national qui a permis de relancer le processus démocratique en Tunisie et de sauver les acquis de la révolution de Jasmin. C'est la preuve qu'il y a, malgré les difficultés, des forces capables de maintenir le cap. La confiance, c'est aussi l'adoption de sa nouvelle Constitution par le Népal, une étape majeure, même si les défis restent nombreux. J'ai ressenti, hier et ce matin, une très grande confiance envers l'UNESCO et la ferme volonté d'aller de l'avant. L'UNESCO est en passe de sortir de la phase introspection, a déclaré la France, et c'est le moment d'avancer dans la sérénité et en confiance. L'UNESCO a contribué activement à l'élaboration du programme pour l'après-2015, a déclaré le GRULAC, et c'est exactement ce qui s'est passé. L'Objectif 4 est né à l'UNESCO, a dit El Salvador. « L'UNESCO est l'une des agences les plus influentes du système », a estimé l'Ukraine.

23.2 Cette confiance envers l'Organisation tient à plusieurs choses. C'est d'abord la satisfaction de voir que les valeurs et les idées que l'UNESCO défend depuis plusieurs années comme indispensables au développement ont été pleinement intégrées dans l'Agenda 2030 : l'éducation de qualité, la culture, l'innovation, l'éducation au service du développement durable, la gestion de l'eau, la protection de l'océan et bien d'autres. Vous l'avez tous souligné. Cette reconnaissance consacre d'ailleurs le rapprochement de l'UNESCO avec l'ensemble du système onusien, qui était un point clé de la réforme de l'Organisation. Cette confiance vient également d'une analyse de la réalité des programmes de l'UNESCO et de leur mise en œuvre à travers plusieurs exemples, dont la reconstruction des mausolées de Tombouctou est certainement le symbole le plus éclatant. Je saisis cette occasion pour appeler l'ensemble des États membres à contribuer davantage au Fonds d'urgence pour la préservation des manuscrits du Mali.

23.3 Cette confiance n'est pas de la flagornerie. La confiance aide à la bonne gestion et contribue à la réforme. C'est par la confiance *envers* l'UNESCO que l'on peut fortifier la confiance *au sein* de l'UNESCO, le dialogue transparent entre toutes ses parties prenantes, l'échange d'information entre les États membres et le Secrétariat, et les discussions franches, ouvertes, sur le destin de cette Maison commune. La confiance donne l'énergie nécessaire pour aller de l'avant, pour faire valoir une « vision prospective » comme le soulignent le Maroc et la République dominicaine, pour passer « des paroles aux actes », selon les mots des représentants de l'Allemagne et de l'Autriche. Je suis encouragée par les très nombreuses initiatives proposées par vos pays qui témoignent de cet élan : l'initiative pour une équipe spéciale « Unis pour le patrimoine », lancée par la voix de S. E. M. Mario Giro, Secrétaire d'État aux affaires étrangères de l'Italie ; la décision de la République tchèque de faire une contribution au Fonds pour la protection des biens culturels en cas de conflit armé, qui est une marque d'engagement fort – j'appelle à cette occasion tous les États à contribuer à ce Fonds ; l'initiative de la Suède en faveur d'un réseau des amis de l'enseignement et de la formation techniques et professionnels (EFTP) ; l'initiative du Japon en vue d'accroître la transparence des nominations au Registre de la Mémoire du monde ; l'initiative du Groupe des États d'Afrique pour l'établissement d'une journée mondiale du patrimoine culturel africain, le 5 mai ; l'initiative de la Norvège pour des « Écoles sûres » et la déclaration adoptée au mois de mai à ce sujet, qui a déjà été signée par plus de 49 pays et à laquelle j'appelle tous les États membres à s'associer en vue de la manifestation qui sera organisée le 3 novembre prochain pendant la Conférence générale, en présence du Prince héritier Haakon Magnus de Norvège.

23.4 Cette énergie, Mesdames et Messieurs, rappelle combien l'UNESCO est un laboratoire d'idées dynamique, un lieu de débat comme il y en a peu dans le monde. Si je prends le seul exemple de la culture, qu'il s'agisse du lien entre culture et développement, de la notion nouvelle de « nettoyage culturel », qui fait son chemin, ou encore de la prise en compte de la culture dans les interventions d'urgence, les idées de l'UNESCO aiguillent le débat, et je rejoins la Fédération de Russie pour dire que ce sont des idées neuves, dont il faut débattre et discuter sérieusement. Car une idée ne vaut que si elle est mise en œuvre, vous l'avez souligné. Cela demande des moyens, des ressources, un budget. Il faut des moyens pour les petits États insulaires en développement, qui sont « en première ligne de la vulnérabilité » au regard du changement climatique, comme l'a souligné le distingué représentant de Maurice, appuyé par Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis, la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée et Trinité-et-Tobago. Il faut des moyens pour assurer l'observation de l'océan et sa gestion durable. La prochaine conférence COP-21 revêt naturellement une importance capitale à cet égard, en lien avec les Orientations de Samoa, car vous l'avez bien dit : l'enjeu est non seulement climatique et scientifique mais aussi éthique, puisque ce sont souvent ceux qui contribuent le moins au réchauffement climatique qui en souffrent le plus.

23.5 Il faut des moyens pour poursuivre la réforme du dispositif hors Siège, et je suis parfaitement d'accord avec la Namibie et le Groupe des États d'Afrique qui considèrent que la situation actuelle n'est pas satisfaisante. J'ai lu attentivement le rapport d'audit à ce sujet. J'entends les recommandations et les propositions qui sont faites et je serai très claire et très franche avec vous. Comme je l'ai dit hier : nous avons fait tout ce que nous pouvions faire dans les limites de nos ressources. Nous avons constitué ce nouveau dispositif en étroite coopération avec le Groupe des États d'Afrique, y compris pour décider des lieux d'implantation des bureaux. Mais il faut se rendre à l'évidence : nous n'avons pas disposé des ressources suffisantes pour mener la réforme à son terme. Il faut investir davantage et recruter du personnel qualifié, sinon nous n'aurons réussi qu'à moitié. « La question est de savoir si nous avons les bons outils, les compétences nécessaires et le soutien financier suffisant pour assumer nos responsabilités », s'est interrogé le Groupe des États d'Asie et du Pacifique. L'UNESCO a besoin de son budget

intégral, selon le Mali et bien d'autres. Le mandat de l'UNESCO doit être financé, sous peine de se diluer, a estimé le représentant du Pakistan. Car l'action de mise en œuvre relève d'abord de la responsabilité des États membres, que l'UNESCO doit accompagner et soutenir. Les représentants de l'Éthiopie et de l'Ouganda l'ont parfaitement exprimé : l'UNESCO a réussi à « tenir bon », mais il ne suffit plus aujourd'hui de « tenir bon » : il faut mettre en œuvre. Or, « comment concilier l'exigence de résultat avec un manque de ressources humaines et financières » ? C'est pour cette raison que je remercie encore une fois la Suède de sa contribution remarquable de 54 millions de dollars – un geste de confiance en ces temps difficiles – et que je soutiens son appel à établir un dialogue structuré sur les financements. Il est indispensable de veiller à ce que toutes les ressources contribuent à la flexibilité, à la prévisibilité et à la stabilité de notre budget global. Il est impératif d'intégrer ces critères dans la stratégie de mobilisation des ressources qui sera discutée lors de cette session et nous sommes entièrement disposés à débattre de ces questions avec vous, membres du Conseil exécutif. Le Secrétariat a déjà fait beaucoup pour améliorer la transparence, le suivi, la reddition des comptes et l'accès aux données : ce dialogue structuré est clairement la nouvelle frontière de notre effort budgétaire.

(*La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais*)

23.6 Excellencies, implementation has been the leitmotif running through this debate. Implementing the 2030 Agenda. Delivering on UNESCO's mandate. Taking forward the shared values of UNESCO. Member States have made clear the challenges facing the world today: poverty, deepening inequalities, societies in transformation; conflict, humanitarian crises, refugee flows; violent extremism, the war crimes of cultural cleansing; a planet facing increasing pressure. Member States made equally clear what is at stake: human rights and dignity; resilient societies able to withstand change; more just and sustainable paths to poverty eradication and sustainable development; stronger foundations for peace. As you said yourself, Mr Chair, all Executive Board sessions are important, but this one is perhaps especially important – after the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, and before the 38th session of the General Conference, when leaders from across the world will decide on future orientations for UNESCO, and the important COP 21 conference on climate. Member States have spoken of a "historic moment", for all societies, for the planet, for UNESCO also.

23.7 As I said, together, we have taken great strides to strengthen the Organization. But we must do more: this is my absolute determination. This requires the commitment expressed by every Member State, for which I am deeply grateful. As you have said, this also requires greater support to the Organization, to provide it with the resources it needs to lead. The distinguished delegate of China spoke of the long-term vision that must guide the Organization, its action and its reform. I see this as the essence of the UNESCO approach. The founding idea of this Organization – to build the defences of peace in the minds of women and men – is, by definition, work for the long term: to empower women and men, through education, the sciences and freedom of expression; to strengthen the resilience of societies; to safeguard cultural heritage and diversity as sources of identity and belonging, as drivers for sustainable development; to support governments in eradicating poverty, harnessing new information and communication technologies, empowering girls and women and responding to climate change.

23.8 Member States underlined the power of UNESCO's holistic approach, founded on humanist values, based on human rights and dignity. The distinguished delegates of the Netherlands and Estonia, and many others, spoke of the importance of UNESCO's work in advancing freedom of expression. I am determined to take this forward, including through the international conference on news organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals, to be held with media organizations in February 2016, and sponsored by Austria and Sweden, as underscored by their distinguished delegates. I welcome the support of Member States represented by the distinguished delegates of Egypt and China for UNESCO's work to counter youth radicalization on the Internet, including the international conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism, held in June 2015. I once again thank Egypt, China and Bulgaria for their support for that conference. Under UNESCO's new integrated Framework of Action – Empowering Youth to Build Peace, I am taking forward Youth 2.0: Building Skills, Bolstering Peace to support young women and men as global citizens online.

23.9 The distinguished delegate of Indonesia spoke of culture and cultural diversity as, in his words, "a basic moral guide for all development". I believe this is the essence of UNESCO's action. UNESCO helped Mali to rebuild the heritage destroyed by violent extremists – this is about the human rights and dignity of the people of Mali. It is also about the rights and dignity of every woman and man, each of us, to whom this heritage also belongs. Speaking on behalf of GRULAC, the distinguished delegate of Ecuador said that the "memory of our peoples which represents, paradoxically, the history of the future". I couldn't agree more. UNESCO's action to safeguard cultural heritage and diversity is our quintessential work for the long term – the basis for development that is sustainable, for peace that is lasting. I am determined to do everything to strengthen UNESCO's action in defending culture in conflict, to halt trafficking in cultural goods, to stop the financing of extremism and terrorism. UNESCO is thus contributing to the plan of action and the strategy that the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, will soon present to the United Nations General Assembly. This is our strong message on how to prevent radicalization and terrorist acts, and how to stop the financing of extremism. In this spirit, I welcome the forthcoming Nordic initiative for enhanced international collaboration, including the conference in Oslo in December. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate that heritage, in all forms – natural, cultural, intangible and documentary, and its recognition, is a force to unite and not divide, to deepen dialogue between cultures, to foster international cooperation around shared values of peace and mutual understanding.

23.10 Member States – including Ecuador, Angola, Argentina and the Dominican Republic – underlined the importance of eradicating poverty and deepening social inclusion, highlighting the vital role of the MOST programme, and of strengthening research-based knowledge to shape more effective policies. I am deeply grateful for the resounding support for UNESCO's leadership in shaping Sustainable Development Goal 4 (quality education).This goal captures our holistic and humanistic vision, recognizing the importance of education for sustainable development, education for human rights, education for global citizenship, as a human right, as the

foundation for resilience, as a response to violent extremism. I thank all Member States again for their support for this groundbreaking process, and of course my main gratitude goes once again to the Republic of Korea for all the support they provided to make the World Education Forum a success. All Member States drew attention to the Education 2030 Framework for Action to be endorsed by the General Conference, providing an innovative and inclusive platform to support and guide governments, United Nations agencies and the global community. Financing will indeed be essential, as agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and I look forward also to the work of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, to which UNESCO will actively contribute. Let me say at this juncture how much I appreciate the contribution of the co-convenors, the Prime Minister of Norway, the Presidents of Malawi, Indonesia and Chile, and of course the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Mr Gordon Brown.

23.11 UNESCO will continue to bring the same long-term perspective to supporting the sciences for the sustainable development of all societies. This was emphasized by many Member States, including the distinguished delegates of Japan and Gabon. I thank the distinguished delegates for underlining the importance of UNESCO's work on water, biodiversity, climate change and the environment – all essential to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. The distinguished delegate of Angola, speaking for the Africa Group, underlined UNESCO's work to bridge the digital divide to support new technologies for the benefit of every society, every man and woman.

23.12 Member States highlighted the importance of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris, and UNESCO's contribution through the thematic days on 3 and 4 December dedicated to the Ocean and Climate 2015 Platform, the Global Ocean Forum, the International Conference on Water, Megacities and Global Changes, to be held at UNESCO from 1 to 4 December, an event on climate change and mountains as well as side events on key findings of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report and the pivotal role of water in climate change adaptation and mitigation. I think also that the important forthcoming conference on indigenous peoples and sustainable development is a contribution to COP 21. The distinguished delegate of El Salvador reminded us of the extreme vulnerability of many societies, and the urgency of UNESCO's contribution across the board.

23.13 I thank Member States for their wholehearted support for UNESCO's work in promoting our other priority: I have in mind gender equality. Our action to empower girls and women, through education, the sciences, and freedom of expression, has never been so important, and I wish to underline the groundbreaking initiative of the World Assembly for Women 2015, which was held at the end of August in Tokyo and guided by the leadership and vision of Prime Minister Abe, and in which I had the honour to participate.

23.14 Earlier today, ladies and gentlemen, Dr Karan Singh, the distinguished delegate of India, said: "Together, we must put forward a new narrative of shared values, of humanity as a single family, convinced that we need to make new alliances to meet the challenges of violent extremism.". This, I believe, is the unique role of UNESCO in these turbulent times: to embody a vision of societies in all their diversity united around the shared values of humanity as a single community. I do believe, and I see it in your statements, that UNESCO's flag flies high today, in the global agenda and in national strategies. We all have commitment and determination, and now we must ensure that the Organization has the support it needs to continue leading. I would like to take this opportunity once again to most wholeheartedly thank the Chair for his leadership and every Member State for their commitment. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the President of the General Conference for his vision and his encouragement – I would say his personal encouragement towards me as Director-General of the Organization. I believe, moving forward to the 38th session of the General Conference under the leadership of the Chair of the Executive Board and the President of the General Conference, we will be stronger and more committed, and I am sure we are all wishing and working for its success. Thank you, Mr Chair.

24. **The Chair** expressed the Executive Board's appreciation to the Director-General for all her efforts in the service of UNESCO, and opened the floor to Members for the question-and answer-session.

Questions and answers with the Director-General

25. The representative of **Indonesia**, after affirming his trust in UNESCO, which, in the light of widespread conflict, violence and poverty, was more important than ever, said that he had two questions. Had the Organization ever conducted a scientific study on the causes of recent conflicts? Such information could be used to design new approaches to living together and would, in addition, demonstrate that UNESCO was present on that front. In the Director-General's view, was there too much emphasis in the fields of education, culture, science and the media on teaching people how to know and do, and not enough emphasis on teaching them to be, and to live together? As his country's late President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the current President Joko Widodo had said, it was not about "I" and "me" but about "we" and "us".

26. The representative of **Nepal** said that his country wished to reiterate its commitment to democracy and fundamental human rights, guaranteed by its newly-promulgated Constitution. Nepal, with its wealth of natural resources, had been preparing to embark on a period of strong economic activity, but had suffered a setback when a major earthquake struck on 25 April 2015, causing massive damage. He was confident, however, that Nepal could rebuild the schools and restore the cultural heritage affected, with help from UNESCO and the entire global community.

27. La représentante du **Maroc** salue tout d'abord les efforts déployés par la Directrice générale et les États membres en vue de valoriser et de faire reconnaître le rôle de l'UNESCO dans la plupart des objectifs de l'Agenda 2030. Cependant, elle se demande si l'UNESCO, au-delà de son rôle conceptuel, ne devrait pas entamer une réévaluation des synergies des institutions onusiennes dans le cadre du nouveau programme adopté, de façon à éviter les activités redondantes et à rationaliser l'action des institutions et des États sur le terrain. Abordant ensuite la problématique de l'environnement et la tenue imminente de la COP-21, elle rappelle que le Maroc

accueillera la COP-22 en 2016 et que, compte tenu de l'importance des enjeux, il s'est associé à la France et au Pérou pour présenter un projet de décision sur la question. Elle aimerait savoir comment l'UNESCO prévoit d'accompagner la COP-21 et plus concrètement, les États, dans l'application des recommandations qui seront formulées.

28.1 **The Director-General** said that she was grateful to the representative of Indonesia for reminding the Organization of the spirit of togetherness and quest for diversity captured so well in the eloquent and powerful messages delivered by its former and current Presidents. She agreed that learning "to be" was an important dimension of education, in particular education for global citizenship, which focused on ethics and learning to live together. UNESCO, in conjunction with partners in the academic world and civil society, was most definitely seeking to understand the causes of recent conflicts through the process of holding conferences on such topics as radicalization of youth, protection of the heritage and the rapprochement of cultures. The aim was to identify the root causes of conflict in order to adopt the best approach to preventing it.

28.2 UNESCO would support Nepal's new Constitution and its efforts to build a democracy and would do everything within its mandate to help that process move forward. With regard to the earthquake, a UNESCO team had already visited the Kathmandu Valley site and submitted a preliminary report on the damage, and fundraising had begun for restoration of the temples, which were regarded as a historic treasure.

28.3 Poursuivant en français, la Directrice générale indique à l'intention du Maroc que l'UNESCO doit en effet s'impliquer, au-delà de l'élaboration de l'Agenda 2030, à un niveau plus pratique. Elle est tout à fait consciente du fait que les États membres attendent désormais de l'UNESCO qu'elle mette en œuvre son approche de la coopération au sein du système des Nations Unies et fasse en sorte que la question de la mise en œuvre de cet Agenda en étroite collaboration entre les différents organismes, fonds et programmes soit au cœur des débats du Conseil des chefs de secrétariat, dirigé par le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, et du Comité de haut niveau sur la gestion, présidé par elle-même. La difficulté pour l'UNESCO, en tant qu'institution spécialisée, est la suivante : comment sera-t-elle intégrée dans l'approche du Conseil économique et social et du Forum politique de haut niveau chargé d'assurer le suivi de la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030, ainsi que dans le processus d'élaboration de la résolution relative à l'Examen quadriennal complet qui sera adoptée à l'automne 2016 ? Comment sera-t-il tenu compte de la spécificité des différentes institutions du système ? Il convient d'ajuster de manière assez fine la collaboration entre les programmes, les fonds et organismes des Nations Unies afin d'en rationaliser l'action. En ce qui concerne l'environnement, la Directrice générale salue l'engagement tripartite du Pérou, de la France et du Maroc sur la question des enjeux climatiques et donne la parole à la Sous-Directrice générale pour les sciences exactes et naturelles pour davantage de précisions.

29. **Ms Schlegel** (Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences – ADG/SC) said that among the major events that UNESCO had organized in the lead-up to COP 21 were the Business and Climate Summit in May, World Oceans Day 2015 in June, a scientific conference held in July, organized jointly with France, the forthcoming UNESCO Youth Forum dedicated to climate change, to be held at the end of October, and a two-day conference on indigenous peoples and climate change, to held in November. UNESCO, together with its partners, would also be present at the dedicated civil society area at the COP 21 conference site to present an overview of its activities in all sectors. The United Nations Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board, which was hosted by UNESCO, would be presenting a policy brief on issues relating to climate risks at a side event during COP 21. Furthermore, UNESCO was ready to contribute, in the same spirit of cooperation that had prevailed with the host countries of COP 20 (Peru) and COP 21 (France), to the preparations for COP 22, which would be hosted by Morocco. The Organization would provide support to States in implementing the outcomes of COP 21, although the targets and indicators for the sustainable development goal on climate change would not be drawn up until early 2016.

30. The representative of **Saint Kitts and Nevis** asked the Director-General how she envisaged UNESCO's leadership role in implementing goals for tertiary education under the post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Small island developing States in the Caribbean and elsewhere had performed well in the last two years with regard to school enrolment rates for primary education, but that had not been matched by rates for tertiary education, including universities and technical and professional education.

31. El representante de la **Argentina** agradece a la Directora General que haya retomado la cuestión planteada por el GRULAC respecto de los temas sociales. Está de acuerdo en la necesidad de reforzar el trabajo del Programa MOST y, en este sentido, destaca el hecho de que esta necesidad no solo haya sido reconocida por el GRULAC y varios países de su región, sino también por países de otras regiones, algo que puede contribuir a fortalecer la función de la UNESCO a este respecto. Pese a que, en la Organización, los temas sociales históricamente fueron planteados por los países en desarrollo, las actuales migraciones masivas muestran que estas cuestiones atañen a todos los países y que la UNESCO puede desempeñar una función más relevante en este ámbito. Tras observar cómo las migraciones han pasado a ser una cuestión importante al afectar a los países del Norte, mientras que no recibieron la misma atención cuando se trataba de migraciones Sur-Sur, aunque millones de personas huyeran de la violencia o la pobreza, el orador reconoce que las migraciones están generando problemas relacionados con la identidad cultural, pero también casos graves de discriminación que son contrarios a los principios básicos de la Constitución de la UNESCO y a la posibilidad de la integración cultural de todas las personas. Manifiesta, por último, la disposición de la Argentina a apoyar actividades en este ámbito y pregunta qué más puede hacer la UNESCO para generalizar una toma de conciencia sobre esta problemática.

(31) The representative of **Argentina** thanked the Director-General for having taken up the question raised by GRULAC regarding social issues. He agreed with the need to strengthen the work of the MOST programme and, in that regard, emphasized that it had been recognized, not only by GRULAC and several countries in his region, but also by countries in other regions; this could help to strengthen UNESCO's work in that respect. Although, historically, social issues had been raised within the Organization

by developing countries, today's mass migrations showed that these issues concerned all countries and that UNESCO could play a more important part in this situation. Migrations had become an important issue now that they affected countries in the North; they had not received the same attention when they were South-South migrations, although millions of people were fleeing from violence or poverty. Migrations were posing problems in relation to cultural identity but also serious cases of discrimination which were contrary to the basic principles of the UNESCO Constitution and the opportunity of cultural integration for all. Lastly, he stated that Argentina was prepared to support activities in that area and asked what more UNESCO could do to promote widespread awareness of the problem.

32. La representante de la **República Dominicana** reconoce el gran trabajo realizado por la UNESCO en relación con el patrimonio y la movilización de la Directora General para introducir esta cuestión en la agenda internacional, lo que ha permitido a la UNESCO asumir el liderazgo en esta área y, sobre todo, promover una concepción del patrimonio que no se refiere solamente a la protección de los monumentos, sino también de la memoria y la identidad. En cuanto a los efectos de las migraciones masivas actuales, no solo en Europa, sino también en países cercanos (como Jordania, el Líbano o Turquía), retoma lo dicho por el representante de la Argentina y pregunta cuál es la reflexión de la UNESCO sobre la manera de abordar la cuestión de la educación en esa región ante este escenario nuevo, con millones de niños desplazados.

(32) The representative of the **Dominican Republic** recognized the considerable achievements of UNESCO in relation to heritage and the Director-General's efforts to place this issue on the international agenda, which had enabled UNESCO to show leadership in that area, and above all to promote a concept of heritage which did not refer only to protecting monuments but also to memory and identity. As for the consequences of the current mass migrations, not only in Europe but also in neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, her delegation agreed with what had been said by the representative of Argentina and asked what was UNESCO's thinking regarding how the issue of education in that region should be treated in the light of the new situation, with millions of displaced children.

33. **The Director-General** said that of the 58 million children who were not in school, 34 million were living in conflict zones. In addition, most of the three million children who were internally displaced or in refugee camps in Syria and Iraq were also likely to be out of school. Those children represented a lost generation, yet it was impossible to fight extremism without them. A mere 2% of international humanitarian aid went into education, only one-tenth of what was needed. Encouraging news had come recently from the European Union, when, in response to her plea for increased funding for education under the humanitarian aid budget, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management had mentioned 4% as a target to aim for in future. With the support of partners, including Kuwait and the European Union, UNESCO had been able to provide assistance to host countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq, whose education systems had come under huge pressure from influxes of migrants.

34. **Mr Tang** (Assistant Director-General for Education - ADG/ED), responding to the question raised by the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis, said that access to university education was one of the targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was up to governments to transform the 2030 targets into national goals and to take steps to attain them. UNESCO's role in that process was to facilitate government efforts. In respect of the Caribbean States, UNESCO could support national efforts by, for example, helping those States to build capacity through links between Caribbean universities and university networks in other regions, or by working to ensure quality assurance in the area of higher education. As part of the effort to improve access to higher education, the Organization was in the process of revising its Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean.

35. **Ms Al-Nashif** (Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences – ADG/SHS) said that she wished to express her appreciation to the Government of Argentina for its active leadership in the field of social transformations, issues that were now effectively "owned" by the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set forth universally transformative goals based on human rights issues, the Social and Human Sciences Sector would be granting priority to the strengthening of social inclusion. On another front, the Global Migration Group, of which UNESCO was a member, was trying to adopt a more consistent approach to the issue of international migration. The Organization had recently participated in a conference entitled "Welcoming cities – keys for an anti-racist culture", organized by The European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR), and it had been actively involved in the process of drafting a new urban agenda in preparation for the Habitat III conference on cities and human settlements in 2016. Also under review was the idea of revitalizing humanities studies, which were critical to social cohesion but had suffered from budget cuts in many countries.

36. Le représentant du **Togo** note que l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 confère de nouvelles responsabilités à l'Organisation en sa qualité de chef de file pour un certain nombre d'objectifs. Il fait observer que la contribution qu'on attend de l'UNESCO sera principalement d'ordre intellectuel, liée au renforcement des capacités en matière d'éducation, ce qui pose le problème des ressources humaines disponibles dans les différents domaines de compétence de l'Organisation et notamment de leur profil. Il souhaite savoir si une réflexion est en cours à ce sujet afin de répondre le mieux possible aux nouveaux enjeux, et s'il est prévu de saisir l'occasion du plan de départs volontaires, qui a paraît-il permis de libérer une quarantaine de postes, pour orienter les recrutements des postes en question.

37. Le représentant de l'**Angola,** se référant à l'intervention de l'Italie, qui a attiré la veille l'attention sur les visées macabres des adeptes de la violence extrême et sur le péril que constitue l'effacement de la mémoire collective, demande à la Directrice générale – comme il l'a déjà fait à plusieurs reprises – quelle valeur elle accorde dans le contexte actuel à la notion de « nouvel humanisme » qu'elle avait mise en avant au début de son mandat.

38. The representative of **Belize** said that his country had submitted 11 names for admission to the Young Professionals Programme, the reinstatement of which it greatly appreciated. However, for no apparent reason, some of the candidates, unlike those in other countries, had received their application forms only two days before the deadline. With so little time to fill in a rather complex form, some candidates might have been discouraged and failed to submit their application. Why had the application forms arrived so late?

39. **The Director-General** said that she wished to reiterate her enthusiasm for the Young Professionals Programme as it provided an opportunity to achieve equitable geographical distribution. In 2011, before the Programme had been suspended for lack of funding, four of the 11 young professionals appointed had come from the Latin America and Caribbean region.

40. **Ms de Miranda** (Director of the Bureau of Human Resources Management – DIR/HRM) said that she was aware that minor problems had arisen in the online application procedure for the Young Professionals Programme, which consisted of several steps. The fact that 32 of the 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean had put forward candidates was encouraging. An investigation of the specific matter referred to by the representative of Belize would be conducted and a detailed explanation provided in due course.

41.1 La **Directrice générale** ajoute à l'intention du représentant du Togo que la question des ressources humaines demeure extrêmement importante aux yeux du Secrétariat dans le cadre des préparatifs de la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030. Elle a lancé dernièrement le programme de départs anticipés qui permettra de renouveler le personnel selon différentes modalités, sans forcément passer par le recrutement. Certains services choisiront de supprimer le poste libéré, d'autres en profiteront pour redéfinir le poste dans la perspective de l'Agenda 2030. Un poste de classe élevée pourra être remplacé par deux postes de classe inférieure. S'agissant de la formation du personnel, bien que la crise financière ait obligé à suspendre toute activité dans ce domaine au cours des quatre années écoulées, des ressources sont progressivement réallouées à cette fin. Ces deux outils – les départs anticipés et la formation – permettront de disposer de ressources humaines capables de répondre aux nouveaux défis de l'Agenda 2030.

41.2 S'adressant au représentant de l'Angola, la Directrice générale réaffirme plus que jamais la pertinence du concept de nouvel humanisme dans le contexte actuel de crise humanitaire, de conflit, d'intolérance et d'extrémisme violent, car c'est là que réside la force de l'UNESCO. Elle est fermement convaincue que l'Organisation doit être forte et apporter des réponses pertinentes afin d'aider les pays membres, ses partenaires, la jeunesse, la société civile et les différentes communautés à poser un autre regard sur le développement, qui doit être pacifique. C'est pourquoi l'Organisation se félicite d'avoir lancé il y a douze ans, en coopération avec l'Angola, la plate-forme sur la culture de la paix, qui s'est convertie depuis en un véritable mouvement dans tout le continent africain, y compris parmi la jeunesse. La vocation de l'UNESCO est d'œuvrer en faveur d'une telle culture de la paix, contre la violence, pour la dignité des jeunes. C'est tout cela qu'exprime la notion de nouvel humanisme qu'elle avait humblement voulu mettre en avant il y a de cela six ans.

42. The representative of **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** said that security and survival were primordial human needs and when they were threatened, States tended to mobilize resources to protect them. The United Nations, for example, had a few years ago spent $7.5 billion on peacekeeping operations. More recently, global concerns had shifted to what was perceived as a threat to the cultural identity of Europeans from the influx of refugees, an absurd idea but one that was gaining a foothold in the media. In the meantime, UNESCO, with its annual budget of $250 million, had been entrusted with leadership responsibilities under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in addition to being responsible for culture, which underpinned sustainable development as a whole. In the light of its enlarged mandate, the Organization required more funds. Was a redistribution of funds within the United Nations system a possibility?

43. La représentante de l'**Italie** se félicite des résultats positifs soulignés par la Directrice générale concernant la prise en compte des objectifs de l'UNESCO dans l'Agenda 2030 et pense, elle aussi, qu'il faut désormais passer à la mise en pratique. Elle note que la poursuite des objectifs de l'Agenda est complémentaire de l'action que l'UNESCO doit mener dans le domaine de la protection du patrimoine et de la lutte contre le trafic illicite de biens culturels, qui sont à la fois une problématique mondiale et un impératif humanitaire. Elle tient à souligner que le développement durable n'est possible que dans un climat de paix, de sécurité et de respect du pluralisme culturel. L'Italie, qui soutient les efforts de l'Organisation en la matière, a rédigé avec d'autres pays membres un projet de résolution visant à renforcer l'action de l'UNESCO à ce sujet. Cela étant dit, elle demande s'il est prévu de poursuivre ces efforts au niveau des Nations Unies pour faire en sorte qu'une composante culturelle soit prise en compte dans les missions de paix du Conseil de sécurité.

44. La représentante de la **Tunisie** dit que l'Agenda 2030 place l'UNESCO à la croisée de tous les défis, ce qui rend plus complexe encore son application. La Tunisie considère l'éducation comme un vecteur de développement très important et espère que le Cadre d'action qui a été établi constituera une véritable plate-forme permettant de dispenser une éducation adaptée aux situations spécifiques des différentes régions du monde. Évoquant des programmes tels que l'éducation aux valeurs et au « vivre-ensemble » de J. Delors et de l'UNESCO, le soutien apporté par l'UNESCO à la rénovation de certains systèmes éducatifs, dans les pays en transition notamment, ou encore les programmes de recherche-action visant à déterminer les facteurs d'amélioration et de développement en matière d'éducation, elle demande selon quelle stratégie l'UNESCO compte articuler cette multitude de composantes en vue de parvenir à une éducation de qualité pour tous.

45.1 **The Director-General**, responding to the point raised by the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said she agreed that more was expected of UNESCO now. That was why she had been asking urgently for more resources. UNESCO was a specialized agency of the United Nations system and as such had its own budget. Yet, a compelling case could be made that the Organization's growing contribution to the fight against terrorism made it eligible to participate in United Nations joint funding arrangements. That did not

however imply any overall redistribution of funds within the United Nations system.

45.2 La Directrice générale, poursuivant en français, assure à la représentante de l'Italie que le Secrétariat va continuer à défendre l'importance de l'Agenda 2030 auprès de ses partenaires et des organismes des Nations Unies. Elle saisit cette occasion pour redire toute sa gratitude à l'Italie, en particulier à son Ministre des affaires étrangères, qui a organisé une réunion majeure à New York, et à son Ministre de la culture, qui a réuni 80 ministres de la culture du monde entier à Milan autour du thème de la protection du patrimoine et de la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels, aboutissant à l'adoption d'un plan d'action en la matière. Elle assure que la prise en compte de la question du patrimoine culturel dans les différentes missions des Nations Unies conserve toute son importance. Elle s'est d'ailleurs entretenue la veille avec le nouveau représentant spécial du Secrétaire général pour le Mali, M. Hamdi, avec qui elle a évoqué le succès de la MINUSMA et le travail accompli avec le Conseil de sécurité en vue d'intégrer la protection du patrimoine à cette mission, qui est un modèle à suivre et bénéficie de l'entier soutien du représentant du Secrétaire général. Lors de cet entretien, de nouvelles idées ont été développées en matière de financement et concernant la poursuite de l'action de l'UNESCO au Mali en faveur de la préservation des manuscrits. S'agissant des questions relatives à l'éducation, elle donne la parole au Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation (ADG/ED).

46. **Mr Tang** (Assistant Director-General for Education – ADG/ED), replying to the question raised by the representative of Tunisia, said that one of the three pillars of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) was global citizenship education, which was gaining increasing support from the Organization's Member States. It was vital to integrate global citizenship education into the overall curriculum in order to teach younger generations the values of tolerance and respect for other cultures and religions.

47. **The Director-General** said that the question raised by the representative of Togo, among others, about revitalizing the international civil service was timely and had been recently discussed by the United Nations High-Level Committee on Management, of which she was the Chair. There had been no overall review of human resources issues at the United Nations for the past 25 years. In its recently published report, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) had made proposals for reform that were forward-looking and positive, and provided an opportunity to modernize the international civil service, a task which she supported wholeheartedly.

48. Le **Secrétaire** annonce que la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures (PX) débutera ses travaux le lendemain à 10 heures en salle II et que la Commission financière et administrative (FA) se réunira en salle XI à la même heure. À 9 h 30, en salle II, le Conseil recevra la visite du Secrétaire général de l'Union pour la Méditerranée en présence de la Directrice générale et du Président de la Conférence générale. Enfin, il rappelle que la cérémonie de nomination par la Directrice générale de M. Han Meilin en qualité d'artiste de l'UNESCO pour la paix se tiendra à 18 h 30 dans la salle des pas perdus, en présence du Président de la Conférence générale également.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.

CINQUIÈME SÉANCE

Mardi 20 octobre 2015 à 15 h 15

Président : M. Amr

GENERAL MATTERS

Item 32: Occupied Palestine (197 EX/32 and Add.)

1. **The Chair** said that the Vice-Chair for Group V (b) (Arab States) had requested, on behalf of the Group, that item **32** be transferred from the agenda of the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission to the plenary and that a special plenary meeting be held on item **32**, similar to the one that had been held in April 2007 during the 176th session of the Executive Board, in order to provide sufficient time to discuss the item. The Bureau had not objected to the transfer of the item to plenary, in view of the precedent set at the 176th session. If the Board agreed, item **32** would be discussed in plenary after the PX Commission had met. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to examine item **32** in plenary, following the meeting of the PX Commission. *It was so **agreed**.*

METHODS OF WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

Item 18: Report by the Executive Board on its activities and programme implementation

Item 18.I: Activities in 2014-2015, including its methods of work (197 EX/18 Part I)

2. **The Chair** said that the Executive Board's report on its activities in 2014-2015, including its methods of work, which was contained in document 197 EX/18 Part I, would be transmitted to the General Conference, at its 38th session, incorporating, where appropriate, recommendations made in the Board's debates at its 197th session. He invited Members to communicate to him any comments or observations they might have on the report by the following day.

The meeting was suspended at 3.20 p.m.
and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

Announcement concerning the private meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2015

3. **The Secretary** *in extenso*:

At the private meeting held this morning, the Executive Board considered item **3** and item **19** of its agenda.

QUESTIONS RELATIVES AUX NORMES, STATUTS ET RÈGLEMENTS

Item 19: Examination of the communications transmitted to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in pursuance of 104 EX/Decision 3.3, and report of the Committee thereon

The Executive Board *examined* the report of its Committee on Conventions and Recommendations concerning the communications received by the Organization on the subject of cases and questions of alleged violations of human rights in UNESCO's fields of competence.

ORGANISATION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCÉDURE

Item 3: Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (197 EX/PRIV.1)

In accordance with Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General *informed* the Board about the general situation regarding staff at D-1 level and above and the decisions she has taken regarding appointments and extensions of contract of staff members at grade D-1 and above whose posts come under the regular programme of the Organization.

The Executive Board, *having taken note* of the Committee's report, *endorsed* the wishes expressed therein.

Proposed structural adjustments within the Secretariat

4.1 **The Director-General** *in extenso*:

I would like to inform you about some structural adjustments, first in the Culture Sector (CLT). The Section for Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties in the Division for Heritage is currently responsible for the management of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property; and the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. The Section is also responsible for the preparation of a new draft recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums, their diversity and their role in society, as mandated by the General Conference at its 37th session. In view of the increasing demands on the culture conventions and the recommendations contained in the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluation of the 1970 Convention, in particular, I have concluded that it is no longer either practical or efficient to continue to lead and promote the five normative instruments in one unit. I therefore propose to reorganize and strengthen resources within available budget envelopes in order to create two smaller, more focused, sections. The first section, which will continue to be known as the Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties Section, will be headed by a P-5 chief with a direct reporting line to the Director (D-2) of the Division for Heritage. The section will be responsible for the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1954 and 1999 Protocols, as well as the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Work on the implementation of the 1970 Convention and on museums will be assigned to a new section called the Movable Heritage and Museums Section. This section, headed by a P-5 chief with a direct reporting line to the Director (D-2) of the Division for Heritage, will also assume the function of Secretariat to the 1970 Convention and oversee the implementation of projects in relation to the recommendation on museums, which is expected to be adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session. These adjustments fall within the Culture Sector's expenditure plan for 2014-2015 and the draft $518 million expenditure plan for 2016-2017, to be submitted for approval by the General Conference at its 38th session in November.

4.2 Strengthening the Division of Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue: proposed transfer of the History and Memory for Dialogue Section from the Division for Heritage in the Culture Sector to the Division of Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue in the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS). Given the close complementarity between the History and Memory for Dialogue programme and the Intercultural Dialogue programme, which is managed by SHS, I have examined the feasibility of transferring the History and

Memory for Dialogue Section from the CLT Division for Heritage to the SHS Division of Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue. Consultations with key stakeholders, including the Africa Group, the Latin America and Caribbean Group and the Africa Department, have led me to conclude that it is desirable to bring these two work streams into the same sector in order to strengthen the coherence and impact of their activities. These programmes will henceforth be placed under the Division of Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue in SHS. The History and Memory for Dialogue Section, headed by a P-5 chief, is responsible for managing the Slave Route Project, in close cooperation with the field offices, as well as the Pedagogical Use of the General History of Africa project, the elaboration of the ninth volume of the *General History of Africa*, the cross-reading of the General and Regional Histories, the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform and the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture. The Division of Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue includes the newly-established Intercultural Dialogue Section, headed by a P-5 chief, and is responsible for managing the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) and its related action plan. It coordinates focused, dialogue-based, initiatives in education, culture, the sciences, communication and information and functions as a catalyst for inter-agency collaboration within the United Nations system and with other partnerships for a culture of peace and intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Clear orientations will be given in order to avoid duplication and to enhance complementarity between the two sections. This transfer will enhance intersectoral collaboration and create closer programmatic synergies between the SHS and CLT sectors, notably with regard to UNESCO's responses to ongoing conflicts, which involve heritage, history and identity. It will boost the Organization's activities on intercultural dialogue in Africa and give additional depth to SHS programme outreach in the broader continent. Most importantly, it will consolidate linkages with SHS mandates in human rights advocacy, with emphasis on the fight against racism and xenophobia, on youth as a cross-cutting constituency and on harnessing the power of social transformation. This transfer has no impact on either the current or proposed post staffing arrangement for 2016-2017.

4.3 Restructuring the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP): further to my decision to downgrade the post of Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning to Director (D-2) of the Bureau of Strategic Planning, announced on 15 September 2015 (DG/Note/15/22), I intend to make a few adjustments to the structure of the Bureau in order to make its work and internal management more efficient and effective. The existing structure of two divisions in BSP will be abolished and the Director of BSP will directly supervise four sections carrying out the existing functions of BSP: respectively, strategic planning, monitoring and reporting; budget and risk management; mobilizing bilateral government funding resources; and mobilizing multilateral and private funding resources. The post of Director of BSP will be advertised shortly. A Deputy Director (D-1) will assist the Director of BSP in leading the work of the above-mentioned sections in terms of content, while directly supervising a section responsible for the coordination of UNESCO's participation in and contribution to United Nations system inter-agency activities at the global, regional and national levels, including the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the coordination of the Organization's work in this field has to be strengthened. In addition, to strengthen the support and service provided for the operation of the Organization's field network, I intend to transfer the function of field support back from BSP – and to report directly – to me and create a team for field operations and support to be headed by a Director at the D-1 level, using one of the D-1 posts in BSP for this purpose; one of the D-1 posts is currently vacant following my decision to transfer Mr Vincent Defourny to the post of Director of the Division of Public Information. The proposed adjustments do not make any radical changes to the current BSP structure. The new arrangement, however, reduces the levels of management, with a flatter structure, while emphasizing the teamwork. It entrusts clear responsibilities and accountabilities to the chiefs of section.

4.4 Proposed adjustments to the Education Sector (ED): the Education Sector is now preparing to assist Member States with the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda and the adjustments to the structure of the Sector that I propose here reflect what UNESCO intends to do in dealing with this significant challenge. In order to facilitate this process, I plan to convert the current education for all (EFA) team into an operational division called the Division for Education 2030 Support and Coordination. It will facilitate UNESCO's role in leading coordination and partnership building; monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 targets (Education 2030); and supporting its implementation particularly through capacity development. Given the centrality of teachers in reaching SDG 4, I will set up a new and strengthened section for teachers' development, which will also serve as the Secretariat of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All. The *Global Education Monitoring Report* team, as an independent team under the Education Sector, will continue playing its role as the key monitoring and review vehicle guiding all relevant stakeholders in implementing SDG 4 and attaining its targets, as mandated by the Education 2030 Framework for Action. The Division for Teaching, Learning and Content will change its name to the Division for Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development. In order to further consolidate the work on education for sustainable development (ESD) and global citizenship education (GCED), given their vital importance and the strong demand from Member States, I will put them together in one section since there are obvious synergies between them. Gender equality remains a top priority for the Education Sector. A new section on education for inclusion and gender equality will be created to lead and coordinate the Sector's activities in this crucially important subject area. The Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems will remain unchanged and continue to be in charge of providing support to Member States in areas like education policy, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), literacy, and information and communication technology. The Executive Office will continue to be the management arm of the Assistant Director-General for Education in implementing the Sector's programmes and ensuring proper coordination between the division at Headquarters, the seven category 1 educational institutes and the field offices. In addition to programme, budget, human resources and knowledge/communication management, the Executive Office will have an education in emergencies desk, in view of the need for quick decision-making and the often high political profile of emergency responses.

4.5 Lastly, let me also inform you that the Bureau of Human Resources Management (HRM) is planning some structural adjustments in the light of the audit on recruitment. Since these changes are not yet fully developed, they will be reported to the Board at its spring session. Thank you Mr Chair.

5. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** said that it had been difficult to follow such a detailed report on so many changes, cutting across several sectors. According to Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, an oral report on potentially significant structural changes should be accompanied by a relevant document, and he requested that one be provided. Clarification would be welcome with regard to which of the changes were reflected in the C/5 document, and whether that document would be updated accordingly.

6. Le représentant de l'**Angola** souhaiterait des éclaircissements sur une éventuelle consultation avec le Groupe Afrique au sujet de la structure du Secteur de la culture.

7. La representante de **El Salvador** dice que la información que ha facilitado la Directora General es tan prolija y los cambios estructurales son tan profundos que los miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo no pueden aprehender cabalmente lo que entraña tal reforma, sobre todo a la luz del ímprobo trabajo que les aguarda en relación con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Ello no es óbice para que esos cambios sean, en ciertos aspectos, tan interesantes como necesarios. Ahora bien, teniendo en cuenta su complejidad, sobre todo por lo que al Sector de Educación se refiere, pide que la Secretaría dé cuenta de ellos en un documento dirigido al Consejo Ejecutivo para que este pueda examinarlos con calma y detenimiento.

(7) La représentante d'**El Salvador** dit que les informations fournies par la Directrice générale sont tellement exhaustives, et les changements structurels tellement profonds, que les membres du Conseil exécutif ne peuvent pleinement appréhender les conséquences d'une telle réforme, surtout à la lumière de la lourde tâche qui les attend concernant l'agenda 2030 pour le développement durable. Cela n'enlève rien au fait que ces changements, par certains aspects, sont tout aussi intéressants que nécessaires. Mais, compte tenu de leur complexité, surtout pour ce qui est du Secteur de l'éducation, il serait souhaitable que le Secrétariat en rende compte dans un document destiné au Conseil exécutif afin que ce dernier puisse les examiner dans le calme et avec attention.

8. **The Director-General** said that most of the adjustments presented were not structural changes of a scale that required her to consult with the Board under Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure, and that she had informed Members of the changes in a spirit of cooperation and transparency. None of the changes would have financial implications for the Organization and only two fell within the ambit of Rule 59: the transfer of the History and Memory for Dialogue Section, implemented following consultation with interested parties, and the downgrading of the post of the Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, about which a document had not yet been prepared as it was a very recent decision. A written report would be submitted, which would include the proposal to establish a D-1 post for field office coordination as that did require some structural change. Overall, the adjustments were designed to align the Organization with the 2030 Agenda and the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals.

9. **Ms Al-Nashif** (Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences – ADG/SHS) said that the transfer of the History and Memory for Dialogue Section from the Culture Sector (CLT) to the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) was based on an analysis of complementarities and reflected a commitment to enhancing synergy, improving working methods and increasing efficiency. In respect of both content and impact, the Culture Sector's work on memory and dialogue strongly complemented that of the Social and Human Sciences Sector on, for example, the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) . Furthermore, greater emphasis was being placed on work in the Caribbean and Africa. Within the C/5 document, the expected results for the History and Memory for Dialogue Section would remain unchanged and would simply appear under the expected results for SHS. The change would take effect on 1 January 2016 to ensure full integration of the Section into SHS in the next biennium.

DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (*continued*)

Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR): report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board (197 EX/49)

Item 20: Implementation of standard-setting instruments

Item 20.I: General monitoring (197 EX/20 Part I)

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 197 EX/49

Item 20.II: Application of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (CEART) and the 1997 Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel (197 EX/20 Part II)

Draft decision in paragraph 11 of document 197 EX/49

Item 20.III: Application of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (197 EX/20 Part III)

Draft decision in paragraph 19 of document 197 EX/49

Item 20.IV: Application of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions (197 EX/20 Part IV)

Draft decision in paragraph 26 of document 197 EX/49

Item 20.V: Consideration of the draft guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (197 EX/20 Part V)

Draft decision in paragraph 30 of document 197 EX/49

Item 20.VI: Application of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education (197 EX/20 Part VI)

Draft decision in paragraph 34 of document 197 EX/49

Item 20.VII: Application of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (197 EX/20 Part VII)

Draft decision in paragraph 37 of document 197 EX/49

Item 20.VII: Strategy to improve visibility, ratification, implementation, monitoring and cooperation of education-related standard-setting instruments (197 EX/20 Part VIII)

Draft decision in paragraph 41 of document 197 EX/49

Item 21: Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education: nominations and report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (197 EX/21)

Draft decision in paragraph 44 of document 197 EX/49

10.1 **Mme Chatardovà** (République tchèque) (Présidente du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations – CR) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, chers collègues, le 9 octobre dernier, le Comité CR a examiné les huit parties du point **20** concernant l'application des instruments normatifs (190 EX/20 Parties I à VIII). Je saisis l'occasion de cette séance publique pour renouveler mes remerciements à S. E Madame Eliana Zugaib, représentante du Brésil, qui a conduit les débats en mon absence le 9 octobre après-midi.

10.2 S'agissant de la Partie I du point **20** (Suivi général), comme vous le savez, depuis la 179e session du Conseil exécutif, le Comité CR examine à chacune de ses sessions les mesures prises par le Secrétariat concernant l'application des conventions et recommandations de l'UNESCO dont le Conseil exécutif est chargé d'assurer le suivi. En présence des secteurs concernés, le Comité a examiné le document 190 EX/20 Partie I contenant, d'une part, un état des ratifications des conventions dont le CR assure le suivi, et d'autre part, une analyse des mesures prises par les secteurs pour la mise en œuvre des procédures sur le suivi de l'application de ces conventions et des recommandations. À l'issue du débat, le Comité a décidé de recommander au Conseil exécutif de prier la Directrice générale de veiller à la mise en œuvre du cadre juridique pour l'application des instruments normatifs et de décider de poursuivre l'examen de ce point à sa 199e session. Vous trouverez le projet de décision correspondant au paragraphe 6 du rapport du Comité (197 EX/49). Mme Chatardovà n'ayant pu présenter oralement la suite du rapport du Comité CR en bénéficiant de services d'interprétation, le texte en question figure en annexe au présent compte rendu.

11. **The Chair** recalled that, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Board should adopt the entire set of draft decisions recommended by each plenary commission as a whole, unless a Board Member requested that a specific decision be adopted separately. Seeing no such request, he took it that the Board wished to adopt the entire set of draft decisions contained in document 197 EX/49.

12. *It was so* ***decided***.

13. **Mme Chatardovà** (République tchèque) (Présidente du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations – CR) remercie tous les membres et observateurs du Comité CR ayant participé aux travaux de celui-ci pour leur coopération au cours des deux années écoulées. Elle a beaucoup appris grâce à eux durant son mandat de présidente. Elle remercie également le Secrétariat, en particulier M. Guillermo Trasancos, pour son travail. Elle souhaite à chacun bonne chance dans le cadre de ses futures activités et espère que les liens d'amitié qui ont été noués perdureront.

14. **The Chair** commended the representative of the Czech Republic on her leadership of the Committee and its working group over the past two years and expressed appreciation to the members of the Committee for their efficient work and to the Legal Adviser and her team for the support they had provided.

Finance and Administrative Commission (FA): report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 30 June 2015 (unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 30 June 2015 (unaudited) (197 EX/4 Part II and Corr.: 197 EX/4.INF.2; 197 EX/4.INF.3;197 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (197 EX/5 Part I; 197 EX/5 INF.; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5.I.D: Activities benefitting SIDS within the Organization's programme (2014-2017) and budget (38 C/5), including an analysis of additional resource requirements

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.IV: Management issues (197 EX/5 Part IV and Corr. and Addenda; 197 EX/5.INF.2; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5.IV.A: Proposal for the organization of regional consultation meetings concerning the C/4 and C/5 documents: Roadmap for the 2016 consultation on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (39 C/5)

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.IV.B: Implementation of the action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary funds

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.IV.C: Implementation of Participation Programme and Emergency Assistance

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.IV.D: Invest for Efficient Delivery

Draft decision in paragraph 7 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.IV.E: Criteria for introducing new and maintaining existing programmes for regular and extrabudgetary programmes

Draft decision in paragraph 8 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (197 EX/5 Part V and Corr. and Addenda)

Item 5.V.A: Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat

Draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.V.B: Use of consultant contracts in 2014 and the implementation of the revised policy on individual consultants and other specialists

Draft decision in paragraph 10 of document 197 EX/52

Item 5.V.C: Human resources management strategy for 2011-2016: Priority issues and related action plan; Audit of UNESCO's Recruitment Process for International Staff

Draft decision in paragraph 11 of document 197 EX/52

Addendum 2: Internal Oversight Service: Audit of UNESCO's Recruitment Process for International Staff (197 EX/5 Part V Add.2)

Draft decision in paragraph 12 of document 197 EX/52

Item 15: Category 1 institutes and centres – Management of the education-related category 1 institutes (197 EX/15)

Draft decision in paragraph 13 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16: Category 2 institutes and centres

Item 16.II: Establishment in Dhaka, Bangladesh, of an International Mother Language Institute (197 EX/16 Part II)

Draft decision in paragraph 14 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.III: Establishment in Shenzhen, China of a Higher Education Innovation Centre (197 EX/16 Part III)

Draft decision in paragraph 15 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.IV: Establishment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of an African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (197 EX/16 Part IV)

Draft decision in paragraph 16 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.V: Establishment in Kigali, Rwanda, of an East Africa Centre for Fundamental Research (197 EX/16 Part V)

Draft decision in paragraph 17 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.VI: Establishment in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, of a regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands (197 EX/16 Part VI)

Draft decision in paragraph 18 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.VII: Establishment in EL-Qanater, Egypt, of a Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring (CLEQM) (197 EX/16 Part VII)

Draft decision in paragraph 19 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.VIII: Establishment at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research of a Water Research Centre in Kuwait City, Kuwait (197 EX/16 Part VIII)

Draft decision in paragraph 20 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.IX: Establishment in Abbottabad, Pakistan, of a Regional Water Research Centre on Hydrology of Headwater Catchments (197 EX/16 Part IX)

Draft decision in paragraph 21 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.X: Establishment in Karachi, Pakistan, of an International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (197 EX/16 Part X)

Draft decision in paragraph 22 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XI: Establishment in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, of an International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions (197 EX/16 Part XI)

Draft decision in paragraph of document 23 197 EX/52

Item 16.XII: Establishment in Chiang Mai, Thailand, of an International Training Centre for Astronomy (197 EX/16 Part XII)

Draft decision in paragraph 24 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XIII: Establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of an international Centre for Research and Postgraduate Training in Physics (VICP) (197 EX/16 Part XIII)

Draft decision in paragraph 25 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XIV: Establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of an international Centre for Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics (VICM) (197 EX/16 Part XIV)

Draft decision in paragraph 26 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XV: Establishment in Beijing, China, of the International Centre for Engineering Education (197 EX/16 Part XV)

Draft decision in paragraph 27 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XVI: Establishment in Beijing, China, of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (197 EX/16 Part XVI)

Draft decision in paragraph 28 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XVII: Establishment in Sao Paulo, Brazil, of a South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR) (197 EX/16 Part XVII)

Draft decision in paragraph 29 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XVIII: Establishment in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, of a Regional Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Physics, Mathematics, Energy and Environment (197 EX/16 Part XVIII)

Draft decision in paragraph 30 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XIX: Establishment in Thessaloniki, Greece, of a Centre on Integrated and Multi-Disciplinary Water Resources Management (197 EX/16 Part XIX)

Draft decision in paragraph 31 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XX; Establishment in Yaoundé, Cameroon, of a Centre of Excellence in Microscience (CEM) (197 EX/16 Part XX)

Draft decision in paragraph 32 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XXI: Establishment in Beijing, China, of an International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (197 EX/16 Part XXI)

Draft decision in paragraph 33 of document 197 EX/52

Item 16.XXII: Establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a Global Centre for Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) (197 EX/16 Part XXII)

Draft decision in paragraph 34 of document 197 EX/52

Item 23: Collection of Member States contributions and incentive scheme for the prompt payment of contributions (197 EX/23)

Draft decision in paragraph 35 of document 197 EX/52

Item 24: Report by the Director-General as at 31 May 2015 on the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor and his comments thereon (197 EX/24; 197 EX/24.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 36 of document 197 EX/52

Item 25: Financial report and audited consolidated financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the year ending 31 December 2014 and report by the External Auditor (197 EX/25 Part I)

Draft decision in paragraph 37 of document 197 EX/52

Item 26: Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex (197 EX/26)

Draft decision in paragraph 38 of document 197 EX/52

Item 27: Financial Regulations of Special Accounts and proposed amendments to Financial Regulations of UNESCO Category I Institutes

Item 27.I: Financial Regulations of Special Accounts (197 EX/27 Part I)

Draft decision in paragraph 39 of document 197 EX/52

Item 27.II: Proposed Amendments to Financial Regulations of UNESCO Category I Institutes (197 EX/27 Part II)

Draft decision in paragraph 40 of document 197 EX/52

15.1 **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission – FA) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chair. Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, excellencies, dear colleagues, it gives me great pleasure to submit to this plenary meeting of the 197th session of the Executive Board the report on the work of the last Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission of the biennium. At the outset, I should like to express my sincere appreciation to the Preparatory Group and its Chair, the Ambassador of Nigeria, Her Excellency Mariam Katagum, notably for their contribution to this report through their recommendations on item **4** (Part II).

15.2 Mr Chair, dear colleagues, the FA Commission examined a total of ten items and took 36 decisions. These draft decisions can be found in paragraph 1 of document 197 EX/52. With your permission I shall proceed to highlight only the most critical elements of our debates. The Commission considered first item **4.II** concerning the budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 30 June 2015 (unaudited), budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for programme execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved), all with the status as at 30 June 2015 (unaudited). The representative of the Director-General presented the document, summarizing the main points, including the decisions to be taken by the Board. The total reported resources for this biennium (2014-2015) stood at $1.04 billion, of which 49% are financed by Member States' assessed contributions, including a substantial level of additional appropriations to the regular programme. It was noted that the deficit of $10.8 million between the initial work plans of $518 million and the ceiling of $507 million has been considered to be eliminated and this was appreciated by Member States. It was further noted that budgetary restrictions had been lifted and sectors had access to temporary assistance linked to their respective posts.

15.3 Dear colleagues, you will recall the flag of the Preparatory Group on the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme (VMSP), which had said that the funding was not consistent with the previous decisions adopted at the special session of the Executive Board and the subsequent session, or the resolution of the General Conference, and thereby with the principle that all savings generated should be directed to the five major programmes, and the legal grounds for the allocation of savings towards the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme remained to be clarified. In this context the Commission noted that the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme was launched in early 2015 and closed later in 2015 and that the current status of the Plan was as detailed in document 197 EX/4.INF.3. In the ensuing discussions, it came to light that a legal opinion was sought on 2 July 2015 from the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs in the context of the reprogramming exercise. The opinion communicated by the Office on 13 August 2015 stated that the General Conference appropriation resolution provided the Director-General with the authority to reallocate funds within the 2% threshold and which could also benefit non-programme sectors. While Member States regretted the late consultation of Legal Affairs, they also expressed concern regarding the use of staff cost savings from the regular programme to fund the Programme and even queried if this could be construed as being "programmatic". It was also signalled that the interpretation rather than implementation of governing body decisions might in future lead to more tightly worded decisions, particularly for the appropriation resolution. On a query from the Chair on the interpretation of the authority for the use of savings, the representative of the Director-General clarified that the 2% limit of authority in document 37 C/5 was seen as a legal boundary, with a clear understanding that allocations to programmes was a priority and that some degree of management flexibility was required to meet unbudgeted risks and emerging needs.

15.4 From a human resources perspective, Member States were also unclear about a number of issues pertaining to the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme on the basis of the list of posts provided. It was noted that from the 41 posts encumbered by staff taking the separation package, eight had been proposed for abolition, 12 were being downgraded, one was to be upgraded, seven were to be redesigned and 13 would be maintained. The posts abolished and downgraded are, in the majority, General Service posts. The abolition of these posts can free up money that could be used to redesign or establish other posts in the different sectors. It was noted that the posts to be redesigned were, for a large majority, in the Professional category, and this would allow for the renewal of profiles and skills; the same will apply to the Professional posts which are maintained and will be advertised. It was signalled to the Commission that the current recruitment policy of prioritizing internal recruitment could be an impediment to skills renewal. The recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) audit on recruitment, specifically on the external

advertisement of posts, would be helpful in this regard. Clarifications were sought about the vacancy rate and whether the Secretariat was on track vis-à-vis projections set out in Annex II of draft document 38 C/5, which show a projection of 7.2% by the end of 2015 and 8.8% by the end of 2017. It was stressed that a 10% vacancy rate meant that only 90% of the staff were on the ground to deliver. Member States therefore strongly encouraged the Secretariat to improve and streamline recruitment processes with a view to improving the vacancy rate. It was, however, indicated that the vacancy rate would, in fact, be higher than anticipated by the end of 2015 owing, in part, to the previously unplanned new vacancies generated by the previously mentioned Separation Programme, and that the constant high rate of internal appointments was also exacerbating the problem. The vacancy rate, at 10% in September 2015, is anticipated to remain at the same level until the end of the year. However, by the end of 2017, it is likely to reach the level of 9% set by the Executive Board.

15.5 For the appropriation resolution adopted at the 37th session of the General Conference, in 2013, which was the first to contain an expenditure plan, the normal wording on commitments falling due for payment after the calendar year had accidentally been omitted. After noting that retrospective amendment of the appropriation resolution was poor practice and not to be repeated, Member States agreed to propose an amendment to the General Conference to bring that appropriation resolution into line with normal practice. The low implementation rates of extrabudgetary projects were also queried, as is usual. It was explained that the 44% rate remained stable compared to 2014 but had increased over the last four years. On an appropriate cost recovery rate, it was noted that these stood at 0.9% against a target of 2% set by the Executive Board for the Spring 2016 session.

15.6 Mr Chair, we then turned to item **5** and this item was divided into three parts for consideration by the Board: part I on programme issues, part IV on management issues and part V on human resources issues. Under part I, the Board examined activities benefiting small island developing States (SIDS) within the Organization's programme (2014-2017) and budget (38 C/5), including an analysis of additional resource requirements. It was noted that, in general, the regular programme budgets allocated for SIDS activities in document 37 C/5 had been maintained in document 38 C/5, and that the decision document proposed to develop an implementation strategy for the draft SIDS action plan, including adoption of the SIDS action plan at the 199th session, and a report on progress towards this implementation at the 201st session. Obtaining figures for UNESCO work with SIDS can be quite difficult, due to the diffuse nature of the work across the Organization. Member States reiterated their appreciation for the work of the Secretariat in drawing up the SIDS action plan, and they also requested a more coherent breakdown between the regular budget and extrabudgetary activities funded sector by sector, in a spreadsheet, as well as the need to link further activities of the SIDS action plan with climate change, the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also insisted that the UNESCO Institute of Statistics work with the sectors to provide and share disaggregated data for development indicators relating to SIDS.

15.7 On management issues, items **5.I.A** through **5.I.E**, Member States examined each point one-by-one starting with 5.I.A "Roadmap for the 2016 consultations on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (39 C/5)", which was presented along with a costed plan for the consultations on the preparation of the document. It was explained that the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) and the Division of Knowledge Management and Information Systems (KMI) would collaborate to put in place the systems that would support online collaborative consultations and discussions at the subregional and regional levels. Further details were provided on the online collaborative platforms with document libraries, online forums and chats, and web conferencing tools. The remaining challenge is to find a way to ensure multilingual simultaneous web conferencing; a solution for this has yet to be found. Member States welcomed the proposed roadmap and the introduction of new technologies and a collaborative IT tool to conduct the consultations in a more cost-effective way. They highlighted the importance of wide participation of all Member States, including National Commissions, as well as a number of key constituencies. It was also confirmed that face-to-face meetings of all National Commissions would be organized on an annual basis, as had been the case in Astana last year, and for the future meeting to be held on 2 November, on the eve of the General Conference. Consultations on the future C/5 document would be added to the agenda of the annual meeting as relevant and in accordance with the C/5 preparation calendar.

15.8 On item **5.I.B** "Implementation of the action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary funds", it was noted that although there had been a decrease in overall voluntary contributions in 2014, the level of voluntary contributions was comparable to 2012. In spite of the decrease, the report also highlighted that a number of Member States had increased their contributions. The period was marked by the introduction of new modalities such as the new multi-annual $54 million Programme Cooperation Agreement with Sweden. It was stressed that the economic uncertainty and increased needs caused by political crises around the world posed a serious threat to the possibility of securing and predicting financial support for common priorities at UNESCO, as set out in the C/5 document. Key features of the resource mobilization strategy included resource mobilization targets for expected results with upfront programming of extrabudgetary resources in line with the C/5 document. Another salient element of the strategy is the introduction of structured dialogues on financing to promote better alignment, predictability and flexibility in funding. Member States welcomed the proposed introduction of structured dialogues on financing, and it was also underlined that moving towards more predictable financing of UNESCO was a shared responsibility of the Secretariat and Member States. Full agreement was expressed with the Director-General who, in her response to the plenary debate the previous day, had said that "a structured dialogue on financing will be indispensable for our use of funding". Here again, the importance of accurately estimating cost recovery was signalled and it was regretted that because the cost recovery policy of individual United Nations agencies was not harmonized, they were effectively competing with each other on the basis of the price of their services.

15.9 In examining item **5.IV.C** on the implementation of the Participation Programme and emergency assistance, it was noted that as of July the Director-General had approved 537 requests for a total amount of $11.9 million, including emergency assistance, which represented 100%

of the available budget. Member States were informed that the Organization's two global priorities have been well taken into account and the approved funds for African countries amounted to $4.5 million and the ones for gender equality projects reached $2.3 million for approximately 100 projects; this is at least three times more than the comparable figures from the previous biennia. A similar amount was approved for SIDS. The improved treatment of the requests following their first electronic submission was underlined; this has contributed to avoiding congestion in the Secretariat in treating the requests and has led to the optimization of the whole Participation Programme process. The improved quality of the submitted requests and financial reports has also allowed the Secretariat to reach a higher execution rate. Member States commended the Secretariat on those positive improvements and achievements in Participation Programme management.

15.10 The Board turned to item **5.IV.D**, on the Invest for Efficient Delivery fund, which had been discussed in the Preparatory Group meeting. It was highlighted that the proposed investments were needed to modernize UNESCO to enable it to play fully its role in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The case was made that those investments were also required now in order to avoid greater costs in future due to failing systems. The fact that the Invest for Efficient Delivery fund was a key part of a highly delicate consensus reached on the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) budget was signalled and clarifications were sought on the eventual return on investment. The five proposals in the field of knowledge management and ICTs were presented, with estimated benefits and payback periods. It was also indicated that the most urgent funding requirements, for the redesign of core systems, amounted to €400 000 and would be needed as early as January 2016. In the ensuing debate, Member States expressed their overall support and understanding of the priority knowledge management and ICT needs presented in the documents. They also emphasized, however, that this kind of expenditure, including related to staff training, should be included in the regular programme as a routine practice, rather than an exception, and that it would be appropriate to ensure this in future. It was recalled that UNESCO did not have a capital expenditure budgeting tradition and that all major investments in the past had always been made through special extrabudgetary provisions. The Organization should consider changing this in future to plan capital expenditure more sustainably. Member States, overall, recommended the proposal and invited the Secretariat to start work on it.

15.11 On the criteria for introducing and maintaining existing programmes for regular and extrabudgetary programmes, the Executive Board decision was recalled concerning the new format of the EX/4 and C/3 documents, which envisaged the preparation by the Secretariat, for the third spring session of each quadrennium, of a strategic and analytical report: the strategic results report (SRR). This report is expected to inform strategic decision-making and future planning to enable the Executive Board to forward recommendations to the General Conference on the implementation of sunset clauses for UNESCO's programmes, specifically regarding the termination or continuation of programmes, as had been requested by the 37th session of the General Conference. The set of key criteria related to relevance, capacity to deliver, comparative advantage and value added. Demonstrable contribution and tangible results and sustainability were all noted. Member States welcomed the criteria proposed to be applied in the course of programme reviews and underlined their usefulness and relevance in the elaboration of future programmes and/or the re-orientation or termination of existing ones. Some caution was expressed particularly with regard to the application of those criteria in the assessment of programmes that were at the core of the UNESCO mandate.

15.12 Dear Chair, dear colleagues, the Commission welcomed Mr Didier Migaud, the President of the French *Cour des Comptes* and our External Auditor, for the discussion on items **24, 25** and **27.III**. The External Auditor commented on the difficulty in the follow-up of a large number of recommendations, on the quality of justifications provided and on some divergence between the status identified by the Auditor and that reported by the Secretariat. He made observations on the need for special treatment of unimplemented recommendations that were more than five years old and those that were perhaps obsolete due to a changing context. As Member States expressed concern on the delays related to the implementation of recommendations, it was proposed by the representative of the Director-General that a specific review of those long-standing recommendations be undertaken in consultation with the External Auditor, which the latter agreed to do.

15.13 On item **25**, "Financial report and audited consolidated financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the year ending 31 December 2014 and report by the External Auditor", the Auditor, in presenting the findings, noted that a clean audit opinion had been expressed on the accounts of the Organization. He made a brief presentation regarding the status of the implementation of audit recommendations and emphasized the following: UNESCO should have its financial statements approved annually by the governing bodies; it must ensure long-term funding of the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI); it must examine measures to move from the use of a constant dollar rate to a rate closer to economic reality; it must remove the Institute for Water Education (IHE) from the consolidated financial statements, as UNESCO has no real control over it; and finally, it must automate the consolidation process for the financial statements. The representative of the Director-General highlighted that the financial statements were prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and included all sources of funds of the Organization. Regarding the statement of financial position, the Organization's overall net equity, for the first time, is negative ($241.5 million). Mr Chair, if we were a company, this would mean that we were bankrupt. Luckily, we are an intergovernmental organization. The negative position is, in fact, attributable to the significant increase in the ASHI liability from $0.7 billion in 2010 to $1.3 billion in 2014. This liability reflects the situation of decreasing active staff and a larger number of retiring staff entering the scheme. Outstanding assessed contributions to the regular programme from Member States have also increased from $72 million in 2010 to $353 million in 2014. It was noted that the preparation of a budget should be as close as possible to economic reality by using an exchange rate close to the market. It was also noted that the foreign currency market was unpredictable and, in fact, the current constant dollar rate was now very close to the market rate. Mr Chair, we have in fact taken such a long time to consider updating the constant dollar rate that the market has caught up with us.

15.14 On item **27.III** "Financial regulations of special accounts and proposed amendments to financial regulations of UNESCO category 1 institutes", the External Auditor noted that on the Special Emergency Multi-Donor Fund for UNESCO Priority Programmes and Reform Initiatives under the 35 C/5 and 36 C/5, he had been asked to look at three points: the use of the funds; the implications for other Special Accounts; and to make general recommendations on the management of Special Accounts. The external audit stated that no anomalies had been noted regarding the use of the funds under the Emergency Fund. The Auditor explained, however, that with regard to the closure of the Fund, reference should be made to the specific Financial Regulations and, in this case, the four-year clause applies. The External Auditor considered that the Financial Regulations were not ambiguous and that the creation date of the Special Account was November 2011. Consequently, the External Auditor says it would be possible to close the Special Account in November 2015 but not before. With regard to the conclusions that could be drawn for other Special Accounts, the External Auditor recommended two types of Special Accounts. The first type concerns more traditional management of Special Accounts whose creation, use and closing should remain under the authority of the Director-General. The second type would be strategic Special Accounts, which are exceptional by nature, and their creation, conditions of use and closing should be submitted for the approval of the Executive Board. Furthermore, the External Auditor indicated that if the above proposal were accepted, then articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization should be modified. Clarification was sought on the differences between a strategic and operational Special Account and the basis upon which the categorization could be defined. It was noted that governing bodies would decide what was "strategic" from their point of view. The Secretariat said that the Programme Management Committee (PMC) would determine the criteria for the classification of Special Accounts. It was also clarified that any decisions on Special Accounts and categorization would not apply retrospectively.

15.15 The Secretariat provided the timetable for the next steps: there will be a presentation of a document to the 38th session of the General Conference, as requested by the Executive Board, which also takes on board the recommendation formulated by the Auditor; presentation of the criteria to be defined by the Programme Management Committee at the 200th session of the Board; and then submission of revised Financial Regulations to the 39th session of the General Conference. Regarding single-donor Special Accounts, members asked why they had been set up under such modalities. It was explained that the right to multiple sources of funding was embedded in the Financial Regulations. Prizes, though, are mainly single-donor and have been set up as Special Accounts following a decision of the Executive Board.

15.16 The Commission then examined item **26** "Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex". The Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee, the Ambassador of Bangladesh, provided a comprehensive presentation to the Commission. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that, given the shortage of funding, the long-term conservation of premises, especially at Miollis-Bonvin, was of high concern. The issue of the UNESCO Commissary was raised and members were assured that the Headquarters Committee was following it very closely.

15.17 Mr Chair, the Commission then went on to item **5.V** "Human resources issues". The Board examined sub-items **5.V.A** to **5.V.C** and the addendum related to the IOS audit (197 EX/5 Part V Add.2). Mr Chair, let me note at the outset that the staff associations, the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU), were given the floor for five minutes each, during item **5.V** on human resources issues. The Commission learned that, as of June 2015, the number of countries normally represented was 70, and the number of non- and under-represented Member States was 66 and 42 respectively. The Secretariat launched the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) in April 2015 with view to hiring 14 or 15 young professionals from non- and under-represented Member States, who will join the Organization in early 2016. A new action plan for the improvement of geographical distribution will be developed in 2016, as the current one ends then. On gender, the Commission learned that as at 1 June 2015, the overall representation of women in the Professional and above category had increased by 4% compared to June 2013. There has been significant progress at senior management levels, from 22% in 2009 to 40% in September 2015. A new gender parity action plan will be developed, as the current one ends at the end of this year. It was also noted that the human resources management strategy and the priority action plan requested by the Executive Board, which focused on two priorities – learning and development and human resource planning – would be developed in consultation with the key stakeholders.

15.18 Clarification was sought on the use of $1 consultant contracts and any associated costs incurred, such as travel or daily subsistence allowance payments. It was noted that $1 consultant contracts were awarded for special representational duties only and must be approved by the Director-General; in 2014 only five such contracts had been issued and it was confirmed that, if required, the travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance could be paid to the holders of $1 consultant contracts with the Organization.

15.19 On the geographical imbalance whereby 59% of consultants awarded contracts at Headquarters in 2014 were from Group I countries, and on the selection process of consultants, it was acknowledged that this was indeed the case but that there was a need to consider daily subsistence allowance and travel expenses for those hired at Headquarters from outside Group I, especially for short assignments. Members of the Commission welcomed the significant improvements made by the Secretariat with regard to gender parity among the staff, in particular at Director level and higher, and it was even queried whether, with nine male Directors due to retire by 2015, the Secretariat had concrete plans to use that as an opportunity as well. Concern was expressed about the disturbing trends within Group IV and Group V (a) of the increasing number of under- and non-represented Member States and the continuous high number of over-represented countries in Group I. Targeted measures were requested to address this issue.

15.20 Now, on the internal audit report on UNESCO's recruitment process for international staff, it was noted that the audit had examined the recruitment process in a number of distinct phases, including planning, preparation, advertisement, evaluation, selection, appointment and entry on duty. The scope of the audit focused on the

recruitments of UNESCO staff at the Professional, Director and Assistant Director-General levels. A number of key achievements were highlighted, including the automation of the pre-screening process, which had led to reduced workloads; the ongoing initiative to adopt generic job descriptions; the introduction of competency-based interviews; and the initiative to require a confidentiality statement for Bureau of Human Resources Management (HRM) personnel. The audit also recognized the good progress made towards gender parity. In terms of challenges and opportunities, the main conclusion was that recruitment takes far too long with too many bottlenecks in the process. The audit further noted the need for proactive measures to improve geographical representation and achieve the gender goals, confirming what was discussed earlier. More targeted advertising of vacancy announcements, including through the use of social media, could expand the pool of candidates. The Commission was also informed that educational requirements were not consistently applied in vacancy notices and that there was confusion over the more stringent requirements for qualifications of an advanced degree in the UNESCO Human Resources Manual and the lighter requirements of a first degree or equivalent in the Staff Rules. The audit noted that assessment centres should be considered for key management posts or other sources of outside recruitment support. Questions were asked about the appropriateness of Office of the Director-General (ODG) representatives sitting on recruitment panels that recommend candidates to the Director-General. It was noted that this was routine for posts that would report directly to the Director-General. It was also noted that a conflict of interest policy should be established and that improvements needed to be introduced to safeguard the confidentiality of recruitment information. That policy was expected to be prepared by HRM and the Ethics Office and to be in place by the end of 2016. It was further noted that HRM had established implementation plans in response to each of the 14 recommendations and, as per standard practice, the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) would monitor and report back on progress in implementation.

15.21 Further, on item **27** parts which did not require the presence of the Auditor, we also discussed part I "Financial Regulations of Special Accounts", which presented two Special Accounts: the Special Account for Strengthening UNESCO's Evaluation Work and the Special Account for the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. There was no debate on this item. On part II "Proposed amendments to financial regulations of UNESCO category 1 institutes", the revisions presented better define the authority of the directors of the institutes. On a query as to whether the financial regulations applied to category 2 institutes, it was noted that the operations of category 2 institutes were fully independent of UNESCO and were not governed by the Financial Rules and Regulations of UNESCO.

15.22 Dear Chair, dear colleagues, it gives me great satisfaction to say that on the following three items it will be a very short report as we reached consensus rapidly. On item **23** "Collection of Member States contributions and incentive scheme for the prompt payment of contributions", the continuation of the scheme is recommended on a permanent basis, with the extension of the eligibility period to payments received by the end of February and a discount based on the effective interest rate earned from UNESCO's investments.

15.23 The Commission discussed item **15** "Category 1 institutes and centres". Several Member States raised the importance of financial sustainability of the institutes, possibly by linking performance to the financial allocation of the institutes, as had been recommended by IOS in 2012. Regarding the question of performance-based financial allocation, it was noted that this remained a sensitive and difficult issue. The overall financial allocation to the seven category 1 institutes adds up to some $14 million. All seven category 1 institutes are working on specialized areas of importance and the difficulty is in ensuring that each institute has the minimum staff for programme delivery and that sustainable financial allocation is provided. It was also noted that the final decision on the financial allocation for each of the institutes lay with Member States at the General Conference. Furthermore, the importance of higher education in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, and the role that the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) could play in this regard was reiterated. The Commission was informed that the recruitment of the directors of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) and IESALC was well under way. Lastly, Mr Chair, the Commission agreed to take all the category 2 centre proposals without debate, and all Member States host to those centres should be hereby congratulated.

15.24 Mr Chair, I have come to the end of my not very brief oral presentation. As I informed you earlier, the draft decisions recommended are in document 197 EX/52. With your permission, I should like to express my thanks to all those who contributed to the success of our work. I want to start by thanking you, Mr Chair; as ever, your support of and guidance to the work of our Commission has been invaluable. I also want to thank the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the officer-in-charge of BSP, the Assistant Director-General for Education, Mr Tang, Mr Jean-Yves Le Saux of BSP and all the other colleagues of the Senior Management Team who provided us with the necessary input and clarifications to carry out our work effectively. I would like to thank the one who kept us in sweet form – she will know who she is – the interpreters, translators, on-screen-typists, document production unit, room clerks and technicians, all of whom we depended on; and finally, the Secretary of the FA Commission, Mr Sachin Bhatt and his team: Mr Juan Frias-Velatti, Ms Virginie Paolini, Ms Emily Stirnemann and Ms Olive Ugo-Nlemadin.

15.25 Dear colleagues, this is the last time I will take the floor as Chair of the FA Commission to give an FA Commission report. It has been an honour and a privilege to play this role. During my time as Chair I have tried to be firm and fair, and I would apologize to all those of you who thought that I was occasionally too much of a performer. I could end, as a previous President of the General Conference once ended, by singing Frank Sinatra's *My Way*, but I really do not want to knock Belize off the chart with his *The Best Is Yet To Come*. Thank you.

16. The **Chair** recalled that, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Board should adopt the entire set of draft decisions recommended by each plenary commission as a whole, unless a Board Member requested that a specific decision be adopted separately. Seeing no such request, he took it that the Board wished to adopt the entire set of draft decisions contained in document 197 EX/52.

17. *It was so **decided***.

18. **The Chair** commended the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the lively and brilliant manner in which he had conducted the debates in the Finance and Administrative Commission throughout the biennium and expressed appreciation for his in-depth knowledge of administrative, financial and budgetary matters and his personal commitment to reform.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

SIXIÈME SÉANCE

Mercredi 21 octobre 2015 à 11 h 45

Président : M. Amr

GENERAL MATTERS

Item 32: Occupied Palestine (197 EX/32 and Addenda)

Draft decision in document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.32.3

١ لفت ممثل **الإمارات العربية المتحدة** (نائب الرئيس عن المجموعة الخامسة (ب)) انتباه أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي إلى خطورة ما آلت إليه الأوضاع في القدس الشرقية، وفلسطين على وجه العموم، وما لذلك من تأثير على الحياة اليومية لشعب فلسطين، وذلك في جميع مجالات اختصاص اليونسكو، ولا سيما ما يتعلق بحماية التراث وحرية العبادة. وذكّر بأن هناك عشرة قرارات صدرت عن المجلس التنفيذي، وستة قرارات أخرى أصدرتها لجنة التراث العالمي تطالب بإرسال بعثة الرصد التفاعلي [Reactive monitoring mission] إلى مدينة القدس القديمة وأسوارها. ولم تقترن تلك القرارات بأي تنفيذ. واعتبر أن إرسال البعثة إلى مدينة القدس القديمة أصبح ملحاً بسبب تدهور الأوضاع هناك. وقال إن المجلس التنفيذي يحتاج إلى إعداد تقرير عن الوضع فيما يتعلق بالحفاظ على المدينة وعلى طابعها التاريخي والديموغرافي الأصيل. وأشار إلى انه نظراً لرفض إسرائيل المستمر تطبيق قرارات اليونسكو بشأن القدس رغم تكرارها، فإن من واجب المجلس التنفيذي أن ينظر في هذه المعضلة ويتخذ القرار المناسب بشأنها. واقترح في ختام مداخلته التفكير في سبل التوصل إلى تنفيذ قرارات المجلس التنفيذي وهيئات اليونسكو الأخرى لما يكتسيه ذلك من أهمية في تثبيت وتأكيد مصداقية هذه المنظمة الأممية.

(1) The representative of the **United Arab Emirates** (Vice-Chair for Group V(b)) drew the attention of the Members of the Executive Board to the dangerous situation resulting from conditions in Jerusalem and in Palestine generally, and the impact on the daily life of the Palestinian people in all of UNESCO's fields of competence, especially the protection of the heritage and freedom of worship. He pointed out that there were 10 Executive Board decisions and six more issued by the World Heritage Committee requesting that a reactive monitoring mission be sent to the site of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls. Those decisions had not been associated with any action. In his view, the dispatch of the mission to the Old City of Jerusalem had become urgent on account of the deterioration of the situation there. The Executive Board should draft a report on the situation regarding protection of the city and its original historical and demographic character. He indicated that, in view of Israel's constant refusal to implement UNESCO decisions on Jerusalem in spite of their restatement, the Executive Board must look into the problem and adopt the appropriate decision in that regard. In concluding, he proposed that consideration should be given to ways in which the decisions of the Executive Board and other UNESCO bodies might be implemented in view of its importance in consolidating and confirming the credibility of the United Nations agency.

2. The representative of **Israel** thanked the Director-General for her brave and balanced announcement the previous day, when she had attempted to prevent UNESCO from being dragged down. Everyone was witness to the current attacks in Jerusalem, where Israelis were being stabbed and terrorized simply because they were Israeli. Israel had been warning the Executive Board for the past year that anti-Israel decisions were part of a Palestinian incitement campaign aimed at inflaming the already sensitive situation on the ground. Adoption of the proposed draft decision would not give UNESCO the means to solve the very complicated problem in the Middle East. At best, adoption of the decision might send a responsible and calming message, which was what all sides needed, but at worst it could add fuel to the fire and lead to further unnecessary conflict in the region.

٣ طلب **ممثل الإمارات العربية المتحدة** (نائب الرئيس عن المجموعة الخامسة (ب)) إقفال باب المناقشة بشأن البند **٣٢**، عملاً بالمادة ٤٣ من النظام الداخلي للمجلس التنفيذي، كما طلب إجراء التصويت على مشروع القرار المعدل، بمجمله ومن غير تجزئة، نداءً بالاسم، عملاً بالمادة ٥٣، وبناءً على طلب أعضاء المجلس.

(3) The representative of the **United Arab Emirates** (Vice-Chair for Group V(b)) moved the closure of the debate on item **32**, pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, and requested that a vote be taken by roll-call on the full text of the draft resolution, as amended, in accordance with Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure, with the vote of each Member participating recorded in the summary record of the meeting.

4. **The Chair** said that, according to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the motion by the representative of the United Arab Emirates to close the debate must be seconded, after which a roll-call vote on the draft decision would be taken.

5. La représentante de la **Tunisie** appuie la demande des Émirats arabes unis.

6. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection, the debate would be closed and the Board would proceed to a roll-call vote on the draft decision contained in document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.32.3. Prior to the vote, the draft decision would be displayed on the screen for two minutes to give Members an opportunity to see the amendments that had been made to the text the previous day, following consultations between the sponsors of the draft decision and Board Members.

7. *A roll-call vote **was taken** on the draft decision contained in document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.32.3. The results of the vote were as follows:*

***In favour**: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Chad, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates*

***Against**: Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America*

***Abstentions**: Albania, Angola, Austria, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Montenegro, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Spain, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine*

***Absent**: Turkmenistan*

***Majority required**: 17*

8. *The draft decision in document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.32.3 was **adopted** by 26 votes to 6, with 25 abstentions and one Member absent when the vote was taken.*

9. The representative of **Pakistan**, speaking in explanation of vote, said that he regretted not having been present at the previous session of the Board, at which he would have voted in favour of the draft decision on item **33** "Implementation of 37 C/Resolution 67 and 196 EX/Decision 27 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories". The decision just adopted by the Board would help to promote the ethical objectives of the Organization and demonstrate that it operated on a global scale that went beyond the aims of individual countries.

10.1 The representative of the **United States of America**, speaking in explanation of vote, expressed deep regret that despite the shared goodwill demonstrated throughout the 197th session of the Executive Board, such a highly politicized and inflammatory agenda item had been presented once again. Fortunately, the constructive engagement of many Member States and the Director-General had led to the removal of some of the most problematic language of the draft text, including that relating to the Old City of Jerusalem and its sacred sites. Despite those modifications, the harsh and inflammatory wording of the text was unacceptable: instead of promoting the Organization's mandate and enhancing its standing, it detracted from UNESCO's positive efforts, ran counter to its principles and called into question its credibility as an organization that fostered peace and promoted innovative global cooperation in its fields of competence.

10.2 Her Government was deeply concerned about the events in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza and had repeatedly condemned violence in the region, making it clear that there was no justification for terrorist attacks. She mourned the loss of all life, Israeli and Palestinian, and called upon all sides to take steps to restore calm. Preventing violence required leaders who were willing to make difficult decisions and commit themselves to negotiations with the sincere intention of achieving lasting peace. Politicized decisions at UNESCO did nothing to create the atmosphere required to achieve those urgently needed commitments. Furthermore, at a time when the Organization was preparing for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such an unbalanced approach to political issues weakened UNESCO's reputation as a collaborative peacebuilding body and undermined its core competencies. She urged Member States to adopt a more cooperative and constructive approach that furthered the mandate and values of the Organization.

11.1 Представитель **Российской Федерации** выражает глубокую обеспокоенность в отношении недавней эскалации напряженности на палестинских территориях, в том числе в Восточном Иерусалиме, и выступает с решительным осуждением любых террористических актов в Израиле и Палестине, а также с настоятельным призывом к сторонам остановить насилие и принять меры для деэскалации обстановки. Оратор заявляет также о недопустимости и неприемлемости любых действий, ведущих к страданиям мирных граждан.

11.2 По мнению Российской Федерации, объективное рассмотрение вопросов, вынесенных на повестку дня этого заседания Совета, могло бы иметь важное значение для нормализации обстановки. Необходима совместная работа в целях исключения любых мер, нарушающих статус-кво святых мест и провоцирующих отдельных представителей палестинцев и израильтян на силовые акции. Оратор подчеркивает, что сохраняющаяся в течение десятилетий неопределенность в отношении иерусалимских святынь не должна носить бессрочный характер и отмечает необходимость поиска взаимоприемлемого решения относительно святых мест в рамках возобновленных переговоров по всем аспектам окончательного статуса палестинских территорий. Российская Федерация руководствуется комплексным подходом к обсуждению этого вопроса на основе прямых переговоров между Израилем и Палестиной, а также совместной работы в Совете Безопасности ООН. Она полагает, что причины происходящего сейчас на палестинских территориях следует рассматривать сквозь призму начавшейся в 1967 г. оккупации палестинских территорий. По ее мнению, застарелый и хронический характер палестино-израильского конфликта, лежащий в основе и нынешней эскалации напряженности, остро требует справедливого и прочного урегулирования.

(11.1) The representative of the **Russian Federation** expressed deep concern at the recent escalation of tension in the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, strongly condemned all acts of terrorism in Israel and Palestine, and urged all the parties to end the violence and take steps to defuse the situation. She added that any actions causing the suffering of innocent citizens were inadmissible and unacceptable.

(11.2) Her Government believed that objective consideration of the issues on the agenda of the present session of the Board might be of great significance for normalizing the situation. It was necessary to work together in order to rule out any measures that might upset the status quo at holy sites and incite individual Palestinians and Israelis to commit violent acts. She emphasized that the uncertainty that had continued for decades regarding sacred places in Jerusalem should not last indefinitely, and that a mutually acceptable solution regarding holy sites must be sought in the context of renewed negotiations on all aspects of a definitive status for the Palestinian territories. The Russian Federation was guided by a comprehensive approach to discussions of the issue based on direct talks between Israel and Palestine together with collective efforts in the United Nations Security Council. The reasons for current events in the Palestinian territories should be seen through the prism of the occupation of Palestinian territories that had started in 1967. The longstanding and chronic nature of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which was also the basis of the current escalation in tension, urgently required a fair and transparent settlement.

12. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, speaking in explanation of vote, said that he welcomed the

statement made by the Director-General on 20 October 2015. It was vital that the long-standing status quo in respect of access to al-Ḥaram ash-sharîf (Temple Mount) and other historic sites be preserved. It was regrettable that there had not been sufficient time to discuss certain aspects of the decision just adopted, which went well beyond the Board's parameters of debate at a very sensitive time. It was for that reason that the United Kingdom had voted against the draft decision. He shared the deep concern over the current unrest across Israel and occupied Palestine and urged all parties to make every effort to promote calm and avoid any measures that could further inflame the situation. He also urged the Israeli Government to review immediately the restrictions on access to al-Ḥaram ash-sharîf (Temple Mount) and to lift them at the earliest safe opportunity.

13. The representative of the **Netherlands**, speaking in explanation of vote, expressed great concern over the tensions in Jerusalem, particularly relating to al-Ḥaram ash-sharîf (Temple Mount). He urged the parties involved to exercise restraint, refrain from provocative actions and rhetoric, and maintain the status quo at al-Ḥaram ash-sharîf (Temple Mount) in words and practice. He further urged all sides to cooperate, appease tensions and discourage violence at holy sites in Jerusalem. The decision just adopted by the Board would not facilitate de-escalation and failed to take into account current diplomatic efforts to that end, and that was why he had voted against it. The current situation demonstrated once again the urgent need for a sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both sides must endeavour to regain a credible political perspective with a view to achieving a two-State solution, an outcome that his country strongly supported.

14. **The Chair** invited observers to take the floor for statements concerning item **32**. Observers would be allowed to speak for a maximum of two minutes each.

15. The representative of **Israel** said that the current struggle had roots that went back before the creation of Israel. Today, the struggle was between the twenty-first century and the Middle Ages, between those who valued life and educated their children in peace and tolerance and those who celebrated death and educated their children in hatred and violence. Lies, incitement to hatred and violence brought only more bloodshed. The one permanent way to achieve peace was the two-State solution. The Western Wall and Jerusalem were the heart and the soul of every Jew and no tribunal, parliament, army or organization could separate them. Keeping the status quo in the Old City of Jerusalem was in Israel's own strategic interest. Israel recognized the importance of Jerusalem to all monotheistic religions and hoped for the day when Jewish worshippers would be guaranteed the same freedom and safety that Muslim worshippers enjoyed at present.

١٦,١ أعرب ممثل **الأردن** عن شكره الجزيل لأعضاء المجلس التنفيذي على التصويت لصالح مشروع قرار فلسطين المحتلة الذي تناول الأوضاع في المسجد الأقصى المبارك، الحرم القدسي الشريف، بالإضافة إلى بنود أخرى. وقال لئن كان تعزيز التنوع الثقافي والحوار بين الثقافات وثقافة السلام من أهم الأهداف التي أُنشئت اليونسكو من أجلها، فإن تصويت هذا العدد الكبير من أعضاء المجلس لصالح مشروع القرار إنما يعكس رغبة المجتمع الدولي القوية في الحفاظ على مدينة القدس التاريخية وكافة مقدساتها، وعلى رأسها المسجد الأقصى المبارك، الحرم القدسي الشريف. واعتبر أن هذا التصويت هو تعبير عن إرادة دولية جامعة ترفض كافة الانتهاكات الإسرائيلية ضد المدينة القديمة ومقدساتها الإسلامية والمسيحية، كما أنه يمثل رسالة قوية تؤيد مصداقية هذه المنظمة وعملها الدؤوب للحفاظ على مواقع التراث العالمي.

١٦,٢ وأشار إلى أن حكومة بلاده تؤيد المجلس التنفيذي وتدعمه في تطبيق روح منظمة اليونسكو وأهدافها في مجال حماية مواقع التراث العالمي ذات الأهمية الثقافية والتاريخية والدينية التي تهم البشرية جمعاء، وذلك وفقاً لأسس موضوعية ومهنية توافق عليها المجتمع الدولي وقبلها عند تأسيس المنظمة. وأضاف أن بلاده ترى ضرورة الابتعاد عن تسييس هذه المنظمة حفاظاً على دورها في تنفيذ الأهداف السامية التي أُنشئت من أجلها، مذكراً بأن بلاده ما انفكّت تطالب بضرورة قيام جميع الدول الأعضاء باحترام قرارات المنظمة وولايتها، وباحترام أحكام القانون الإنساني الدولي الخاصة بالاحتلال التي من أهدافها، فيما يتعلق بهذه المنظمة، حماية الأماكن التراثية ذات الأهمية التاريخية والثقافية بالنسبة إلى الإنسانية جمعاء، بعيداً عن أي اعتبارات أخرى خارجة عن نطاق عمل اليونسكو.

(16.1) The representative of **Jordan** expressed his gratitude to the Members of the Executive Board for voting in support of the draft decision on occupied Palestine, which dealt with the situation in al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharîf, in addition to other points. He said that the strengthening of cultural diversity, the dialogue between cultures and the culture of peace were thus among the most important goals for which UNESCO was founded and the vote of such a large number of Board Members in support of the draft decision reflected the strong wish of the international community to preserve the historical city of Jerusalem and all of its holy places, chief amongst which was al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharîf. In his view the vote was an expression of a broad international will rejecting all Israeli encroachments on the Old City and its Islamic and Christian holy sites and also represented a strong message confirming the credibility of the Organization and its tireless efforts to preserve world heritage sites.

(16.2) He stated that his country's government supported the Executive Board and assisted it in applying UNESCO's spirit and goals to the protection of world heritage sites of cultural, historical and religious significance for all humanity, in accordance with the objective and professional basis that the international community subscribed to and approved when the Organization was founded. He added that his country saw the need to move away from politicizing the Organization in order to preserve its role in fulfilling the lofty goals for which it was established. His country continued to call for all Member States to respect the Organization's decisions and its authority, and to comply with the provisions of international human rights law on occupation whose goals, as they related to the Organization, included protection of heritage sites of historical and cultural significance for humanity as a whole, aside from any other considerations outside of the area of competence of UNESCO.

17. Le représentant de la **Palestine** réitère les condamnations répétées du Président Abbas à l'égard de toute attaque visant des civils, condamnations malheureusement trop souvent unilatérales. Il déplore que soit systématiquement opposé l'alibi de la politisation chaque fois que son pays évoque la gravité

de la situation dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO. Il fait observer que, lorsque ce prétexte est avancé, son pays demande, sans succès, aux interlocuteurs de désigner le passage du texte présenté qu'ils jugent politisant pour pouvoir le modifier. Enfin, il rappelle que le Conseil exécutif est réuni ce jour pour répondre à une question fondamentale : jusqu'à quand des États souverains continueront-ils de prendre des décisions qui ne seront jamais appliquées par l'un des États membres de l'Organisation ?

18.1 La **Directrice générale** déclare que Jérusalem, ville sainte du judaïsme, du christianisme et de l'islam revêt une dimension universelle pour l'humanité, et que son patrimoine partagé doit être préservé. Point de convergence historique, culturelle et spirituelle pour des milliards d'individus, sa signification va bien au-delà de la région. Jérusalem est un microcosme de la diversité humaine dont l'avenir concerne toute l'humanité. Faisant part de sa profonde préoccupation à l'égard des violences qui se multiplient, elle rappelle que le Secrétaire général de l'ONU est sur place pour apporter un message de paix et confirmer la nécessité commune de définir une solution à deux États, vivant côte à côte dans la paix et la sécurité.

18.2 L'UNESCO doit, dans le cadre de son mandat, refuser l'instrumentalisation de la culture et s'opposer à toutes les formes de violence en proposant un autre discours, celui du dialogue entre les cultures et les religions. L'Organisation doit rappeler comment musulmans, juifs et chrétiens ont réussi, par le passé, à vivre ensemble, à Jérusalem et ailleurs. Elle doit faire entendre d'autres voix que celle du cloisonnement des mémoires, rappeler les convergences spirituelles et les épreuves traversées ensemble, faire résonner les voix des pèlerins, voyageurs et philosophes, de Marco Polo, Ibn Battûta, Maïmonide et tant d'autres qui ont dit leur fascination pour Jérusalem. L'UNESCO est le lien par excellence où l'on sait que le patrimoine est un livre ouvert sur le dialogue des cultures, qui montre comment les différentes cultures s'entremêlent d'une façon qu'il est impossible de défaire ou d'effacer.

18.3 La Directrice générale déclare que Jérusalem est le symbole d'un autre monde possible, un monde de tolérance où chacun respecterait la religion de l'autre. C'est cette vision d'une humanité inclusive que l'UNESCO a pour mission de défendre à travers la protection du patrimoine et de la diversité culturelle. Il n'y a pas d'autre voie possible que celle d'apprendre à vivre ensemble dans la diversité. L'UNESCO devant montrer l'exemple, la Directrice générale appelle le Conseil exécutif à continuer de se montrer uni sur des sujets extrêmement sensibles, comme il a su le faire par le passé.

18.4 Continuing in English, the Director-General said that the Executive Board had worked in that spirit, guided by a shared vision of peace, including the idea of sending a mission to Jerusalem. She deeply regretted that the mission had not yet been possible, but was determined to make every effort in that direction. She had conducted broad consultations in a spirit of openness and dialogue, and would redouble the efforts, to continue mobilizing UNESCO and its partners around the promotion of tolerance, mutual respect and living together, because there was no other way forward. In that spirit, she would like to initiate a dialogue among the three religions, engaging all guardians of the holy sites in Jerusalem with UNESCO, and to turn to the expert community in all the parties concerned, in cooperation with the Jordanian authorities, to explore ways to better protect this universal site.

18.5 She was also considering launching a new initiative for Israeli and Palestinian youth, with a view to involving youth-driven initiatives and civil society organizations and to fostering academic exchanges among cultural, scientific and educational institutions in the region to nurture dialogue and mutual understanding. The Networks of Mediterranean Youth project had provided a good testing ground in that respect.

18.6 She raised those ideas, because they embodied the conviction that had driven UNESCO for 70 years, that humanity, in all its diversity, formed a single community, sharing values, sharing a past, sharing a future, that culture was a wellspring of belonging and identity as well as a force for unity and dialogue, and that the world must never give in to violence and never accept the inevitability of conflict. Every day, in all actions, humanity must renew its commitment to peace.

18.7 That was the message of UNESCO's Constitution, and she emphasized in the connection young women and men, who must not be abandoned to violence and exclusion. Their aspirations for human rights and human dignity could not be ignored. On the contrary, they should be supported with skills, jobs and education; their dreams for peace should be nurtured, and they should be engaged in building a better future for all. UNESCO's mandate was to nurture knowledge and capabilities, to strengthen education for global citizenship, to build dialogue across cultures, to recognize and support young people as peacebuilders, as activists, as entrepreneurs, as change-makers.

18.8 Those goals underpinned projects, under UNESCO's Networks of Mediterranean Youth, in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia, supported by the European Union, to recognize and support young people's civic and media engagement. They also underpinned the #Unite4Heritage campaign launched in Baghdad in March 2015, to counter the propaganda of hatred and to engage young women and men in protecting humanity's shared heritage. They were what made so important UNESCO's education response to the Syrian crisis, led forward in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. The same ideas guided UNESCO's 9th Youth Forum that would open on 26 October 2015, bringing together young people and youth initiatives from across the world. They would come because of what the Organization embodied, the promise of peace, the will to strengthen humanity as one.

18.9 She would conclude with the words of the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in his recent video message to the Israeli and Palestinian people: "Non-violence requires more courage and strength than violence. At this difficult time, let us say 'enough is enough'. Let us stop the posturing and brinkmanship. Let us stop mortgaging the future of both peoples and the region."

ADOPTION OF DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (*continued*)

Committee on Non-Governmental Partners: report and draft decision recommended to the Executive Board (197 EX/50)

Item 29: Relations with non-governmental partners (NGP) (197 EX/29; 197 EX/29.INF; 197 EX/29.INF.2)

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/50

19.1 **Mr Pandit** (Nepal) (Chair of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners – NGP) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP), I am pleased and privileged to submit the report on the work of the Committee to this plenary meeting of the 197th session of the Executive Board. The NGP Committee met on Friday 9 October 2015 and I had the honour of opening the session. In accordance with Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, Her Excellency Ms Laura Faxas, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Dominican Republic to UNESCO, was elected temporary Chair of the Committee.

19.2 After adopting its agenda, the Committee examined item **29** "Relations with non-governmental partners". Under this item, the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information (ADG/ERI) gave a detailed introduction and provided an in-depth presentation on the status of cooperation with NGOs. Moreover, the collective work of NGOs coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee was presented in detail by its Chairperson, Ms Martine Levy. The Committee very much appreciated the review of the work accomplished, particularly the organization of two international NGO forums in the course of this year. The first took place in June here in Paris on the theme of "The Role of Women in Fighting Poverty". The second was held in July in Beijing on the theme of "Rapprochement of Cultures: One Humanity beyond Diversity". This was the first time that a forum was held in the Asian region, with the support of the Chinese authorities.

19.3 Dear Board Members, Excellencies, I should like to stress that in the general debate, there was agreement that cooperation with NGOs had improved. The Committee welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to allow wider participation of NGOs on the ground, and to increase UNESCO's official partnerships with civil society organizations from less represented regions, including Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arab States. I highlighted the need to increase the participation of NGOs from developing countries, with a view to enhancing national capacity in these countries. Allow me to reiterate the importance of cooperation with NGOs, which, more than ever, are indispensable partners in UNESCO's mission to achieve peace and development everywhere in the world, leaving no one behind.

19.4 Ladies and gentlemen, under item **29**, the Committee recommended the reclassification of three NGOs in official partnership from consultative to associate status. They are the Human Variome Project International Limited, the International Council of Organizations for Folklore Festivals and Folk Art (CIOFF) and the International Association of the Friends of Egyptian Museums (AME). Representatives of these organizations shared with the Committee relevant information concerning the nature of the work they have been carrying out in cooperation with UNESCO. The Committee also took note of the Director-General's decision to admit nine NGOs to official partnership with consultative status and to establish official relations with two foundations. I would like to emphasize that among these 11 new admissions, three organizations are based in Asia and two are located in the Arab States region. Additionally, the NGP Committee was informed of the renewal of official relations for another six-year period with three foundations.

19.5 The Committee recommended that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/50, which reflects the major conclusions of the Committee's deliberations.

19.6 We also considered the work of NGOs coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and had the opportunity to take cognizance of the quadrennial report on the contribution made by NGOs to UNESCO's activities, which the Director-General will submit to the General Conference at its 38th session.

19.7 Mr Chair, I have concluded my oral presentation of the deliberations by the NGP Committee. I sincerely hope that the core ideas discussed at our meeting have been duly reflected in my statement. Since this is my last term as Chair of the NGP Committee, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of our work, and in particular all those who have facilitated my tasks. I will start by extending my gratitude to you, Mr Chair, for the support you have shown for the work of the NGP Committee and your wisdom and personal engagement in heading the Executive Board. To the distinguished members of the NGP Committee, I give my sincere thanks for their participation in our discussions throughout the biennium, and hope that they will redouble their efforts to ensure the success of this Committee in the future. I would like to express my thanks to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the UNESCO Secretariat, particularly Mr Eric Falt (ADG/ERI), Ms Sabina Colombo (Secretary of the NGP Committee) and her team, the interpreters, room clerks and technical staff. I thank you all for your attention and I remain at your disposal to answer any further questions you may have. Thank you.

20. **The Chair** thanked the Chair of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) for his report and commended him on his excellent leadership and management of the Committee. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/50.

21. *It was so **decided**.*

Special Committee: report and draft decision recommended to the Executive Board (197 EX/51)

Item 5.IV.G: Schedule and workload of Executive Board sessions (197 EX/5 Part IV.G)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/51

Item 28: New audits by the External Auditor – Report on the audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities (197 EX/28 Rev.; 197 EX/28.INF. Rev.)

Item 44: Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (197 EX/44; 197 EX/DG.INF.)

22.1 **M. Camara** (Guinée) (Président du Comité spécial – SP) *in extenso* :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Excellences, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de présenter à nouveau les travaux du Comité spécial, qui s'est réuni les 8 et 9 octobre derniers pour sa troisième session au cours de l'exercice biennal 2014-2015. Nos travaux ont été très riches, mais nous avons pu les conduire à terme dans les délais, et même avec un peu d'avance sur le temps mis à notre disposition grâce à une excellente préparation en amont. En effet, comme pour les sessions précédentes, le groupe informel des « Amis du Comité spécial », composé des membres du Comité mais aussi ouvert aux autres États, a conduit bien en amont le travail de consultation sur certains des points à l'examen, ce qui a permis d'avancer de façon significative vers l'obtention d'un consensus sur l'essentiel des décisions à prendre en salle. Je souhaite exprimer ici toute ma reconnaissance aux Amis du Comité spécial pour leur efficacité légendaire. Pour diriger les travaux, j'ai eu à mes côtés en tant que président temporaire, élu au début de la session, le professeur Komlavi Francisco Seddoh, représentant du Togo au Conseil exécutif, qui avait déjà assuré ce rôle au cours des sessions précédentes.

22.2 Notre ordre du jour provisoire, approuvé à l'unanimité et sans amendement, contenait trois points : « Plan et charge de travail des sessions du Conseil exécutif » (**5 Partie IV.G**), « Nouveaux audits du Commissaire aux comptes : Rapport sur l'audit de la gouvernance de l'UNESCO et des fonds, programmes et entités rattachés » (**28**), et enfin « Amendements au Règlement intérieur du Conseil exécutif » (**44**). Des États membres du Comité spécial ont contesté avec véhémence la légitimité du Comité spécial à examiner les points **28** et **44**, que le Bureau du Conseil exécutif nous a dûment soumis. Comme les points à l'ordre du jour du Comité spécial relèvent de la compétence de différents services de l'Organisation, ils ont été examinés avec l'assistance des représentants du Secrétariat des organes directeurs (GBS), du Bureau de la gestion des services de soutien (MSS), du Bureau de la gestion financière (BFM), du Bureau de la planification stratégique (BSP) et de l'équipe de l'Audit externe de l'UNESCO, et en présence de la représentante de la Conseillère juridique de l'Organisation.

22.3 En ce qui concerne le point **5 Partie IV.G**, « Plan et charge de travail des sessions du Conseil exécutif », le Comité spécial a examiné la section G du document 197 EX/5 Partie IV et, après une discussion générale, a décidé de recommander au Conseil l'adoption d'une version amendée du projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 10 de cette section. En ce qui concerne le point **28** « Nouveaux audits du Commissaire aux comptes : Rapport sur l'audit de la gouvernance de l'UNESCO et des fonds, programmes et entités rattachés », le Comité spécial a examiné le document de synthèse 197 EX/28 (et 197 EX/28 Rev. pour la version anglaise), ainsi que le document 197 EX/28.INF contenant le texte de l'audit complet. Le point a été présenté par l'Auditeur externe, M. Gilles-Pierre Lévy, tandis que des informations ou des clarifications ont été fournies tout au long du débat en réponse aux questions du Comité par M. Christian Cardon, membre de l'équipe de l'Auditeur externe. Les membres du Comité avaient, une fois encore, préparé en avance le travail avec soin. Ils ont, d'une part, formulé des observations générales sur l'audit et, d'autre part, analysé le contenu des recommandations énoncées. À l'issue de leurs délibérations, ils ont estimé que certaines d'entre elles étaient susceptibles d'être mises en œuvre immédiatement, tandis que d'autres suscitaient des réserves quant à leur faisabilité ou des critiques, ou méritaient d'être examinées plus avant préalablement à toute application.

22.4 Les résultats des travaux du Comité spécial sur ce point ont été communiqués le 19 octobre à la réunion conjointe de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures et de la Commission financière et administrative. Le Comité spécial avait notamment amendé le projet de décision proposé au paragraphe 28 du document 197 EX/28 dans l'intention de fournir à la réunion conjointe des Commissions PX et FA une base de rédaction ouverte. En ce qui concerne le point **44** « Amendements au Règlement intérieur du Conseil exécutif », pour lequel le document de référence est le 197 EX/44, son examen par le Comité spécial a été précédé d'une présentation par le représentant des Pays-Bas en sa qualité de membre du Comité spécial et de coauteur du document.

22.5 D'une manière générale, le Comité spécial a manifesté un intérêt certain pour l'initiative sous-tendue par le projet d'amendement du Règlement intérieur du Conseil exécutif contenu dans le document 197 EX/44. Des doutes, des réserves et surtout un besoin d'approfondissement et de clarification ont en revanche été exprimés sur les implications financières, administratives et juridiques de la réforme proposée. Le Comité a jugé nécessaire, pour pouvoir examiner le document en connaissance de cause, de disposer, conformément à l'article 34A du Règlement intérieur du Conseil, d'un document d'information établi par le Secrétariat sur les coûts escomptés de la réforme préconisée. En l'absence d'un tel document, il n'a pas adopté de recommandation en vue de la discussion de ce point, le 19 octobre, à la réunion conjointe des Commissions PX et FA.

22.6 Le rapport écrit du Comité spécial rend clairement compte de tout ceci. Je tiens à remercier l'ensemble des membres du Comité spécial ainsi que les non-membres qui ont participé à nos travaux. Je remercie également le Secrétariat, tout d'abord le Directeur général adjoint, M. Engida, qui a été avec nous pendant une grande partie des travaux, le Secrétaire du Conseil, M. Rao, son adjointe, Mme Sam-Vargas, et leur équipe, et la représentante de la Conseillère juridique. Je remercie le Secrétaire du Comité spécial, M. Mauro Rosi, et les trois collègues qui l'ont assisté, M. Mehrdad Shabahang, M. Francisco Gomez-Duran et Mme Racki Sy. Je remercie aussi, évidemment, les représentants des services et secteurs qui ont apporté des éclaircissements à la salle pendant les débats, le personnel technique, les responsables de la sonorisation et les commis de salle, ainsi que les

interprètes, fidèles et réguliers. C'est ainsi que s'achève ma collaboration avec le Comité spécial en tant que Président. Nous aurons certainement l'opportunité de nous rencontrer à l'avenir. Ce n'est qu'un au revoir. Merci Monsieur le Président.

23. **The Chair** thanked the Chair of the Special Committee for his report, commended him on his excellent leadership, and thanked the Group of Friends of the Special Committee, whose support had proved invaluable in building consensus. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/51.

24. *It was so* ***decided***.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

SEPTIÈME SÉANCE

Mercredi 21 octobre 2015 à 15 h 20

Président : M. Amr

POINTS SUPPLÉMENTAIRES

Item 43: Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO (197 EX/43)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/43

1.1 The representative of **Germany**, introducing item **43** on behalf of its 48 co-sponsors, said that as Kosovo endeavoured to build an open and inclusive knowledge society with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, its entire population, regardless of ethnic origin, would greatly benefit from access to UNESCO's programmes. It was essential for young people in Kosovo to have equitable access to quality education and to participate in international initiatives for peace and development. Nevertheless, UNESCO membership came with obligations. By joining UNESCO, the Republic of Kosovo would be committing itself to international standards in all the fields of the Organization's competence, including the promotion and protection of cultural heritage. Any fears of a deterioration in protection for the Serbian Orthodox cultural heritage in Kosovo were unfounded. On the contrary, strong legal safeguards concerning the Serbian Orthodox Church were already in place; for example, the Kosovo police, in agreement with Serbia, had created a special unit to protect Serbian Orthodox cultural sites. Furthermore, Kosovo's adherence to UNESCO's standards would come under the Organization's scrutiny once it became a Member State. Religious tolerance in Kosovo was exemplary, and recent political dialogue with Serbia had laid the foundations for the full integration of the Serbian minority into Kosovo's institutions. In short, admitting Kosovo to UNESCO would provide an extraordinary opportunity to further strengthen education, culture and science in Kosovo and to foster peace and reconciliation in the region.

1.2 Despite the doubts that had been raised on the matter, the Constitution of UNESCO did not stipulate United Nations membership as a prerequisite for admission to the Organization. Several other countries, including his own, had joined UNESCO before being admitted into the United Nations. Furthermore, neither United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) nor the International Court of Justice advisory opinion concerning Kosovo's declaration of independence addressed the issue of its admission to UNESCO. The decision was up to UNESCO's Member States alone. He urged Board Members to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the admission of Kosovo to UNESCO.

2. The representative of **Albania**, speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors of item **43**, moved the closure of the debate in accordance with Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, and asked the Chair to proceed with the adoption by roll-call vote of the draft decision contained in document 197 EX/43.

3. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** seconded the motion by the representative of Albania to close the debate.

4. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection to the requests presented by the representative of Albania and seconded by the representative of the United Kingdom, he would take it that the Executive Board wished to proceed to a roll-call vote on the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/43. The Board would therefore move forward in accordance with Rule 53 of its Rules of Procedure.

5. Представитель **Российской Федерации** просит предоставить ей слово по процедуре. Подтвердив, что Российская Федерация, как и ряд других стран, выступает против принятия Косово в члены ЮНЕСКО, оратор предлагает перенести рассмотрение этого вопроса и провести поименное голосование по данному предложению.

(5) La représentante de la **Fédération de Russie** demande la parole au titre d'une motion de procédure. Réaffirmant que la Fédération de Russie, comme nombre d'autres pays, est contre l'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO, elle propose de reporter l'examen de la question et souhaite que sa proposition soit soumise à un vote par appel nominal.

6. **The Chair** said that the representative of Russia had proposed that the debate on item **43** be adjourned.

7. **The Legal Adviser** said that according to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, a Member who had moved the adjournment of a debate must indicate whether the motion was to adjourn *sine die* or to a particular time. If seconded, the motion should be put to a vote.

8. Представитель **Российской Федерации** предлагает отложить рассмотрение этого вопроса на неопределенный срок.

(8) La représentante de la **Fédération de Russie** propose de reporter *sine die* l'examen de la question.

9. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** pointed out that when the Russian Federation had moved to adjourn the debate, the Chair had been in the process of announcing the vote by roll call. According to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure, after the Chair had announced the beginning of voting, no one could interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Since the request by the Russian Federation did not fall into that category, the Executive Board should proceed with the roll-call vote.

10. El representante de **Cuba**, tras subrayar que disiente de la interpretación del Reino Unido, secunda la moción de aplazamiento del debate presentada por la Federación de Rusia con arreglo al Artículo 42 del Reglamento. Según lo dispuesto en el Artículo 44, procede en primer lugar someter a votación esta moción, que ya cuenta con el apoyo de Cuba. Añade que la inclusión del punto **43** en el orden del día del Consejo no solo supone una lamentable politización del Consejo Ejecutivo, sino que además contraviene el derecho internacional.

(10) Le représentant de **Cuba**, soulignant son désaccord vis-à-vis de l'interprétation du Royaume-Uni, appuie la motion d'ajournement du débat proposée par la Fédération de Russie en vertu de l'article 42 du règlement intérieur. Conformément à l'article 44, il convient de soumettre au vote d'abord cette motion, qui bénéficie désormais du soutien de Cuba. Il ajoute que l'inscription du point **43** à l'ordre du jour du Conseil exécutif constitue non seulement une regrettable politisation de ce dernier, mais est également contraire au droit international.

11. **The Legal Adviser** said that following Albania's move to close the debate, the floor had been open for Members to speak against that motion. The Russian Federation had moved to adjourn and Cuba had seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn should therefore be put to the vote.

12. The representative of **Indonesia** seconded the motion by the representative of the Russian Federation to adjourn the debate.

13. The representative of **Germany** asked the Chair whether he had announced the beginning of voting. If he had, the Russian Federation's move to adjourn the debate would have been too late.

14. **The Legal Adviser** cited the exact words of the Chair prior to the request by the Russian Federation to adjourn the debate: "…there is a proposal to proceed with a vote on this item by roll call. We will therefore move forwards in accordance with Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure". Those words indicated that the voting had begun; any motion to adjourn presented subsequently must be regarded as too late.

15. **The Chair** said that, having heard the views of the Legal Adviser, the Executive Board should continue with the roll-call vote on the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/43.

16. Представитель **Российской Федерации** напоминает о том, что она должна была выступать после представителя Великобритании, но ей не дали слова. Оратор выражает свое несогласие с утверждением о том, что голосование уже началось.

(16) La représentante de la **Fédération de Russie** rappelle qu'elle aurait dû intervenir après le représentant de la Grande-Bretagne mais qu'on ne lui a pas donné la parole. Elle conteste que le vote ait commencé.

17. El representante de **Cuba** señala que a su entender el Presidente ha incurrido en una irregularidad de procedimiento, pues ha dado la palabra al Reino Unido obviando el turno de la Federación de Rusia, a la que según la lista de oradores correspondía hablar después de Albania. Este es el motivo por el que la Federación de Rusia no ha podido presentar en su debido momento la moción de aplazamiento y ha planteado la moción de orden. Repite que, según los artículos 42 y 44 del Reglamento, la moción de la Federación de Rusia tiene prelación y lo que procede es someterla a votación sin más debate ni demora.

(17) Le représentant de **Cuba** considère que le Président a commis une irrégularité de procédure en donnant la parole au Royaume-Uni à la place de la Fédération de Russie qui, selon la liste des orateurs, était censée intervenir après l'Albanie. C'est la raison pour laquelle la Fédération de Russie n'a pas pu présenter la motion d'ajournement en temps voulu et a présenté une motion d'ordre. Il répète qu'en vertu des articles 42 et 44 du règlement intérieur, la motion de la Fédération de Russie est prioritaire et qu'il convient de la soumettre au vote sans débat ni délai supplémentaire.

18. **The Chair** said that as stipulated under Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure, "During the discussion of any matter, a Member may move the closure of the debate whether or not any other Member has signified his wish to speak. If such a motion is seconded, the Chairman shall indicate the proposals which have been submitted on the substance of the item under discussion and which shall be put to the vote after the closure of the debate." Therefore, when the representative of the United Kingdom had taken the floor to second the motion to close the debate, he had done so in accordance with Rule 43. Furthermore, the Board had been asked whether it had any objections to the closure but no objections had been raised. If any Member disputed that sequence of events, the sound recordings could be listened to for clarification.

19. El representante de **Cuba** pregunta al Presidente cómo podía saber, al dar la palabra al Reino Unido y privar así de su turno a la Federación de Rusia, que el Reino Unido se disponía a secundar la moción de cierre del debate presentada por Albania. Tal proceder le plantea dudas razonables, e insiste en que el Presidente someta de inmediato a votación la moción de la Federación de Rusia, que, como ha afirmado al principio la Asesora Jurídica, tiene precedencia sobre la británica.

(19) Le représentant de **Cuba** demande au Président comment il pouvait savoir, en donnant la parole au Royaume-Uni et en privant ainsi la Fédération de Russie de son tour, que le Royaume-Uni avait l'intention d'appuyer la motion de clôture du débat présentée par l'Albanie. Une telle démarche soulève des doutes raisonnables. Il tient à ce que le Président soumette immédiatement au vote la motion de la Fédération de Russie qui, comme la Conseillère juridique l'a indiqué dès le début, a priorité sur la motion britannique.

20. **The Chair** explained that when the representative of the United Kingdom had asked for the floor, the Chair had asked the representative of the United Kingdom whether he wished to make a point of order, and the answer had been affirmative. Under the Rules of Procedure, he was obliged to give the floor immediately to a Member who wished to make a point of order.

21. The representative of the **United Kingdom** confirmed the Chair's account of the order of events following the motion by the representative of Albania to close the debate.

22. El representante de **Cuba** propone que el Consejo haga un receso de cinco minutos para deliberar sobre la mejor manera de resolver la situación.

(22) Le représentant de **Cuba** propose que le Conseil fasse une pause de cinq minutes pour délibérer sur la meilleure manière de résoudre la situation.

23. **The Chair** said that if he saw no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to suspend the meeting to discuss how best to proceed.

24. *It was so **agreed**.*

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m.
and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

25. **The Chair** said that in order to clarify the situation, he had listened to the sound recording of the meeting together with the Legal Adviser, the representatives of the Russian Federation, Cuba, Albania and the United Kingdom as well as the Secretary of the Executive Board. It was clear from the recording that following the motion by the representative of Albania to close the debate, as seconded by the representative of the United Kingdom, no objection had been raised with regard to putting the question to a vote. He would therefore

resume the roll call vote on the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/43. Pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure, the decision would be taken by a simple majority of the Members present and voting, and for the purposes of determining the majority, only Members casting an affirmative or negative vote would be counted as present and voting. Members who abstained from voting would be considered as not voting. He recalled that pursuant to Article II of the Constitution of UNESCO and Rule 98 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the final decision with regard to the admission to UNESCO of States not Members of the United Nations lay with the General Conference. He invited the Secretary of the Executive Board to proceed with the vote by roll call.

26. *A roll-call vote **was taken** on the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/43. The results of the vote were as follows:*

***In favour**: 27 – Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Belize, Chad, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Italy, Kuwait, Montenegro, Pakistan, Netherlands, St Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America.*

***Against**: 14 – Angola, Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Morocco, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain.*

***Abstentions**: 14 – Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda.*

***Absent**: 3 – Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine.*

***Majority required**: 21*

27. *The draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/43 was **adopted** by 27 votes to 14, with 14 abstentions and three Members absent when the vote was taken.*

28. **The Chair** said that the Executive Board's recommendation to admit Kosovo to UNESCO would be submitted to the General Conference pursuant to Article II of the Constitution and would be duly included in the agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference.

29.1 La representante de la **Argentina** dice que su país se opone a la admisión de la República de Kosovo en la UNESCO porque entiende que el proceso carece de base jurídica. Recuerda en este sentido que, a tenor de la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad, Kosovo y Metohija forman un territorio administrado por las Naciones Unidas que es parte constitutiva de la República de Serbia, y que, según el párrafo 3 del Artículo II de la Constitución de la UNESCO, este tipo de territorios deben ser admitidos en calidad de Miembros Asociados. No incumbe al Consejo Ejecutivo formular recomendación alguna al respecto, pues tales decisiones recaen directamente en la Conferencia General, siempre y cuando la admisión haya sido solicitada, como se estipula en dicho artículo de la Constitución, "por el Estado Miembro o por cualquier autoridad que asuma la responsabilidad de la dirección de sus relaciones exteriores", que en este caso sería la UNMIK**.**

29.2 La Argentina no reconoce la declaración unilateral de independencia formulada en 2008 por el Parlamento de Kosovo porque viola el principio de soberanía e integridad territorial de la República de Serbia, posición que ya expresó en otros ámbitos, por ejemplo al votar a favor de la resolución 1244 o durante el proceso por el que la Corte Internacional de Justicia emitió una opinión consultiva sobre la cuestión. Tras señalar que actualmente se está negociando en Bruselas un mecanismo de solución de controversias mediante un acuerdo negociado y mutuamente aceptado por las partes, recuerda los continuos y sistemáticos ataques que desde 1999 perpetran extremistas albaneses contra iglesias y monasterios de la Iglesia ortodoxa serbia y otros monumentos de importancia cultural e histórica. Todo ello confirma, a su entender, que la solicitud de Kosovo no obedece al deseo de promover los valores que son inherentes a la UNESCO, sino más bien a designios políticos, y motiva la categórica oposición de la Argentina a que el Consejo Ejecutivo recomiende a la Conferencia General la admisión de Kosovo en la Organización.

(29.1) La représentante de l'**Argentine** indique que son pays s'oppose à l'admission de la République du Kosovo à l'UNESCO, estimant que le processus est dépourvu de base juridique. À cet égard, elle rappelle que conformément à la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité, le Kosovo-et Métochie constitue un territoire administré par les Nations Unies qui fait partie de la République de Serbie et que, en vertu du paragraphe 3 de l'article II de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, les territoires de ce type doivent être admis en qualité de membres associés. Il n'appartient pas au Conseil exécutif de formuler une quelconque recommandation sur la question de telles décisions incombant directement à la Conférence générale, sous réserve que l'admission ait été sollicitée, comme le prévoit ledit article de l'Acte constitutif, « par l'État membre ou l'autorité, quelle qu'elle soit, qui assume la responsabilité de la conduite de ses relations extérieures », en l'occurrence la MINUK.

(29.2) L'Argentine ne reconnaît pas la déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance proclamée en 2008 par le Parlement du Kosovo, qui viole selon elle le principe de souveraineté et d'intégrité territoriale de la République de Serbie, une position qu'elle a déjà exprimée dans d'autres contextes, par exemple au moment de voter en faveur de la résolution 1244 ou lors du processus au cours duquel la Cour internationale de Justice a émis un avis consultatif sur la question. Après avoir signalé qu'un mécanisme de règlement des différends par le biais d'un accord négocié et mutuellement accepté par les parties était en cours de négociation à Bruxelles, la représentante rappelle les attaques systématiques et répétées commises depuis 1999 par des extrémistes albanais contre des églises et des monastères de l'Église orthodoxe serbe ainsi que d'autres monuments ayant une valeur culturelle et historique. Tout cela confirme que la demande du Kosovo ne répond pas à la volonté de promouvoir les valeurs inhérentes à l'UNESCO mais obéit bien à des fins politiques, et explique l'opposition catégorique de l'Argentine à l'idée que le Conseil exécutif recommande à la Conférence générale d'admettre le Kosovo au sein de l'Organisation.

30. The representative of **Austria** said that he welcomed the outcome of the vote. Kosovo's integration into UNESCO would reinforce the country's stability, enhance its relations within a context based on the rule of law, have a positive impact on the fields of education, science and communication, and strengthen civil society. Membership in the Organization entailed a special

commitment to cultural diversity, tolerance, human rights and heritage protection and, in that connection, the recent formal written pledge by the Kosovan authorities to protect the Serbian Orthodox heritage in Kosovo was welcome. By providing support and oversight, UNESCO and its Member States would help Kosovo to safeguard the integrity of the cultural heritage within its borders.

31. **中国**代表表示，中国对本组织接纳新的会员国持开放态度，认为接纳新会员有利于扩大本组织的影响，并更好地发挥其作用。但中国认为，鉴于联合国安理会就科索沃问题已经做出相关决议，在目前情况下讨论接纳科索沃作为教科文组织会员国的条件尚不成熟，接纳科索沃既不利于科索沃问题当事方业已开展的对话进程，也无助于教科文组织发挥维护世界和平与安全、促进可持续发展的积极作用。因此中国投反对票。

(31) La représentante de la **Chine** indique que la Chine est ouverte à l'admission de nouveaux États membres, qu'elle trouve propice au renforcement de l'impact de l'Organisation, et qui permettrait à l'UNESCO de mieux jouer son rôle. La Chine estime pourtant que les conditions posées pour l'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO ne sont pas encore remplies et rappelle que le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a déjà adopté une résolution relative au problème du Kosovo. L'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO ne bénéficierait ni au processus de dialogue déjà en cours de développement par des acteurs concernés par le problème du Kosovo, ni à la fonction positive de l'Organisation, qui consiste à maintenir la paix et la sécurité mondiales et à promouvoir le développement durable. En conclusion, la Chine a voté contre.

32.1 El representante de **Cuba** reitera que la adopción del proyecto de decisión supone una lamentable politización de la labor del Consejo, politización que ahora se hará extensiva a la Conferencia General. El proceso de examen de este punto ha adolecido de graves problemas de procedimiento y sido objeto de ciertas manipulaciones que no han pasado inadvertidas, como ha señalado repetidas veces.

32.2 Cuba, fiel a su posición de escrupuloso respeto de los principios del derecho internacional consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, apoya incondicionalmente la integridad territorial de la República de Serbia, que es Estado Miembro de las Naciones Unidas, y no reconoce como Estado independiente a la autoproclamada República de Kosovo. Por ello su país ha votado en contra.

(32.1) Le représentant de **Cuba** répète que l'adoption du projet de décision constitue une politisation regrettable des travaux du Conseil exécutif, politisation qui s'étend désormais à la Conférence générale. Le processus d'examen du point considéré a souffert de graves problèmes de procédure et fait l'objet de certaines manipulations qui ne sont pas passées inaperçues, comme il l'a signalé à plusieurs reprises.

(32.2) Cuba, fidèle à son souci de respecter scrupuleusement les principes du droit international consacrés dans la Charte des Nations Unies, défend inconditionnellement l'intégrité territoriale de la République de Serbie, qui est membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, et ne reconnaît pas la République autoproclamée du Kosovo comme un État indépendant. Le pays a donc voté contre le projet de décision.

33.1 La representante de **España** recuerda la firme postura de su país con respecto al territorio de Kosovo, caracterizada por la sistemática defensa de los principios de integridad territorial de los Estados y el respeto del derecho internacional. Por ello el Gobierno de España no reconoció en su día la declaración unilateral de independencia, contraria al derecho internacional, y por la misma razón ha votado contra la solicitud de admisión de Kosovo, deseoso de mantenerse en una línea coherente y respetuoso con la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad, que sigue plenamente vigente. Entiende, además, que la opinión consultiva de la Corte Internacional de Justicia no versaba exactamente sobre este particular.

33.2 En esta y otras decisiones España se guía por la voluntad de defender los principios fundamentales de soberanía e integridad territorial y de apostar por la viabilidad de Estados multiétnicos y multiconfesionales basados en sistemas democráticos y en el estado de derecho. Concluye remitiéndose a lo que declaró en la primera sesión de la presente reunión, a saber, que toda recomendación formulada por el Consejo Ejecutivo no prejuzga en modo alguno la posición al respecto de países que, como España, no han reconocido el territorio de Kosovo como Estado.

(33.1) La représentante de l'**Espagne** rappelle la ferme position de son pays concernant le territoire du Kosovo, position qui se caractérise par la défense systématique des principes d'intégrité territoriale des États et par le respect du droit international. C'est pourquoi à l'époque, le Gouvernement espagnol n'avait pas reconnu la déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance, qu'il avait jugée contraire au droit international. Pour la même raison, l'Espagne a voté contre la demande d'admission du Kosovo, désireuse de maintenir une ligne cohérente et conforme à la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité, qui reste pleinement en vigueur. En outre, la représentante croit comprendre que l'avis consultatif de la Cour internationale de Justice ne portait pas exactement sur le point en question.

(33.2) Dans cette décision comme dans d'autres, l'Espagne a été guidée par la volonté de défendre les principes fondamentaux de souveraineté et d'intégrité territoriale, et de miser sur la viabilité d'États multiethniques et multiconfessionnels fondés sur des systèmes démocratiques et sur l'état de droit. La représentante conclut en rappelant ce qu'elle avait déclaré à la première séance de la session en cours, à savoir, que toute recommandation formulée par le Conseil exécutif ne préjugeait en rien de la position de pays qui, comme l'Espagne, n'ont pas reconnu le territoire du Kosovo en tant qu'État.

34. The representative of the **United States of America**, applauding the majority decision to support Kosovo's application for membership in UNESCO, said that Kosovo would be a welcome partner in efforts to counter violent extremism through education, implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote freedom of expression. As a Member State of the Organization, Kosovo would benefit from the cooperation, shared knowledge and best practices of the international community in the fields of UNESCO's competence, and would in turn commit itself to increasing its accountability and transparency and complying with international standards for the preservation and conservation of its

cultural heritage, including important Serbian Orthodox sites.

35. The representative of **Ethiopia** said that he had voted against the admission of Kosovo to UNESCO. His Government had not yet recognized Kosovo as an independent State; its decision on that matter would be based on the outcome of the negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo. A solution that was acceptable to both parties was the only way to achieve lasting peace, one of the pillars of UNESCO's mandate.

36. The representative of **Albania** said that she welcomed the Board's decision to recommend the admission of Kosovo to UNESCO. Membership would greatly benefit Kosovo and its citizens. UNESCO's support and expertise would help Kosovo to achieve progress in various areas including education reform, capacity-building in science and technology, cultural heritage protection, promotion of religious tolerance, development of free, independent and pluralistic media and protection of human rights. Kosovo's membership in UNESCO would also help to enhance regional cooperation in the Organization's fields of competence and to foster peace and reconciliation, which would facilitate progress towards the key objectives shared by all the region's countries, notably integration into the European Union. A culture of peace could only be achieved through cooperation and inclusiveness. She was confident that the General Conference would endorse the Board's recommendation and enable Kosovo to gain its rightful and natural place as a full Member of the UNESCO family.

37.1 Представитель **Российской Федерации** отмечает, что при принятии решения по вопросу о членстве Косово в ЮНЕСКО следовало учитывать ряд объективных обстоятельств, в первую очередь, резолюцию Совета Безопасности ООН 1244, которая является обязательной для всех международно-правовой базой косовского урегулирования. Взаимодействие с косовскими структурами при необходимости должно осуществляться только через Миссию Организации Объединенных Наций по делам временной администрации в Косово (МООНК). Оратор полагает, что возникший юридический казус требует более пристального рассмотрения.

37.2 В отношении территориальных вопросов оратор отмечает наличие порочной практики двойных стандартов, когда члены Совета принимают решение о членстве в Организации самопровозглашенного государства и в то же время обсуждают вопросы Крыма, чей народ большинством голосов высказался за возвращение в состав Российской Федерации. Она обращает внимание на то, что ситуация в Косово далека от стабильной, и состояние объектов Всемирного наследия на его территории не может не вызывать обеспокоенности со стороны ЮНЕСКО. С учетом идущих между Сербией и Косово переговоров по урегулированию целого комплекса серьезных разногласий Российская Федерация считает, что принимать сейчас Косово в члены ЮНЕСКО является абсолютно безответственным шагом, который приведет лишь к дальнейшей политизации Организации и углублению разногласий между ее членами.

37.3 Оратор обращает внимание на результаты голосования, не дающие повода для радости: решение поддержали 27 государств, 28 высказались против либо воздержались, еще три представителя вышли в момент голосования из зала, итого получается 30 против 27. Оратор называет практику, в соответствии с которой мнение воздержавшихся не учитывается, порочной и странной. Она вновь подтверждает, что Российская Федерация не поддерживает данное решение и надеется, что такое же понимание возобладает и на Генеральной конференции.

(37.1) La représentante de la **Fédération de Russie** fait observer que, pour l'adoption de la décision concernant l'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO, il aurait fallu prendre en considération plusieurs circonstances objectives, et en premier lieu la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, qui est la base juridique internationale s'imposant à tous s'agissant du règlement de la question du Kosovo. Toute coopération avec les structures du Kosovo doit obligatoirement passer par la Mission d'administration intérimaire des Nations Unies au Kosovo (MINUK). L'oratrice considère que le cas juridique qui se pose exige un examen plus attentif.

(37.2) En ce qui concerne les questions territoriales, l'oratrice dénonce la pratique des deux poids deux mesures au sein du Conseil qui, d'une part prend une décision concernant l'admission à l'Organisation d'un État autoproclamé, et d'autre part se saisit de la question de la Crimée, dont le peuple s'est prononcé en majorité pour son rattachement à la Fédération de Russie. Elle appelle l'attention sur le fait que la situation au Kosovo est loin d'être stable et que l'état des biens du patrimoine mondial se trouvant sur le territoire du Kosovo ne saurait laisser l'UNESCO indifférente. Compte tenu des pourparlers en cours entre la Serbie et le Kosovo en vue du règlement de toute une série de différends sérieux, la Fédération de Russie considère qu'admettre aujourd'hui le Kosovo à l'UNESCO serait un acte absolument irresponsable qui ne pourra que conduire à une politisation encore plus poussée de l'Organisation et à l'approfondissement des désaccords entre ses membres.

(37.3) L'oratrice appelle l'attention sur le résultat du vote, dont il n'y a, selon elle, pas lieu de se réjouir : si 27 États ont appuyé la décision, 28 États ont voté contre ou se sont abstenus, et trois représentants sont sortis de la salle au moment du vote, d'où un score de 30 contre 27. L'oratrice trouve anormal et étrange que l'on ne comptabilise pas les voix des abstentionnistes. Elle répète que la Fédération de Russie n'approuve pas la décision en question et espère que cette position prévaudra à la Conférence générale.

38. Le représentant de **Maurice** tient à préciser qu'aucune décision du Conseil exécutif relative à l'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO ne saurait avoir d'incidence ou d'influence sur la position de son pays quant à la reconnaissance du Kosovo.

39. El representante de **México** explica que su país ha votado en contra por respeto al derecho internacional y por fidelidad a los principios constitucionales que guían su política exterior, entendiendo que tal solicitud entra en contradicción con la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad y, además, prejuzga el desenlace de las conversaciones entre las partes que están actualmente en curso.

(39) Le représentant du **Mexique** explique que son pays a voté contre l'admission, par respect pour le droit international et par fidélité aux principes constitutionnels qui guident sa politique extérieure. Il

considère que la demande d'admission est contraire à la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité, et qu'elle préjuge en outre de l'issue des pourparlers en cours entre les parties.

40. The representative of **Indonesia** said that he had abstained from voting owing to Indonesia's longstanding position on the independence of Kosovo. Indonesia fully respected the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of all nations, including Serbia, and welcomed the readiness of the European Union to facilitate a process of dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. It believed that a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the issue, as set forth in the 2013 Brussels agreement, was possible. Kosovo should have waited for the conclusion of the negotiations with Serbia before applying for admission to UNESCO.

41. The representative of **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** said that his country recognized the independence of Kosovo and welcomed the Board's decision to recommend Kosovo's application for membership in UNESCO, which would be beneficial to the entire region. Serbia should not fear for the fate of Serbian shrines in Kosovan territory since the shrines had been preserved since the time of the Ottoman Empire. Negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo were continuing and taking a positive direction. The former Yugoslavia had been dismantled into seven countries and it was time to recognize Kosovo's independence under international law.

42. The representative of the **Czech Republic** said that she welcomed the decision to recommend the admission of Kosovo to UNESCO. Membership would help Kosovo to make progress in the fields of the Organization's competence and would also require adherence to international commitments, including the protection of cultural heritage which would naturally include the Serbian Orthodox monuments within its territory.

43. The representative of **Papua New Guinea** said that although his country had co-sponsored the draft decision, the political sensitivity of the issue had led him to abstain during the voting on it. He therefore requested that Papua New Guinea be removed from the list of co-sponsors.

44. The representative of **Serbia**, speaking as an observer, said that the decision just adopted by the Board set a dangerous precedent with unforeseen consequences. The territory of a sovereign State had been recommended for admission to UNESCO, in violation of international law, the Constitution of UNESCO, United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and the Charter of the United Nations. It was regrettable that UNESCO was being used as a political instrument for the affirmation of an illegal secessionist act. Compliance with regular procedures, rules and practices should be the norm in all cases without exception. It was nonetheless encouraging that a significant number of countries, effectively the majority of Board Members, had either voted against the decision or abstained, and he thanked them all. It was to be hoped that equally constructive dialogue would continue at the General Conference in order to prevent it from taking what he considered to be the wrong decision.

45. The representative of the **Philippines**, speaking as an observer, said that the Board's decision raised serious legal questions, but did not, in his view, set a precedent. The Philippines did not recognize unilateral declarations of independence and therefore did not recognize the Republic of Kosovo. It supported United Nations Security Council resolution 1244, which upheld the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Serbia. UNESCO and its Member States should exert the utmost caution in handling the issue owing to its sensitive nature and its political implications for the Organization's work and future. Adjournment of the debate on the draft decision would have been preferable in order to provide more time for negotiations in accordance with international law. If the Philippines had been a Member of the Board, it would have voted against the draft decision.

Oral report of the Chair of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations

46. **The Chair** informed the Members of a procedural anomaly that had occurred the previous day concerning the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), specifically concerning items **20** and **21**. The Board had adopted the report as a whole, even though the customary procedure of considering each agenda item separately during the oral report had not been followed. In agreement with Her Excellency Ambassador Chatardová, the full text of her statement was being distributed to the Board and would be duly integrated into the summary records of the meeting.[1]

47. **Mme Chatardová** (République tchèque) (Présidente du Comité sur les conventions et les recommandations – CR) confirme qu'elle n'a pas pu présenter oralement la suite du rapport du Comité CR en bénéficiant de services d'interprétation et elle remercie les membres du Conseil exécutif de bien vouloir prendre note du texte qui figure en annexe.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Item 22: Preparation of the 38th session of the General Conference

Item 22.I: Revised provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference (197 EX/22 Part I)

Draft decision in paragraph 7 of document 197 EX/22 Part I

48. **The Secretary** said that the revised provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference (document 31 C/1 Prov. Rev.) contained the five supplementary items proposed by Member States and by the Director-General within the time limit specified in Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. The revised provisional agenda would also include all items stemming from the decisions taken by the the Executive Board at its 197th session. An item on the adoption of the provisional budget ceiling would be added to the revised agenda as item **3.5.** In the light of the recommendation of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) at the current session of the Executive Board, it was suggested that items **7.2**, **7.3** and **7.4**, which would be examined by the Legal Committee of the General Conference, should be removed from the provisional list of questions proposed by the Executive Board for adoption without debate by the General Conference at its 38th session, contained in the Annex to document 197 EX/22 Part I. The revised provisional agenda of the General Conference would be published immediately after the closure of the 197th session of the Executive Board.

[1] See Annex.

49. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the decision contained in paragraph 7 of document 197 EX/22 Part I

50. *It was so **decided**.*

Point 22.II : Addendum au projet de plan pour l'organisation des travaux de la 38e session de la Conférence générale (197 EX/22 Partie II et Add.)

Projet de décision figurant dans le document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.22.2 Rev.

51. Le **Secrétaire** indique que le document 197 EX/22 Partie II contient des propositions concernant la répartition des questions supplémentaires entre les différents organes de la Conférence générale, ainsi qu'un projet de calendrier révisé de la session en annexe. Le document 38 C/2 relatif à l'organisation des travaux de la 38e session de la Conférence générale sera mis à jour compte tenu des décisions prises par le Conseil exécutif à la présente session, sous la cote 38 C/2 Prov. Rev. L'élection des États membres au Conseil exécutif se déroulera le mercredi 11 novembre dans le bureau de vote installé à cet effet de 10 heures à 13 heures, en salle V. S'il y a lieu, un deuxième tour aura lieu le vendredi 13 novembre. Les élections aux organes subsidiaires dont les membres sont élus par la Conférence générale se tiendront le jeudi 12 novembre dans le cadre d'une réunion du Comité des candidatures. Conformément au règlement intérieur de la Conférence générale, les candidatures ne seront recevables que si elles parviennent au secrétariat de la Conférence générale au moins 48 heures avant l'ouverture du scrutin, soit le 9 novembre à 9 heures au plus tard. Le Secrétaire rappelle pour finir que seules les lettres adressées à la Directrice générale font acte de candidature au Conseil exécutif, et non les notes verbales qui circulent entre délégations.

52. The representative of **Sweden** said that together with Namibia, Nigeria, Austria, the United Kingdom, Saint Lucia, Denmark, Norway and Finland, Sweden had submitted amendments under item **22.II** to the draft plan for the organization of the work of the 38th session of the General Conference, which were contained in document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.22.2 Rev. The aim of the proposed amendments was to pave the way for the debate on the draft programme and budget for 2018-2021 that would take place at the 38th session of the General Conference. That debate must take into consideration, first and foremost, the new demands placed on the Organization, in particular its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that connection, the Executive Board, following its consideration of the Director-General's report on UNESCO's participation in the preparations for a post-2015 development agenda (document 197 EX/7), had decided that an expanded version of the report, together with a summary of the debate thereon, should be submitted to the General Conference to serve as a basis for its debate on the draft programme and budget. To supplement that information, the Secretariat, together with the chairs of the commissions, should provide delegations at the General Conference with a set of guidelines on how to address the issues in the report. It was to be hoped that the debate at the General Conference on the draft programme and budget would in turn give rise to guidelines for the Executive Board concerning its work over the next two years on that same matter.

53. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Nothern Ireland** said that, as one of the co-sponsors of the proposed amendments, he supported the draft decision contained in document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.22.2 Rev. Turning to the proposed timetable of work of the General Conference, he recalled that at the previous General Conference, a joint meeting of the commissions had been held at the beginning of the session in order to provisionally agree on a budget ceiling and budget allocations per sector, as well as to explain the need for both a budget and an expenditure plan. Since that previous meeting had proved useful, a similar joint meeting of the commissions should be scheduled at the beginning of the 38th session of the General Conference for the same purpose.

54. **The Chair** said that the Secretariat had taken note of the request by the United Kingdom and would make the necessary arrangements. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in document 197 EX/PLEN/DR.22.2 Rev., as amended.

55. *It was so **decided**.*

Item 22.III: Venue of the 39th session of the General Conference (197 EX/22 Part III)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/22 Part III

56. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/22 Part III.

57. *It was so **decided**.*

Item 22.IV: Submission of nominations for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference as well as for the offices of chairpersons of the commissions and committees
(197 EX/22.INF) (*continued*)

Nomination of the President of the General Conference at its 38th session

58.1 **The Chair** said that in accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, on the proposal of the Nominations Committee, the General Conference shall, at each ordinary session, elect a President and a number of Vice-Presidents not exceeding thirty-six. In accordance with Rule 35, the Nominations Committee, after taking cognizance of the report from the Executive Board, shall determine and submit to the General Conference the list of nominations for the posts of President and of Vice-Presidents of the General Conference.

58.2 By a *note verbale* dated 26 June 2015, Group V(a) had proposed Namibia for the Presidency of the 38th session of the General Conference and on 25 August 2015, the Permanent Delegation of Namibia had informed the Board that the Government of Namibia had decided to present the candidature of His Excellency Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Namibia and its representative to the Executive Board, for the office of President of the 38th session of the General Conference. The candidature of Mr Simataa had been endorsed unanimously by Group V(a).

59. **M. Teta** (Angola) (Vice-Président pour le Groupe V(a)) confirme la candidature de S. E. M. Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibie) à la présidence de la 38e session de la Conférence générale.

60. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Executive Board wished to nominate His Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa for the office of President of the 38th session of the General Conference.

61. *It was so* ***decided***.

62. **The Chair** said that he wished, on behalf of all the Members of the Executive Board, to congratulate Mr Simataa on his unanimous nomination. The General Conference would certainly benefit from Mr Simataa's wisdom and leadership. His strong commitment to the Organization's aims and his experience on the Executive Board left no doubt that he would carry out most efficiently his functions and responsibilities as head of UNESCO's supreme governing body.

Nominations of the Vice-Presidents of the General Conference at its 38th session

63. **The Chair** said that with regard to nominations, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, of up to 36 Vice-Presidents of the General Conference at its 38th session, the proposals received thus far were the following: Group II would include Russian Federation and Poland; Group III would comprise Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Peru and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Group V(a) would contain Angola, Guinea, Kenya, Mali and Togo; and Group V(b) would include Bahrain.

64. The representative of the **Netherlands** (Vice-Chair for Group I) said that he wished, on behalf of Group I, to propose six nominations for the offices of Vice-President: Italy, Austria, Sweden, Canada, Finland and France.

65. The representative of **Serbia**, speaking as an observer, said that while she was not authorized to speak on behalf of Group II, she nonetheless wished to announce the candidature of the Republic of Serbia for the post of Vice-President of the General Conference, which had been duly transmitted to the Chair of Group II and to the Vice-Chairs of the Executive Board.

66. La representante del **Ecuador** (Vicepresidente por el Grupo III) señala que, además de las candidaturas ya anunciadas por el Presidente, el Grupo III presentará otras, sobre las que deliberará en una reunión prevista en breve.

(66) La représentante de l'**Équateur** (Vice-Présidente pour le Groupe III) signale qu'en plus des candidatures déjà annoncées par le Président, le Groupe III en présentera d'autres, qui seront examinées lors d'une réunion prévue prochainement.

67. **The Chair** said that the deadline for submission of nominations for the posts of Vice-President was the following day.

68. **中国**代表以第四组主席的身份推荐以下国家作为第四组担任大会第三十八届会议副主席的候选国家：澳大利亚，孟加拉国，中国，印度，巴基斯坦，菲律宾。

(68) La représentante de la **Chine**, en tant que Président du Groupe IV, recommande la candidature des pays du Groupe IV ci-dessous à la Vice-Présidence de la 38e session de la Conférence Générale : l'Australie, le Bangladesh, la Chine, l'Inde, le Pakistan et les Philippines.

69. **M. Teta** (Angola) (Vice-Président pour le Groupe V(a)) indique que les candidatures reçues à ce jour sont celles de l'Angola, de la Guinée, du Kenya, du Mali et du Togo.

70. Le **Secrétaire** dit avoir reçu la notification officielle des candidatures des pays suivants à la vice-présidence pour le Groupe V(b) : le Yémen, le Bahreïn, le Maroc, le Koweït, le Liban et le Soudan.

71. Le représentant du **Tchad** fait part de la candidature de son pays à la vice-présidence pour le Groupe V(a).

72. **M. Teta** (Angola) (Vice-Président pour le Groupe V(a)), qui avait cru comprendre que le Tchad souhaitait se désister, prend note de sa candidature et s'en félicite.

73. **The Chair** said that nominations for the posts of Vice-President of the General Conference must be confirmed in writing by the following morning, at which point he would ask the Board if it wished to submit those recommendations to the General Conference

74. Le représentant de **l'Albanie**, au nom du Groupe II, indique que la candidature de la Serbie à la vice-présidence a également été déposée au Secrétariat.

75. **The Chair** said that with regard to the chairpersons of commissions and committees of the General Conference, the Board, at its 196th session, had recommended the following names: Chairperson of the ED Commission, Ms Kris Rampersad (Trinidad and Tobago – Group III); Chairperson of the SC Commission, Ms Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur (Malaysia – Group IV); Chairperson of the CLT Commission, Mr Arunas Gelūnas (Lithuania –Group II); Chairperson of the APX Commission, Mr Matthew Sudders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – Group I); Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Mr Michael Worbs (Germany – Group I). Since that time, the following names had been presented by their respective Governments: Chairperson of the Legal Committee, Mr Pierre Michel Eisemann (France); Chairperson of the CI Commission, Mr Abdulla El Reyes (United Arab Emirates), to replace the previous candidate, Mr Raymond Araygi (Lebanon), whose candidature had been withdrawn; and Chairperson of the SHS Commission, Ms Youssouf Hadidja Alim (Cameroon).

76. The representative of **Nigeria** said that the name of the original candidate presented by the Africa Group for the position of Chairperson of the Credentials Committee had been withdrawn subsequent to his appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs. She was thus presenting herself as candidate for Chairperson of the Credentials Committee.

77. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to submit the recommendations for the chairpersons of the commissions and committees of the 38th session to the General Conference.

78. *It was so* ***decided***.

79. **The Chair** said that he wished to express his congratulations on behalf of the Board to the nominees and to wish them success in carrying out their important responsibilities. He would present the nominations to the Nominations Committee on the morning of the first day of the Conference. The Nominations Committee would in turn present its recommendations to the plenary in the afternoon of the same day.

Item 22.V: Admission to the 38th session of the General Conference of observers from international

non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO (197 EX/22 Part V)

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 197 EX/22 Part V

80. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 197 EX/22 Part V.

81. *It was so* ***decided***.

82. **Mr Simataa** (Namibia) said that he was deeply honoured and touched by the Board's unanimous endorsement of his nomination as President of the 38th General Conference, which he accepted with a deep sense of duty and humility. He thanked all the Members for the trust and confidence they had placed in him and his country, and expressed special thanks to the Africa Group for having supported his candidature. He was fully aware of the immense task ahead and the critical role that UNESCO must play in the implementation and achievement of the post-2015 sustainable development goals, and he pledged to make the most of the authority vested in him to build consensus and reach out to all Member States, regardless of their level of development or geographical location. Member States had the right to demand more from the Organization, but should also be prepared to invest more in the key programme priority areas that would yield the greatest dividends. It was only by acting in unison that Member States would succeed in their efforts to ensure that UNESCO fulfilled its mandate even more effectively and efficiently.

The meeting rose at 6.00 p.m.

ANNEXE

Rapport oral de la Présidente du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations

1.1 **Mme Chatardová** (République tchèque) (Présidente du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations) *in extenso* :

Chers collègues, le vendredi 9 octobre dernier, le Comité a examiné les huit parties du point **20** concernant l'application des instruments normatifs. Je profite de cette séance publique pour renouveler mes remerciements à S. E. Mme Eliana Zugaib, représentante du Brésil, pour avoir conduit les débats sur les Parties III, IV, VII et VIII du point **20** et sur le point **21** en mon absence, dans l'après-midi du vendredi 9 octobre.

1.2 S'agissant de la Partie I du point **20**, comme vous le savez, depuis la 179e session du Conseil exécutif, le Comité CR a décidé d'examiner à chacune de ses sessions les mesures prises par le Secrétariat pour l'application des conventions et recommandations de l'UNESCO dont le Conseil exécutif est chargé d'assurer le suivi. En présence des secteurs concernés, le Comité a examiné le document contenant, d'une part, un état des ratifications des conventions dont il est chargé d'assurer le suivi et, d'autre part, un rapport sur les mesures prises par les secteurs pour la mise en œuvre des procédures relatives au suivi de l'application de ces conventions et des recommandations. Au cours du débat, le Comité a obtenu des informations complémentaires de la part du Secrétariat, en particulier du Secteur de l'éducation, sur les instruments normatifs relevant de ce secteur. À l'issue du débat, le Comité a prié la Directrice générale de veiller à la mise en œuvre du cadre juridique pour l'application des instruments normatifs et a décidé de poursuivre l'examen de ce point à sa 199e session. Vous trouverez le projet de décision au paragraphe 6 du rapport du Comité, à savoir le document 197 EX/49.

1.3 Chers collègues, s'agissant de la Partie II du point **20**, le Comité a examiné le rapport intérimaire du Comité conjoint OIT-UNESCO d'experts sur l'application des Recommandations concernant le personnel enseignant (CEART), qui a trait aux allégations de non-respect de ces recommandations transmises au CEART par des organisations d'enseignants. Le Comité a souligné que ce rapport faisait état de la 11e session du Comité conjoint qui s'est tenue en 2012, alors que la dernière session de ce comité a eu lieu en avril 2015. À cet égard, le Secteur de l'éducation a indiqué que cette question de la présentation des rapports intérimaires du CEART serait réexaminée au sein du Secrétariat afin de proposer à l'avenir un calendrier plus approprié. Au vu des informations fournies par le Secteur de l'éducation, le Comité a décidé de prendre note seulement de ce rapport intérimaire. Le projet de décision figure au paragraphe 11 du document 197 EX/49 contenant le rapport du Comité CR.

1.4 En ce qui concerne la Partie III du point **20**, le Comité a examiné le rapport de synthèse sur l'application de la Recommandation de 1980 relative à la condition de l'artiste. En réponse à des questions des membres du Comité, le Sous-Directeur général pour la culture a précisé que les éléments clés de la Recommandation de 1980 étaient ancrés dans les principes de la Convention de 2005 sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles et que la poursuite des synergies entre ces deux instruments était, pour le Secrétariat, la meilleure façon de continuer à en assurer le suivi, d'autant que les organes directeurs de la Convention ont décidé d'inclure ce mécanisme dans leurs actions futures. Au terme des débats, tout en rappelant l'importance de cette recommandation, le Comité a invité la Directrice générale à soumettre ce document résumant les 60 rapports nationaux reçus par le Secrétariat à la 38e session de la Conférence générale. Vous trouverez le projet de décision au paragraphe 19 du rapport du Comité, à savoir le document 197 EX/49.

1.5 Pour ce qui est de la Partie IV du point **20**, le Comité a examiné le premier rapport de synthèse sur la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation de 2011 concernant le paysage urbain historique. Au cours des débats, le Sous-Directeur général pour la culture a précisé que ce rapport était structuré de façon à refléter le travail effectué par le Centre du patrimoine mondial, afin que l'approche de la Recommandation de 2011 vienne en soutien de la mise en œuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial pour la conservation des ensembles urbains historiques. À l'issue des débats, le Comité s'est félicité de la présentation de ce premier rapport de synthèse pour la Recommandation de 2011 et a invité la Directrice générale à le soumettre à la 38e session de la Conférence générale. Le projet de décision figure au paragraphe 26 du document 197 EX/49 contenant le rapport du Comité CR.

1.6 Chers collègues, s'agissant de la Partie V du point **20**, le Comité a examiné un projet de principes directeurs pour l'établissement des rapports sur l'application de la Convention et de la Recommandation concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement (1960), établis sur la base du cadre de principes directeurs. Le Comité a pris note avec satisfaction du document 197 EX/20 Partie V. Le CR a approuvé les principes directeurs contenus dans ce document ; ils devront cependant faire l'objet de quelques améliorations avant le 15 décembre 2015, en consultation avec les États membres. Vous trouverez le projet de décision au paragraphe 30 du rapport du Comité, à savoir le document 197 EX/49.

1.7 En ce qui concerne la Partie VI du point **20**, le Comité a examiné le rapport de synthèse sur la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation de 1993 sur la reconnaissance des études et des titres de l'enseignement supérieur. Lors des débats, le Secteur de l'éducation a rappelé que la Recommandation de 1993 était le seul instrument normatif ayant une couverture mondiale dans le domaine de la reconnaissance des études et des titres. À cet égard, il a fourni des précisions sur les liens qui existent entre cette recommandation et les différentes conventions régionales en la matière, ainsi que sur l'élaboration d'une convention mondiale sur la reconnaissance des qualifications de l'enseignement supérieur. À l'issue des débats, tout en soutenant à nouveau la nécessité de continuer d'assurer le suivi de cette recommandation, le Comité a invité la Directrice générale à soumettre ce rapport de synthèse à la 38e session de la Conférence générale. Le projet de décision figure au paragraphe 34 du document 197 EX/49 contenant le rapport du Comité CR.

1.8 Pour ce qui est de la Partie VII du point **20**, le Comité a examiné le troisième rapport de synthèse sur la Recommandation sur la promotion et l'usage du multilinguisme et l'accès universel au cyberespace de 2003 avant transmission à la 38e session de la Conférence générale. Faisant suite à la présentation du rapport de synthèse par le Secteur de la communication et de l'information, le Comité a pris note que seuls 21 États membres avaient soumis des rapports pour cette troisième consultation. À cet égard, le Comité a rappelé que la présentation par les États membres de leurs rapports concernant l'application des recommandations adoptées par la Conférence générale était une obligation constitutionnelle. Enfin, tout en réaffirmant l'importance de cette recommandation et de son application par les États membres, le Comité a invité la Directrice générale à soumettre ce rapport de synthèse à la 38e session de la Conférence générale. Il a aussi recommandé qu'à sa 38e session, la Conférence générale exhorte les États membres qui ne l'ont pas fait à prendre des mesures pour appliquer la Recommandation. Vous trouverez le projet de décision au paragraphe 37 du rapport du Comité, à savoir le document 197 EX/49.

1.9 S'agissant de la Partie VIII du point **20**, le Comité a examiné la proposition de stratégie pour améliorer la visibilité, la ratification, la mise en œuvre, le suivi et la coopération dans le cadre des instruments normatifs dans le domaine de l'éducation. Les membres du Comité ont exprimé leur satisfaction et ont félicité le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document présenté et la clarté du résumé. Leurs demandes de renseignements ont porté sur la mise en œuvre concrète de la stratégie, en particulier en ce qui concerne l'implication des différents acteurs, ainsi que la base de données actuelle sur le droit à l'éducation transformée en un observatoire dans le cadre duquel chacun des domaines d'action sera traité et renforcé. Le Secteur de l'éducation a expliqué qu'il était pour l'heure difficile de fournir des informations précises sur le montant des ressources nécessaires pour mettre en œuvre la stratégie, car cela dépendrait de la poursuite des discussions qui auraient lieu après l'adoption de la stratégie dans son ensemble. En outre, il a indiqué qu'un document d'information contenant la feuille de route et le calendrier provisoire de la stratégie serait préparé pour la 199e session du Conseil exécutif. Le projet de décision figure au paragraphe 41 du document 197 EX/49 contenant le rapport du Comité CR.

1.10 Chers collègues, en ce qui concerne le point **21** relatif aux candidatures à la Commission de conciliation et de bons offices, les membres du Comité ont pris note des deux candidatures présentées par l'Allemagne et la France pour les huit sièges vacants restant à pourvoir lors des élections qui auront lieu lors de la 38e session de la Conférence générale. Le Comité a donc décidé de transmettre ces deux candidatures à la prochaine session de la Conférence générale. Toutefois, il a également prié la Directrice générale d'inviter à nouveau les États parties au Protocole à présenter des candidats et à transmettre à la 38e session de la Conférence générale toute autre candidature avant l'ouverture du scrutin. Vous trouverez le projet de décision au paragraphe 44 du document 197 EX/49.

1.11 Monsieur le Président, avant que vous ne passiez à l'adoption du dernier projet de décision concernant le rapport du Comité CR, permettez-moi d'adresser quelques mots de remerciements. Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier tous les membres du Comité, ainsi que les autres États membres ayant participé en tant qu'observateurs aux travaux du CR, pour leur coopération pendant ces deux dernières années. Ces quatre sessions à la présidence du Comité CR ont été riches d'enseignements pour moi et, à cet égard, je souhaiterais exprimer toute ma reconnaissance aux membres du Comité. Enfin, je voudrais également souhaiter à chacun d'entre eux bonne chance dans le cadre de leurs futures activités à l'issue de ce Conseil et j'espère que les liens d'amitié que nous avons tissés au sein du Comité CR pendant ces quatre dernières sessions perdureront. Je vous remercie.

HUITIÈME SÉANCE

Jeudi 22 octobre 2015 à 10 h 10

Président : M. Amr

ADOPTION OF DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (*CONTINUED*)

Programme and External Relations Commission (PX): report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme execution (197 EX/4 Part I; 197 EX/4.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 197 EX/53

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (197 EX/5 Part I)

Item 5.I.A: Developments relating to UNESCO's role as a UNAIDS Cosponsor and lead organization

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 197 EX/53

Item 5.I.B: Cultural and educational institutions in Iraq

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/53

Item 5.I.C: Progress report on the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* including the activities of its Scientific Committee

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/53

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (197 EX/5 Part II; 197 EX/5 Part II Add.; 197 EX/5 Part II Add.2)

Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 197 EX/53

Item 6: Outcomes of the World Education Forum 2015 (197 EX/6; 197 EX/6.Add.; 197 EX/6.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 7 of document 197 EX/53

Item 7: UNESCO's participation in the preparations for a post-2015 development agenda (197 EX/7; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 8 of document 197 EX/53

Item 8: Preliminary report concerning the preparation of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications (197 EX/8)

Draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 197 EX/53

Item 9: Report on the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) (197 EX/9; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 10 of document 197 EX/53

Item 10: Reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict (197 EX/10)

Draft decision in paragraph 11 of document 197 EX/53

Item 14: Roadmap for UNESCO's programme on preventing and addressing school-related gender-based violence (197 EX/14)

Draft decision in paragraph 12 of document 197 EX/53

Item 30: Proposals for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2016-2017 and appeals by Member States concerning their proposals (197 EX/30; 197 EX/30.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 13 of document 197 EX/53

Item 33: Implementation of 37 C/Resolution 67 and 196 EX/Decision 27 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories (197 EX/33)

Draft decision in paragraph 14 of document 197 EX/53

Item 38: Establishment of a School of Peace: High-Level Pan-African Training and Research Centre for the Culture of Peace (197 EX/38; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 15 of document 197 EX/53

Item 40: MOST Programme Contributions to the Post-2015 Development Agenda (197 EX/40; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 16 of document 197 EX/53

Item 42: League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (197 EX/42; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 17 of document 197 EX/53

Item 45: Combating climate change/COP 21 – Contribution by UNESCO and its programmes (197 EX/45 and Corr.; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 18 of document 197 EX/53

Item 46: UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism (197 EX/46; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 19 of document 197 EX/53

1.1 **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico) (Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission – PX) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to present to you the results of the work of the Programme and External Relations Commission at the 197th session of the Executive Board. The Commission adopted its timetable during the opening meeting and then elected as Temporary Chair Ms Kris Rampersad, the distinguished representative of Trinidad and Tobago. The Commission examined 18 items on the agenda of the Board, during eight meetings, and issued its recommendations on 16 decisions. Five of these items had been previously discussed by the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board and its recommendations were recalled before their examination. In this regard, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the Chair of the Preparatory Group, Her Excellency, Ms Mariam Katagum, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO, for the work accomplished by the Group. Once again, the agenda of the PX Commission was of particular interest to Member States, which was demonstrated by the extensive discussions and the large number of sponsors of and support for the draft decisions, both among Members of the Board and observer Member

States. Member States intervened about 200 times in the debate, and further discussion enabled the Commission to adopt decisions without a vote on 14 draft decisions, while voting on two.

1.2 With my oral report, I wish to provide you with the essence of the debates at the PX Commission. I have recollected, to the best of my knowledge, the information which was requested for inclusion in this report. I thank you for your indulgence should anything have been overlooked. In order to comply with the time limits on the presentation of oral reports, I will refer only to the number of items and sub-items, but omit reading the titles. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that while item **32** had been assigned to it, the Commission decided not to examine that item in response to the request from the Arab Group that it be considered in plenary. The Commission also did not consider item **48**, which was withdrawn by its authors.

1.3 Distinguished colleagues, the Commission started its work by examining item **4.I** of the agenda, the online report on progress in the execution of the programme for the 2014-2017 quadrennium, assessed against the performance indicators and targets as revised in light of the $507 million expenditure plan. It was pointed out that the Preparatory Group had called for further improvements to the report, such as harmonization between Part I and Part II of document 197 EX/4, linking programme achievements and actual expenditure more closely. While noting improvements in the presentation and content of the report, the Commission felt that challenges in programme implementation and remedial action should be more regularly reflected. Several speakers considered the report too extensive and detailed and suggested that an executive summary be provided in future. Further clarifications were requested regarding the low implementation rate of extrabudgetary resources and the harmonization of the cost recovery rate within the United Nations system. One member commended the progress in the work of the Scientific Advisory Board and the new role of UNESCO in the new United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. The Scientific Advisory Board's work is accessible to Member States through a few instruments including a public access website with policy briefs. The recommended draft decision on this item is contained in paragraph 2 of document 197 EX/53.

1.4 The Commission then considered item **5.I.A**. "Developments relating to UNESCO's role as a UNAIDS Cosponsor and lead organization". Noting the important linkages between health and education, members encouraged UNESCO to continue playing a significant role in comprehensive sexuality education and the fight to end AIDS in the context of the 2030 agenda. Speakers underlined the linkages between HIV prevention and broader national interests such as economic development, and expressed interest in learning more about the programme's work to address school-related gender-based violence. The high rate of decentralization to the field for this programme indicated that such a good practice should be further replicated, and the Secretariat was encouraged to continue implementation of the related activities at country level. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 3 of document 197 EX/53.

1.5 Ladies and gentlemen, the PX Commission then considered item **5.I.B** "Cultural and educational institutions in Iraq". Members commended the Director-General's efforts to scale up emergency responses in Iraq, providing access to quality education for refugees and internally displaced Iraqis, as well as Syrian refugees in the region, and protecting the country's rich cultural heritage. It was recognized that the broad range of UNESCO's interventions in Iraq demonstrated how the Organization can assist countries in crisis situations. Some members mentioned their efforts to support UNESCO's action at international level, including the tabling of United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/281 on "Saving the cultural heritage of Iraq" and the hosting of experts in the context of the Erbil Citadel revitalization project. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/53.

1.6 Distinguished Members of the Board, considering item **5.I.C "**Progress report on the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* including the activities of its Scientific Committee", several speakers expressed satisfaction with the efforts to ensure greater geographical and linguistic diversity among the identified authors for Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* and indicated that the collection should also be made available to educational institutions. The elaboration of the manuscript of Volume IX is expected to be finalized by the end of 2016. While all language versions are already available online, additional resources are required to reprint the collection in English, French and Arabic, as well as for the development of pedagogical materials. Members encouraged the Secretariat to pursue efforts to mobilize the required resources, including through the recently launched Coalition of Artists for the General History of Africa. The representative of Angola informed the Commission that his Government had offered to host the next meeting of the Scientific Committee and requested from the Secretariat a clear work plan for the implementation of the whole *General History of Africa* project. Two members requested that the Secretariat inform Member States of the timetable of work of the Scientific Committee responsible for Volume IX, as well as the provisional agenda of the committee responsible for its pedagogical use. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/53.

1.7 Members of the Board, the Commission then considered item **5.II** of the agenda, "Intersectoral activities". The Commission recommended for adoption the proposed draft decision "Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)**,** after a roll call vote, with 18 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 26 abstentions. Six members took the floor to explain their respective votes. Three members said that the issue presented under this agenda item did not fall within UNESCO's fields of competence, while three others voiced their support for adoption of the draft decision by underlining UNESCO's important role in the matter and expressing their concern about the current situation. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 6 of document 197 EX/53, with details of the vote.

1.8 Members of the Board, the Commission then moved on to consideration of item **6** "Outcomes of the World Education Forum 2015" and expressed its satisfaction with the progress and outcomes of the World Education Forum 2015. Endorsing the Incheon Declaration, members expressed their commitment to implementing the Education 2030 agenda, which puts

emphasis on inclusion, equity, quality and gender equality as well as lifelong learning opportunities. Some speakers recalled that education for all (EFA) remained unfinished business and underlined the need to learn from the past in implementing the now even more ambitious agenda. Members also noted that implementation of Education 2030 would require changes in the next C/5 document. The implementation strategy should also be considered in the light of country specificities and the spirit of global solidarity. Members pointed out that national statistical systems should be strengthened to monitor the new education agenda effectively and to ensure the alignment of the relevant indicators. The Secretariat was requested to provide capacity development in this regard, particularly through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Speakers highlighted the importance of global citizenship education, education for sustainable development, information and communication technologies in education, education in conflict situations, and capacity-building for teachers in the implementation of the Education 2030 agenda. The need for culturally sensitive educational material in non-formal and informal education was also underlined. Asking Member States and other stakeholders for their support in implementing the Education 2030 agenda, the Secretariat confirmed that this would be a priority for document 39 C/5 and that a holistic implementation strategy should also contribute, together with the different programme sectors, to the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some members underlined the importance of the role that National Commissions could play in the implementation of the Education 2030 agenda. One member stressed the need for a more concrete definition of the global coordination mechanism to be presented to the Executive Board at its 200th session. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 7 of document 197 EX/53.

1.9 Ladies and gentlemen, when considering item **7** "UNESCO's participation in the preparations for a post-2015 development agenda", the Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Secretariat. From the discussion, involving 22 members, it was concluded that document 197 EX/7 should serve as a basis for General Conference debates on document 39 C/5. In that regard, the Secretariat was requested to produce an expanded version of the discussion paper contained in Part II of the document and its related Annex, along with the summary of the debates, in order to enhance the discussions during the General Conference. In addition, some guiding principles on how to structure the debate should also be developed. Some members expressed the need for more emphasis on the Organization's intersectoral approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, in particular gender equality (SDG 5) and the promotion of human rights. Furthermore, UNESCO's leadership role in the implementation of SDG 4 on education and the importance of education in achieving the other SDGs was also highlighted. The Commission stressed the important role of UNESCO in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all its fields of competence, including through UNESCO's conventions, and by pursuing the work of intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Questions were raised about the field reform and the role of field offices in the implementation and financing of the SDGs and the support of national systems. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 8 of document 197 EX/53.

1.10 Distinguished delegates, considering item **40** "MOST Programme Contributions to the Post-2015 Development Agenda", many speakers welcomed the proposal of the representative of Argentina to include this item in the provisional agenda and supported the potential role of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) in achieving the SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, a suggestion was made to consider this item as part of the discussions to be held during the 38th session of the General Conference on the preparation of document 39 C/5. Several members further underlined the importance of MOST as a platform to promote interdisciplinary work as well as dialogue between researchers and policymakers. A call was made for closer ties between MOST and higher education at the country level as this would strengthen the research-policy nexus. Also, members called for closer collaboration with other sectors and United Nations agencies. MOST should seek multisectoral stakeholders' participation beyond researchers and policymakers. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 16 of document 197 EX/53.

1.11 Dear colleagues, the Commission then examined item **8** "Preliminary report concerning the preparation of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications" of the agenda. Many speakers expressed their support for the development of a global convention on higher education, recognizing the increasing importance of academic mobility. A number of speakers affirmed higher education as a global public good and a human right and suggested that the new framework should be flexible enough to respond to each country's particularities. It was stressed that the implementation and revision of regional conventions should continue while the global convention was being developed. It was also highlighted that the global convention initiative should be based on quality assurance, transparency, equity and, most of all, reciprocity and respecting academic freedom, institutional autonomy and accountability. Some members reaffirmed the need for the development of the global convention to be done through the statutory intergovernmental process. Others expressed concern about the financing and implementation of the convention, and Estonia expressed its willingness to provide financial support to this end. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 9 of document 197 EX/53.

1.12 Ladies and gentlemen, the Commission then considered item **45** "Combating climate change/COP 21 – Contribution by UNESCO and its programmes". The representative of France, in introducing this item, thanked all the Member States that had supported document 197 EX/45 and stressed that all UNESCO programmes were relevant in support of efforts to combat climate change. Highlighting the fact that the 38th session of the General Conference, the 2030 Agenda and the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) were opportunities for UNESCO to show its multisectoral comparative advantage, members stressed that the negative effects of climate change were also a social problem, particularly for vulnerable countries, and that it should be linked to sustainable development. Members expressed gratitude for the proposal put forward by the host country of COP 21, together with the host countries of COP 20 and COP 22, and stated that it was urgent to act immediately to reach a multilateral agreement to address climate change. One member placed strong emphasis on the special needs of

developing countries within UNESCO's mandate and encouraged all parties in a position to do so to support capacity building and the provision of technical assistance. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 18 of document 197 EX/53.

1.13 Ladies and gentlemen, the Commission then considered item **14** "Roadmap for UNESCO's programme on preventing and addressing school-related gender-based violence". In the ensuing debate, members emphasized that school-related gender-based violence was a major obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education and commended the present roadmap. Underscoring the links with SDG target 5.2 on the elimination of all forms of violence against girls and women in public and private spheres, some speakers requested that the subject be part of the Secretariat's overall reporting on Education 2030. Several members drew attention to relevant national efforts, including the development of national mechanisms, funding for girls' education, particularly in rural areas, the promotion of girls' participation and retention in school, a social movement against gender-based violence in schools and the implementation of stricter laws. Specific attention was drawn to the need to underscore "equity" as a universal principle of human rights, in order to recognize that different conditions had historically been grounds for discrimination against different groups. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 12 of document 197 EX/53.

1.14 Distinguished delegates, considering item **9** "Report on the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)" without debate, the Commission recommended the relevant draft decision contained in paragraph 10 of document 197 EX/53. As far as item **12** "Enhancing UNESCO's Contributions to Promote Culture of Respect" is concerned, the representative of Saudi Arabia proposed that consideration of the item be postponed to the 199th session of the Executive Board in April 2016, to allow more time for consultations on its content, including a broadening of the context for substantive discussion. Several members took the floor to support the essence of that proposal, emphasizing the need for a more thorough preparatory process. Further to that debate, the Commission agreed to postpone consideration of the item to the 199th session of the Executive Board.

1.15 The Commission then continued its work by considering item **10** "Reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict". Following extensive consultations among Member States, the representative of Italy presented the draft decision on the item. Fifteen co-sponsors of the text took the floor to support the strategy proposed therein and called, in particular, for the establishment of rapid mobilization mechanisms to contribute to its implementation. Members underlined the need for UNESCO to take action to protect cultural heritage during armed conflict as a security and a humanitarian issue and welcomed the strategy as a comprehensive framework to guide action in that respect, with sufficient flexibility to address emerging needs. Some speakers added that UNESCO should cooperate with other United Nations bodies in that regard including through better collection and sharing of information on trafficking in cultural objects, referring to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015). With regard to the terminology used in the proposed strategy, the need to carefully define the notion and legal implications of "protected cultural areas" was emphasized. Members suggested that the strategy be revised taking into account the present debate. The Commission was informed that a meeting of experts would be held in November 2015 for an exchange views on the concepts used, and that the concept of "protected cultural areas" could be regarded as deriving from Article 19 of the 1954 Hague Convention. Support was also expressed for the #Unite4Heritage campaign and the Bonn Declaration adopted at the last World Heritage Committee session. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 11 of document 197 EX/53.

1.16 Dear colleagues, the Commission then examined item **30** "Proposals for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2016-2017 and appeals by Member States concerning their proposals". While improvements in the selection of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated were recognized, concern was expressed that the application of the new criteria had not improved gender and geographical balance significantly. It was suggested that National Commissions should be further sensitized in that regard. A few speakers indicated that the continuation of this programme might need to be reconsidered, bearing in mind the current financial situation. The recommended draft decision on the issue is contained in paragraph 13 of document 197 EX/53.

1.17 Presenting item **42** as co-sponsor of the proposed decision, the representative of Tunisia explained that the "League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities" had been established with a view to promoting exchanges, dialogue and cooperation among Mediterranean countries and federating the efforts and competencies of its members. General support was expressed for the initiative. The proposed action plan was considered to be fully in line with UNESCO's mandate and objectives, in particular those pertaining to encouraging intercultural dialogue, preserving cultural heritage and promoting cultural diversity. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 17 of document 197 EX/53.

1.18 The Commission then examined item **46** "UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism". In presenting the item, the representative of the United States of America thanked the co-sponsors, reiterated the importance of education as a long-term solution to countering violent extremism, and noted that engaging UNESCO on that issue was an exceptional opportunity to build international coalitions and promote dialogue among Member States to foster peace and security. There was overall agreement that education, with an emphasis on global citizenship education, should be a priority in the field of preventing violent extremism. A number of speakers reiterated their country's engagement in that area at the highest level, especially through the Leader's Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism, recalling that UNESCO should contribute to the United Nations Secretary-General's plan of action. Many members recommended that UNESCO should involve partners such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training, and underscored the importance of reinforcing an intersectoral approach to the issue. In that regard, the recent conference on "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism" was cited as a good example of collaboration between

sectors. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 19 of document 197 EX/53.

1.19 The Commission then examined item **38** "Establishment of a School of Peace: High-Level Pan-African Training and Research Centre for the Culture of Peace" which was introduced by the representative of Togo as one of its co-sponsors. Speakers unanimously supported the establishment of the proposed Training and Research Centre for the Culture of Peace, appreciating its strong focus on youth and women. Stressing that all efforts to promote peace, particularly the culture of peace, should be encouraged and promoted, members expected that the initiative would become a platform for all peace stakeholders to share best practices and learn mutually how to live together. The recommended draft decision on this issue is contained in paragraph 15 of document 197 EX/53.

1.20 The Commission decided to consider the decision on item **33** "Implementation of 37 C/Resolution 67 and 196 EX/Decision 27 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories" without debate. The relevant draft decision was recommended for adoption, following a roll-call vote, with 40 votes in favour, 1 against and 11 abstentions. The Commission's recommendation is contained in paragraph 14 of document 197 EX/53, with the details of the vote. Following the vote, the representative of Afghanistan stated that if his delegation had been present, it would have voted in favour of item **33**. The representative of Pakistan approached the Secretariat after the vote, indicating that, if his delegation had been present during the vote, it would also have voted in favour. Three other members and three observers also took the floor after the vote.

1.21 Dear Chair, having come to the end of my report, I sincerely hope that in my attempt to summarize our debates you will forgive me if I have overlooked anything. As I already mentioned, our Commission examined 18 items in eight meetings, some of which extended until the late hours. Dear colleagues, this session concludes my work as Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission, which I have had the honour to preside over for two years. It has been a privilege to chair this honourable Commission. Let me express my gratitude for the trust and confidence that you have placed in me. After so many substantive exchanges and lengthy discussions, I am more convinced than ever of the need for a reasoned reform of the work of the Executive Board in order to modernize the methods of work, rationalize the agenda and improve its decision-making processes.

1.22 Dear Chair, in conclusion, I wish to thank all the members of the PX Commission and all the observers, whose understanding, collaboration and support during the debates, consultations and extended meetings have led us to the successful accomplishment of our task. It was a complex task, but also an enriching experience that allowed us to fulfil our statutory obligations by examining the programme of work of the Organization and presenting the corresponding recommendations to the General Conference, through the plenary of the Executive Board. My sincere gratitude goes to Ms Kris Rampersad, the distinguished representative of Trinidad and Tobago, for having accompanied me throughout this journey and for her readiness and support as temporary chair of the Commission. Let me also express my gratitude to all my colleagues in the Bureau for their patience and understanding. I would also like to especially thank the Director-General for her support, and the Secretariat for having assisted the Commission in its deliberations with explanations and clarifications. I also wish to thank the technical assistants for providing their valuable assistance, the room clerks, the interpreters and the translators. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Secretary of our Commission, Ms Magdalena Landry and the members of her team, Ms Ana Iglesias-Morel, Ms María del Mar Marcos, Mr Davide Storti and Ms Reiko Yoshida. Finally, let me thank you, Mr Chair, for this outstanding experience. Thank you very much.

2. **The Chair** thanked Mr Muñoz Ledo for his detailed report. He complimented the Chair of the PX Commission on his work and commended the energy and versatility of the PX Commission given the number of items on its agenda. He then asked the Board if any Member wished to adopt any of the decisions contained in document 197 EX/53 separately. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the entire set of draft decisions contained in document 197 EX/53.

3. *It was so **decided**.*

Joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions: report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues: Periodic report on Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluations (197 EX/5 Part III)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 197 EX/54

Item 5.IV: Management issues (197 EX/5 Part IV and Corr. and Addenda; 197 EX/5.INF.2; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5.IV.F: Proposal for presenting the performance indicators (PI) and targets related to the global priorities Africa and gender equality

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 197 EX/54

Item 11: Re-design of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists (197 EX/11)

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/54

Item 13: Reports on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) (2014-2015) (197 EX/13)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/54

Item 16: Category 2 institutes and centres

Item 16.I Evaluation and renewal of category 2 institutes and centres (197 EX/16 Part I and Addenda)

Draft decision in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of document 197 EX/54

Item 17: Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (197 EX/17 and Add. and Corrigenda)

Draft decision in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document 197 EX/54

Item 18: Report by the Executive Board on its activities and programme implementation

Item 18.II: Implementation of the current Programme and Budget (37 C/5), with results achieved in the

previous biennium (38 C/3) (197 EX/18 Part II Rev.; 197 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 11 of document 197 EX/54

Item 28: New audits by the External Auditor: Report on the audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities (197 EX/28 Rev.; 197 EX/28.INF Rev.)

Item 44: Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (197 EX/44; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/DG.INF.2)

Draft decision in paragraph 12 of document 197 EX/54

Item 34: World Day of Romani Language (197 EX/34; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 13 of document 197 EX/54

Item 35: International Access to Information Day (197 EX/35; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 14 of document 197 EX/54

Item 36: African Heritage Day and Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Establishment of the African World Heritage Fund (197 EX/36; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 15 of document 197 EX/54

Item 37: Presentation of the Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa, "Biennale of Luanda" (197 EX/37; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 16 of document 197 EX/54

Item 39: UNESCO's Support for the Implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali of 15 May 2015 (197 EX/39; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 17 of document 197 EX/54

Item 41: International Day for the defence of the mangrove ecosystem (197 EX/41 and Corr.; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 18 of document 197 EX/54

Item 47: Establishment of UNESCO-China Prize on Girls' and Women's Education (197 EX/47 and Corr.; 197 EX/DG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 19 of document 197 EX/54

4.1 **Sr. Sudders** (Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte) (Presidente de la Comisión Administrativa y de Hacienda – FA) *in extenso:*

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, excelencias, estimados colegas: muy buenos días a todos. Tuve el placer y el honor de copresidir, como en las últimas reuniones de este bienio, la reunión conjunta de la Comisión del Programa y de Relaciones Exteriores y la Comisión Administrativa y de Hacienda del Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO junto con mi colega y amigo el excelentísimo señor Embajador de México, don Porfirio Thierry Muñoz-Ledo.

(4.1) **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission – FA) *in extenso* (*translation from the Spanish*)

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, colleagues: good morning. I had the honour and pleasure of co-chairing, as for the last meetings of this biennium, the joint meeting of the Programme and External Relations Commission and the Finance and Administrative Commission of the Executive Board of UNESCO together with my colleague and friend His Excellency the Ambassador of Mexico, Mr Porfirio Thierry Muñoz-Ledo.

(*The speaker continued in English*)

4.2 We, in the joint meeting of the FA and PX Commissions of the Executive Board of UNESCO, considered eight items. My oral report on the items that I had the honour of chairing will be brief and based on some of the highlights that we want to bring to your attention. My intervention will be followed by that of Ambassador Muñoz Ledo on the items he chaired. This list can be found in paragraph 1 of document 197 EX/54 containing the draft decisions recommended by this Joint Commission. At the end of our joint report, Mr Chair, we would like to propose that the Executive Board globally adopt the draft decisions contained in document 197 EX/54. I should like once again to express my sincere appreciation to the Preparatory Group and its Chair, the Ambassador of Nigeria, Her Excellency Ms Mariam Katagum, notably for their contribution to this report through their recommendations on item **5.IV**.

4.3 Mr Chair, the members of the Joint Commission had several comments to make before the adoption of the agenda, as the PX Commission was still meeting in Room X. The decision to hold these two Commissions at the same time was seen as detrimental to the participation of smaller delegations. Several members felt that this situation created a precedent that should not be renewed. The members were reminded that the Bureau was obliged to set the agenda in this way because of the sheer volume of items on the PX agenda, including those proposed by Member States themselves. It is evident that such situations should not reoccur but it has happened in the past. The members of the Joint Commission also frowned upon the late arrival of the timetable. It was explained that there were several new items proposed and the Bureau had to work out if these new items had financial implications. The re-assignment of these items to one commission or another was done at a late stage.

4.4 This being said, the agenda was adopted and the discussion started with item **5**, relating to the follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions, focussing on part III, evaluation issues. The representative of the Director-General introduced the four evaluations undertaken by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) during the first half of 2015: the evaluation of the World Water Assessment Programme, the evaluation of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), the evaluation of culture and sustainable development and the lessons learned from UNESCO's field reform in Africa. She briefly outlined the key achievements and challenges of each evaluation and gave an overview of the main cross-cutting issues that emerged from the evaluation reports: UNESCO's programmes contribute to the 2030 agenda; the Organization's work is relevant at the global, regional and national levels; the scarcity of resources calls for greater resource mobilization; activities are carried out by too few people who are overstretched; UNESCO networks must be leveraged to achieve organizational objectives; there is a need to strengthen intersectoral work; and the Organization must do more to mainstream gender equality into its programmes.

Members inquired about the lessons learned from UNESCO's field reform in Africa. Concern was expressed that the reform had not been complemented by a strategy and asked whether the field reform would have been more effective if it had been preceded by an ex-ante evaluation of the Organization's strategies and programmes in the region. Members wondered how field reform could be continued without an increase in resources. It was stressed that a well-functioning field network was vital for the Organization and that the full IOS report highlighted that the reform was not entirely a success. The evaluation led some Members to question whether the field reform had received enough strategic direction and attention from senior management. A more flexible model for field reform needs to be developed taking into account the lessons learned from the pilot and focusing on where the Organization can strengthen and redeploy capacity. In this context it was pointed out that it would be useful to learn from the experience in other regions to ensure that those elements that are working well are maintained and replicated in other regions. Members also underlined the importance of intersectoral work and the links between culture and sustainable development.

4.5 On the evaluation of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), members endorsed UNESCO's important contributions. Queries were raised on the recommendations coming out of the new strategy for TVET and on how the new strategy will address the issue of leveraging all UNESCO entities working in the field such as regional offices, category 1 education institutes and the UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC) network. It was emphasized that a dialogue between the Secretariat and Member States was necessary for reform and programme improvement. On the evaluation of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), it was noted that the report produced by WWAP is authoritative and a flagship in the water world, as well as being one of the most visible UNESCO reports. The report is well positioned to become a key report under Sustainable Development Goal 6. WWAP's very relevant work on sex-disaggregated data in water management was also noted. Key challenges identified in the evaluation include the move from a triennial to an annual report, which stretched the resources of the Secretariat and led to reports with less depth and substance. Given that WWAP funding is going down, while expectations are high, this calls for additional resource mobilization to keep WWAP on a strong footing.

4.6 Mr Chair, the discussion continued on item **17** on the draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The representative of the Director-General presented the key points and budgeting techniques related to the revised draft programme and budget (document 38 C/5) of $667 million and its expenditure plan of $518 million. Members welcomed the document which well reflected their expectations, notably the improved alignment of the $518 million expenditure plan with the programme approved for the 2014-2017 quadrennium (document 37 C/5) and the improved expected results and performance indicators. In comparison with the initial draft document 38 C/5 expenditure plan of $518 million, questions were raised on the rationale for modifying some expected results under the Education Sector and the Communication and Information Sector and also for slightly decreasing the World Heritage Centre (WHC) budget. It was emphasized that zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) was needed for strengthening convention secretariats at Headquarters, especially the World Heritage Convention under the World Heritage Centre.

4.7 In response to the programmatic questions, it was explained that the Education Sector had reduced its number of expected results from 13 to 11 to have more focus and to enable it to fulfil its global coordination role in the 2030 agenda. In addition, the Communication and Information Sector had indicated that having specific expected results for intergovernmental programmes (International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)) would be beneficial in terms of prestige and visibility and would help in raising funds. Finally, under culture, the budget of expected result 2 on illicit traffic of cultural property has been increased to face the current challenges on this matter, and WHC (expected result 1) and dialogue (expected result 5) have been slightly decreased in return. Furthermore, clarifications were sought on the implications of a revised constant dollar rate and on the proposal to postpone its revision to draft document 39 C/5; on the assessment of the draft appropriation resolution and on the recent decision by the Director-General to downgrade ADG/BSP posts to D-2 level. In addition, members took note of a lapse factor of 5% applied to the staff costs budget under document 38 C/5 while requesting that efforts be made to lower the vacancy rate by improving the recruitment process. Mr Chair, the Joint Commission saw a video-clip on the lapse factor, with excellent pedagogy from our friend, the representative from the Netherlands, Mr Stein van Oosteren.

4.8 The proposal to increase the flexibility given to the Director-General in making budget transfers across appropriation lines from 2% to 5% raised concerns. The Commission asked the Secretariat to provide information on the budget transfer flexibility practices in other comparable United Nations agencies, specifically those with results-based budgeting, and to defer this matter for discussion by the General Conference. With regard to the 5% flexibility threshold for between-line budget transfer, the representative of the Director-General explained the need for increased autonomy of the Director-General given that the Appropriation Resolution for document 38 C/5 is set at the lower level of the main line of action whereas in document 37 C/5 it was at the major programme level. Since each appropriation amount is becoming smaller, the Secretariat feels that it would be difficult to manage programme implementation without a certain increase in flexibility. Members noted that with results-based budgeting, resources are assigned to achieve significant results and therefore excessive flexibility could undermine or eliminate some programmes.

4.9 Additionally, the representative of the Director-General explained that the proposal to postpone the revision of the constant dollar rate was all the more relevant at this moment given that it is now very close to the United Nations operational rate, and reference was also made to the FAQ page on exchange rate implications, available on the Bureau of Financial Management (BFM) website. In relation to the ADG/BSP post, it was added that a corrigendum to the annex tables in document 197 EX/17 would be issued by the Secretariat to reflect the decision to downgrade the post to D-2 level and would indicate that the number of ADGs would be reduced to eight. This corrigendum is now available as document 197 EX/17 Corr.3. Members emphasized the importance of UNESCO's presence in the

field along with other United Nations agencies. Some of them expressed satisfaction with the field offices they are hosting and requested more recognition of Member States' support to said offices.

4.10 The Joint Commission approved the decisions under item **18.II** and item **16.I** without debate or amendments.

4.11 Mr Chair, the Joint Commission then turned to item **5.IV** regarding the proposal for presenting the performance indicators and targets related to the global priorities of Africa and gender equality. It was highlighted that the Preparatory Group, while acknowledging the difficulty of modifying the C/5 submission date at this late stage, requested, in light of the importance of this matter, that the document be submitted to the Executive Board at its 199th session, providing that sufficient time was allocated for exchanges prior to the submission of draft document 39 C/5. Members reiterated their demand for a specific decision requesting the mainstreaming of the performance indicators for global priorities Africa and gender equality throughout all programme sectors, instead of limiting them to a few expected results. In addition, it was suggested that these performance indicators and targets should always be accompanied by baseline data.

4.12 Mr Chair, dear colleagues, the members welcomed the establishment of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education (item **47**). It was recalled that education of girls and women is a basic human right and a global priority for UNESCO. Named the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, the prize would be awarded annually to two laureates with a prize amount of $50,000 each and it would be set up for an initial period of five years. It was noted that the Secretariat had concluded a feasibility study in conformity with the "UNESCO Prizes: revised strategy" and its criteria. The Government of China would cover all costs related to the management and awarding of the prize. One member informed the Commission that it could not participate in the consensus on the item. The high relevance and timeliness of the prize creation to promote and support efforts for ensuring access to and participation in education for all girls and women, in particular in line with the new Sustainable Development Goals, was highly appreciated by the members.

4.13 The Commission followed with a lengthy discussion on new audits by the External Auditor under item **28**, and paid special attention to the report on the audit of governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities. The External Auditor, Mr Didier Migaud, who was back with us for the Joint Commission meeting, presented the item and his audit report. He underlined the complexity and sensitivity of the subject, indicating that Member States had agreed to a self-assessment exercise. While he noted that Member States had realized the necessity to reform UNESCO's governance, he also underlined the fact that almost 25% of the recommendations of the external audit of 2010 on the rationalization of costs had gone unheeded. Most of these were used for the present audit.

4.14 The Chair of the Special Committee, His Excellency the Ambassador of Guinea, in his remarks, indicated that the Special Committee had examined this item on 8 and 9 October 2015 and informed the Joint Commission of the findings of the Committee's work, which recommended on the one hand the immediate implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations numbers 1, 10, 11 and 13 and on the other hand, the creation of an open working group for the implementation of all the other recommendations. Members acknowledged the complexity of the matter and supported the recommendation of the Special Committee to implement the outstanding recommendations and create an open working group. Some speakers expressed reservations in respect of recommendations 5,6,8 and 9, both in terms of their legality and their practicality, since Member States are sovereign, and recalled the immunity of their representatives in relation to the creation of an independent ethics committee. Some members inquired about the financial implications the implementation of recommendations would have. The External Auditor recalled that some of the costs of the reforms were stated in the document but that the overall cost of the reform was quite low.

4.15 Dear Chair, there was an emerging consensus that this item be linked with item 44 on amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board and that a single decision be proposed encompassing items **28** and **44**. Dear Chair, it may please you to note that a rather complex decision was taken, which maintains the momentum for change while simultaneously allowing further inclusive, holistic dialogue. Mr Chair, I need to propose three additional words to the draft decision, which are now missing and which I will explain when we come to the adoption of the decision. Item **44** will be further reported on by my distinguished co-chair from the PX Commission.

4.16 Now, the last item that I will report on is item **11**. It was explained that the re-design of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists programme was initiated in the context of the prioritization exercise conducted by the Executive Board for the elaboration of document 37 C/5 with a view to maximizing programme impact. The Commission was further informed that the funds currently in the account were to be used in line with the governing bodies' decision to give priority to the culture conventions. In this context, it was specified that two thirds of the funds would implement the priorities established by the governing bodies of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions to promote preferential treatment for artists and cultural professionals from the global South (Article 16), while the remaining one third would be used to support the expansion of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in countries in the global South and to engage their participation in order to facilitate the implementation of preferential treatment in the context of South-South cooperation. Members expressed their support for the re-design.

4.17 Mr Chair, I have come to the end of my presentation. With your permission, Mr Chair, before I give the floor to my esteemed co-Chair, as it is the last time I will take the floor as co-Chair of the Joint Commission, allow me to recall the tandem that I formed in the previous biennium with the then Chair of the PX Commission, His Excellency Mr Adoua, Ambassador of Congo. We worked by means of various working groups, negotiation meetings and working lunches to launch the first ever programme prioritization exercise and the special session of the Executive Board, only the fifth in the 70 years of our Organization. It was by chance that we met and by choice that we became friends and I still call upon his famous catchphrase "*faites-moi des propositions concretes*" during some tough decision-making times in our commission meetings. I thank Ambassador Adoua for

all his support and friendship. I also thank the Secretary of the FA Commission and his team as well as the Secretary of the PX Commission and her team. With your permission, Mr Chair, let me now pass the floor to my good friend the Chair of the PX Commission.

5.1 **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico) (Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission – PX) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to present you with the results of the work of the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions which I co-chaired with my esteemed colleague and friend, His Excellency Mr Matthew Sudders, Ambassador of the United Kingdom. I wish to also take this opportunity to thank again the Chair of the Preparatory Group, Her Excellency Ms Mariam Katagum, Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO, for her support and the work accomplished by the Group. In order to comply with the time limits on the presentation of oral reports, I will refer only to the number of the items and sub-items on the agenda, but omit reading the titles.

5.2 My report will cover the debates and issues concerning the eight items on the agenda which I chaired. As my distinguished co-Chair mentioned in his report, the joint meeting of the Commissions considered item **44** in conjunction with item **28**. The Chair of the Special Committee, the distinguished representative of the Republic of Guinea, provided a report on the content and direction of the discussion on these items in the Special Committee, followed by the introduction of item **44** by the distinguished representative of the Netherlands, as one of the co-authors of the document. Most of the speakers applauded the work of the Executive Board's informal task force on governance and concurred that a more continuous governance mechanism should be introduced that would allow Members of the Board to fully comply with its mandate to examine the programme of work and corresponding budget estimates provided by the Secretariat and to assure its implementation. While there was general agreement on the need to reform the functioning of the Executive Board, opinions of the members differed with regard to the direction and pace of such a reform and its potential financial implications. Members had a constructive dialogue resulting in a draft decision that reflected agreement on how to proceed with the reform of the methods of work, taking into consideration the recommendations of the External Auditor, the views expressed in the informal consultations and the concerns expressed by various members in the debate. I should like to note that during the adoption of the decision pertaining to both items **28** and **44**, it was the general expectation that the spirit of paragraph 6(b) of the draft decision under item **28** be encompassed in paragraph 7(c) of the final decision. On this item, the joint meeting recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 12 of document 197 EX/54.

5.3 Ladies and gentlemen, in their interventions on item **13**, speakers expressed their satisfaction with the many activities undertaken, such as capacity-building and policy interventions, with the support of National Commissions. Members commended the enhanced visibility and impact of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) which is increasingly attracting extrabudgetary and in-kind resources including through voluntary contributions. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/54.

5.4 The joint meeting then moved to the examination of item **39** of the agenda. The distinguished representative from Mali introduced the item and recalled that his country had undergone a conflict threatening the security, territorial integrity and unity of the country. He particularly underlined the destruction of cultural sites and the enrolment of many young people in terrorist groups. He thanked UNESCO for its support for the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the elaboration of a national programme for a culture of peace and non-violence in Mali. He said that the programme would be inclusive and transversal and would address the issue of youth and women as the main promoters of peace in the country. Members welcomed UNESCO's efforts for the promotion of a culture of peace in Mali and expressed full support for that very important initiative. Distinguished colleagues, on this item the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 17 of document 197 EX/54. However, I wish to inform you that a preambular paragraph recalling the United Nations Security Council's resolution 2227 (2015), in particular regarding the protection of cultural and historical sites in Mali in collaboration with UNESCO, which was agreed upon by the co-sponsors, was not included in the text as it should have been when it was approved at the joint meeting. With your permission and consequent approval, this preambular paragraph will therefore be included in the final text of the decisions of this session of the Board.

5.5 The joint meeting then examined item **36** of the agenda. The representative of Togo introduced this item on behalf of Angola and the Africa Group and explained the objectives pursued through the proposed proclamation of an African world heritage day, which were to raise awareness of the diversity of African heritage and of the challenges faced in its conservation and management. Numerous speakers took the floor to express their appreciation of the initiative, seen as an opportunity to mobilize much needed support for the safeguarding of African world heritage properties, and recalled that Africa is a global priority for the Organization. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 15 of document 197 EX/54.

5.6 In introducing item **37** of the agenda, the distinguished representative from Angola noted that the proposal for the first biennial Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa, "Biennale of Luanda", in alignment with the African Union agenda, was part of the African response to the transformations occurring in African economies and societies, which strongly needed sustainable peace. Members expressed their support for that important initiative. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 16 of document 197 EX/54.

5.7 Ladies and gentlemen, item **34** of the agenda was briefly introduced by the distinguished delegate of Croatia. Speakers expressed their support for the promotion of minority languages and mother tongues. One member gave their full support and mentioned the establishment of a category 2 centre on mother languages. The Organization's work in support of linguistic diversity was stressed and the Secretariat highlighted the need to mobilize extrabudgetary funds to

implement and celebrate the World Day of Romani Language. The joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 13 of document 197 EX/54.

5.8 Ladies and gentlemen, several members welcomed the proposal under item **35** regarding an International Access to Information Day and recognized access to information as a human right. After further deliberations and amendments, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended that the proposed international day should be entitled "international day for the universal access to information". The recommended draft decision on this item is contained in paragraph 14 of document 197 EX/54. Ladies and gentlemen, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions examined item **41** without debate. The recommended draft decision received the support of the Commissions and is contained in paragraph 18 of document 197 EX/54.

5.9 Dear President of the General Conference, dear Chair of the Executive Board, dear Director-General, dear colleagues, having come to the end of my oral report, I wish to take this opportunity to express once again my sincere thanks to the distinguished members of the joint meeting of the Commissions for their support, patience and cooperation during the debates and extended sessions. I wish to thank the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and the Assistant Directors-General for their valuable assistance and contributions to the debates. Let me also express my gratitude to my distinguished co-chair and friend, Ambassador Matthew Sudders, for his continued advice and leadership of the debates under his able chairmanship, as well as to the Vice-Chairs of the PX and FA Commissions. I would like once more to express my gratitude to you, Ambassador Mohamed Sameh Amr, for your energy and the bold initiatives that have characterized your chairmanship. I would also like to renew my sincere thanks to all those who supported us in making our work effective and efficient: the secretariats of the two Commissions, the technical assistants, room clerks, interpreters and translators, for their understanding throughout the long hours of discussion of the joint meeting. Thank you very much.

6. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission – FA) said that in the first line of paragraph 8 of the draft decision on items **28** and **44**, contained in paragraph 12 of document 197 EX/54, the word "Requests" should be replaced by the words "Recommends to the General Conference that it request". That amendment did not change the overall sense of the decision but would underline the fact that the audit on governance was commissioned by the General Conference.

7. **The Chair** thanked Mr Sudders, Chair of the FA Commission, and Mr Muñoz Ledo, Chair of the PX Commission, for their excellent presentations and their efforts which had led to the successful conclusion of the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions. The outstanding manner in which they had conducted the work of the joint meetings of the FA and PX Commissions over the past biennium would set an example for future sessions of the Executive Board. The Secretariats of each Commission also deserved thanks for the support they had provided to the joint meetings.

8. The representative of **Germany**, after thanking Mr Sudders and Mr Muñoz Ledo for their comprehensive report on the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions, said that the $11 million increase from the current budget expenditure plan to the projected expenditure plan under the draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 should be used first and foremost to fulfil statutory requirements. As host country for the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, Germany was particularly sensitive to the fact that its Secretariat, the World Heritage Centre, was understaffed owing to substantial budget cuts made during the current biennium. Efforts should therefore be made to ensure that the secretariats servicing the cultural conventions, including the World Heritage Centre, had the resources necessary to fulfil their mandates.

9. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission – FA) said that there were two ways Member States could address the issue of inadequate World Heritage Centre resources, either by expressing their concerns to the Director-General or by proposing to the General Conference an amendment to the budget whereby funds would be transferred to the World Heritage Centre from another budget line.

10. Après avoir félicité les présidents des commissions FA et PX, le représentant du **Mali** signale une omission dans l'intitulé du point **39**, qu'il convient de lire comme suit : « Soutien de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de paix et de réconciliation au Mali des 15 mai et 20 juin 2015 », l'Accord ayant été signé en deux temps.

11. The representative of **Uganda** expressed his deep appreciation for the work of the co-Chairs of the joint meeting and applauded the African World Heritage Day initiative under item **36** of the agenda.

12. **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico) (Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission – PX) reminded the Board that the preambular paragraph that had been inadvertently left out of the draft decision considered by the joint meeting of the FA and PX Commissions under item **39**, and to which he had referred in his oral report, could be consulted at any time upon request to the Secretariat. If the Board chose to adopt the draft decision, the preambular paragraph in question would be included in the final text.

13. The **Director-General**, replying to the point made by the representative of Germany, said that $2.1 million had already been transferred to the Culture Sector. Unfortunately, her flexibility in terms of taking further decisions on the budget for the next biennium was limited. Debate on that matter would be best handled by the APX Commission (Finance, Administration and General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations) of the General Conference, which could then provide guidance on the possibility of reorganizing the budget lines.

14. **The Chair** said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Members of the Board wished to adopt the draft decisions contained in document 197 EX/54, as amended.

15. *It was so **decided**.*

METHODS OF WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

Item 18: Report by the Executive Board on its activities and programme implementation

Item 18.I: Activities in 2014-2015, including its methods of work (197 EX/18 Part I)

16. **The Chair** said that no comments on item **18.I** had been received in response to the earlier invitation to submit them. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the report contained in document 197 EX/18, Part I.

17. *It was so **decided**.*

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Item 22: Preparation of the 38th session of the General Conference

Item 22.IV: Submission of nominations for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference as well as for the offices of chairpersons of the commissions and committees (197 EX/22.INF) (*continued*)

Nominations for the offices of Vice-President of the General Conference

18.1 **Le Secrétaire** *in extenso* :

Les communications suivantes ont été reçues à ce jour pour les candidatures aux postes de vice-président de la 38e session de la Conférence générale. Ayant reçu ces communications en anglais, je vous en donne lecture dans cette langue :

(*Le Secrétaire poursuit en anglais*)

18.2 The Secretary read out the list of nominations for the posts of Vice-President of the General Conference: Group I: Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Italy, Sweden; Group II: Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Poland, Serbia; Group III: Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Group IV: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, the Philippines, Pakistan; Group V(a): Angola, Chad, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Togo; Group V(b): Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Yemen.

19. La representante del **Ecuador** (Vicepresidente por el Grupo III) añade otros dos países del GRULAC, Honduras y el Paraguay, a la lista de candidaturas leída por el Secretario.

(19) The representative of **Ecuador** (Vice-Chair for Group III) added two more GRULAC countries, Honduras and Paraguay, to the list of candidates read out by the Secretary.

20. **The Chair** said that Honduras and Paraguay should be added to the list for Group III. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board agreed on the proposals for the posts of Vice-President of the General Conference.

21. *It was so **decided**.*

DATE OF THE 198TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

22. **The Chair** reminded the Board that, as indicated in 196 EX/Decision 28, its 198th session would take place on Friday 20 November 2015.

CLOSURE OF THE 197TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

23. **The Director-General** said that over the past two years, the Board had worked intensely to meet the challenges facing the Organization. It had helped to ensure the integration of UNESCO's goals into the new agendas for sustainable development and education. It had contributed to making the Organization fit for purpose. It had dealt with the formidable challenges of violent extremism and destruction of cultural heritage by seeking ways to help young people become global citizens and resist radicalization. Overall, the Board had helped to strengthen UNESCO by reaffirming its belief in the Organization's relevance and commitment to its core values. She wished to thank the Chair, the members of the Bureau and all the Members of the Board for their encouragement, their cooperation and their commitment to the Organization.

٢٤ حيّا ممثل **الإمارات العربية المتحدة** (نائب الرئيس عن مجموعة الدول العربية) رئيس المجلس التنفيذي ورئيس المؤتمر العام والمديرة العامة وسائر الحضور. وأشار إلى انتهاء مدة رئاسة سعادة السفير محمد سامح عمرو للمجلس التنفيذي منوهاً بالقوة والفعالية التي اتسمت بها رئاسته للمجلس من بدايتها إلى نهايتها. وأشاد بحرص السيد محمد سامح عمرو على تحسين أداء اليونسكو، وعلى توافق أعضاء المجلس في كل الأمور حتّى وإن كانت عسيرة. واعتبر تجديد وتحديث قاعة المجلس التنفيذي دليلاً على هذا الحرص النابع من إيمان السيد محمد سامح عمرو بدور اليونسكو ورسالتها. وأكّد أن ما بذله السيد محمد سامح عمرو من أجل اليونسكو سيظل حاضراً في ذاكرة الجميع وفي أعمال المنظمة واصفاً ذلك بعلامة مضيئة في مسيرتها التاريخية. وأعرب عن امتنان مجموعة الدول العربية الشديد للسيد محمد سامح عمرو، وقال إنها ترجو له مواصلة مسيرته الدبلوماسية بنجاح. وهنّأ رؤساء اللجان وأعضاءها وأثنى عليهم، وشكرهم على العمل الجيد الدؤوب الذي قاموا به. وأعرب في نهاية المطاف عن شكره لكل من ساهم في إعداد البرامج ووضع الرؤى والأهداف الجديدة للمنظمة.

(24) The representative of the **United Arab Emirates** (Vice-Chair for Group V(b)) saluted the Chair of the Executive Board, President of the General Conference, Director-General, and all those present. He noted that Ambassador Mohamed Sameh Amr was ending his term of office as Chair of the Executive Board, remarking on the strength and effectiveness that had characterized that term from start to finish. He praised Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr's commitment towards improving UNESCO's performance, and building consensus among Members of the Executive Board on all issues and questions, no matter how thorny. The renovation and modernization of the Executive Board room testified to that commitment, based on Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr's faith in the role and mission of UNESCO. Everything done by Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr in the service of UNESCO would leave a mark on the memory of all and on the work of the Organization, a landmark in UNESCO's historic journey. The Arab group expressed deep gratitude to him and hoped that he would continue to pursue a successful diplomatic career. He congratulated and commended the chairs of the committees and commissions and their members, and thanked them for their good quality hard work. In conclusion, he thanked all those who had contributed to preparing programmes and developing the Organization's new visions and goals.

25. Le représentant de **l'Angola** (Vice-Président pour le Groupe V(a)) dit que son groupe fait sien l'exposé de la Directrice générale concernant les acquis de l'Organisation au cours de l'exercice biennal écoulé. Notant que la campagne de visibilité menée a donné des résultats, il appelle à persévérer dans cette voie afin que l'Organisation soit plus forte et plus pertinente. Il remercie à son tour MM. Sudders et Muñoz Ledo, ainsi que tous les présidents de commission et comité, pour la manière dont ils ont conduit les travaux de ces instances et pour les rapports clairs, succincts et contributifs qu'ils ont présentés. Il rend ensuite hommage à l'engagement du Président du Conseil, en qui il salue un homme ouvert d'esprit, accessible, disponible, patient, intègre et attaché à la visibilité de l'UNESCO. Appréciant la ténacité et l'optimisme dont le Président a fait preuve pour mener à bien le projet de rénovation de la salle du Conseil, il se félicite d'avoir eu l'occasion de travailler à ses côtés.

26. The representative of **Bangladesh** (Vice-Chair of Group IV) speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific (ASPAC) group, thanked the Director-General and the Secretariat for their efficient organization of the 197th session of the Executive Board. The Director-General was to be applauded for ensuring that UNESCO's core competencies were reflected in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and should make every effort to prepare her staff for the challenge of attaining the goals for which UNESCO had been made responsible. Praise was also due to the Chair of the Executive Board for his efficient handling of some very difficult items, and to Mr Sudders, Chair of the FA Commission, and Mr Muñoz Ledo, Chair of the PX Commission, for their work, and to the chairs of the other committees. The ASPAC group always endeavoured to promote cooperation between UNESCO's governing bodies and would continue to do so in order to maximize the Organization's contribution to humankind.

27. La representante del **Ecuador** (Vicepresidente por el Grupo III), felicita al Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, en nombre del GRULAC, por haber facilitado durante este bienio el diálogo franco y abierto entre los Estados miembros, así como por sus múltiples iniciativas, que han dado un nuevo vigor al Consejo. El Ecuador agradece especialmente al Presidente su compromiso personal con las nobles causas de la Organización. Al terminar el mandato del Ecuador, la representante deja constancia del gran honor que ha supuesto para su país haber estado desde 2011 en el centro de los debates e iniciativas de la UNESCO, da las gracias a todos los miembros del Consejo y felicita a los embajadores de México y el Reino Unido por haber coordinado las reuniones de sus respectivas comisiones con eficiencia. El Ecuador seguirá comprometido con la causa de una Organización abierta, transparente, democrática y al servicio de las necesidades más apremiantes del conjunto de la comunidad internacional.

(27) The representative of **Ecuador** (Vice-Chair for Group III), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, congratulated the Chair of the Executive Board for having facilitated the frank and open discussions among Member States during the current biennium and for his numerous initiatives, which had given new energy to the Board. She particularly congratulated the Chair for his personal commitment to the noble causes of the Organization. With the ending of Ecuador's mandate, she emphasized the great honour it had been for her country to be at the centre of UNESCO's debates and initiatives since 2011. She thank all the Members of the Board and congratulated the Ambassadors of Mexico and the United Kingdom for their efficient coordination of meetings. Her Government would remain committed to the cause of an open, transparent, democratic Organization, serving the most pressing needs of the international community as a whole.

28. The representative of **Albania** (Vice-Chair of Group II) commended the Chair of the Executive Board on the way in which he had conducted the session, and in particular for demonstrating commitment and leadership when faced with various complex issues and constantly striving to encourage dialogue among the Members of the Board in order to reach a consensus. She wished also to commend Mr Sudders, Chair of the FA Commission, and Mr Muñoz Ledo, Chair of the PX Commission, and the Secretariat as a whole, for their excellent work.

29. The representative of **Netherlands** (Vice-Chair of Group I) said that the Executive Board for the period 2013-2015 had been a "winning team". The Chair, with whom it had been a pleasure to work, was to be commended on his ability to remain neutral and to put things into perspective, which had greatly helped to improve the efficiency of the Organization, and on the commitment, patience, respect and wisdom he had shown in his treatment of some difficult issues during his mandate. Among his many contributions, the Chair would always be remembered for the renovation of Room X, for which he should feel proud.

30.1 **大会主席**表示非常高兴出席执行局本届会议闭幕式，它标志着大家在执行局主席的领导下圆满完成使命。他表示，过去两年，执行局五十八个成员国团结协作，创造了历史，也将开创明天的历史。他指出，因此当天的会议对在座所有人都是一个重要时刻。大会主席表示他当天早晨七点刚刚飞回巴黎，未经洗漱便换上西服赶到了会场，因为他对这里有着特殊感情。大会主席指出，他本人、Amr 主席以及古巴代表等都即将告别自己的岗位，但无论走到哪里，教科文组织在他们心中都占据重要位置。

(30.1) **The President of the General Conference** was very glad to attend the closing ceremony of the present session of the Executive Board. During the previous two years, the 58 States Members of the Executive Board had worked in unity and in coordination, created history and would create tomorrow's history. That day's meeting was of great importance to all present. He indicated that out of special feelings for the Executive Board, after arrival at Paris airport at 7 a.m. that day, without refreshing himself, he had changed into a suit and hurried directly to the venue of the meeting. Although Mr Amr, the Chair of the Executive Board, the Ambassador of Cuba, and he himself were all going to be relieved of their office, UNESCO would always occupy an important place in their heart.

30.2 Continuing in English, the President of the General Conference said that it had been an honour for him to attend the Board sessions over the past two years. He wished in particular to congratulate all the Member States for the fruitful outcome of the 197th session, and to give special thanks to the Director-General and the Chair for their leadership. The world was currently undergoing significant transformations, and challenges such as environmental and economic issues, violent extremism and cultural cleansing made it necessary to reflect on how the Organization could fulfil its mandate in times of such turbulence. A highly commendable feature of the Board

meetings was the open-minded collaboration among its Members, which enabled them to respond effectively to the emerging challenges. Furthermore, the Board continued to support UNESCO's reform measures to ensure that the Organization made progress. In his view, UNESCO's voice and message had never been stronger and that was one of the reasons why it found itself at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Finally, he wished to pay tribute to the Chairs of the PX and FA Commissions and to the Secretariat as a whole, and to extend his best wishes to the President and Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference.

31. **The Chair** thanked the President of the General Conference for his unfailing support and friendship. His presence at all the sessions of the Board had been greatly appreciated and, on behalf of its Members, he wished to pay tribute to the President for his dedication to the Organization.

32.1 **The Director-General** *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. I would like to pay special tribute to you personally for your leadership of UNESCO's Executive Board. Upon your election on 22 November 2013, you said: "We so often use the word 'crossroads' to describe a crucial juncture, but if ever there was a moment so worthy of this term, it is certainly now. The challenges ahead in implementing the tasks and mandates entrusted to us by the General Conference are immense, but with sustained efforts and first and foremost stronger political will I am confident that we shall succeed in our tasks." Well, Mr Chair, I think we have succeeded. And almost two years later I wish to thank and congratulate you for helping the Organization to grow, at this crossroads and critical juncture, and indeed succeed in its tasks. You have done so with a deep commitment to the dialogue and consensus that have been the heart of this Organization. You have done so with respect for the values and principles that inspire UNESCO and drive forward all of its actions. The last two years have been vital for the Organization and the world, as so many of the Members of the Bureau and the regional groups have already expressed. This has been a testing time for the Organization and I believe UNESCO has come through, I would even say, with flying colours, sharper in its delivery, with our message and core competencies deeply built into the new 2030 agenda. This reflects also the leadership you have brought, always reminding States of the values they share, the history they have lived together and the ambitions they hold in common. This spirit also inspired the renovation of Room X. We started in one room, we ended in a new one, more than renovated, and for this I am deeply grateful. The same spirit guided your leadership of a series of groundbreaking events around the theme of UNESCO future prospects, in the framework of 194 EX/Decision 31. I believe that debates such as those with Ms Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General on Post-2015 development planning, Mr Riad Salamé, Governor of the Bank of Lebanon, Professor Hiroshi Amano, the 2014 Nobel laureate in physics, Michaëlle Jean, Secretary-General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and many others on topics such as the role of science, new energy, climate change, empowering youth and women for sustainable development showcased UNESCO's soft power at its best, providing a platform for debate and a catalyst for new ideas. And this reflects the intellectual curiosity and sharpness brought by your chairmanship.

(The Director-General continued in French)

32.2 Monsieur le Président, je souhaite également souligner votre engagement de la première heure dans la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels et la protection du patrimoine. Chaque fois que la culture est menacée, que les pays cherchent des réponses, ils se tournent vers l'Égypte – une Égypte emblématique pour notre Organisation à l'heure où celle-ci célèbre le 70e anniversaire de sa création. Vous avez partagé votre expertise et votre passion avec l'UNESCO et l'ensemble du Conseil, en invitant des spécialistes et des conservateurs qui sont venus témoigner de leur expérience. Sous votre présidence, le Conseil exécutif s'est mobilisé en adoptant des décisions importantes à l'automne dernier, à l'initiative de la France et de l'Iraq, et au printemps, à l'initiative de l'Italie et de l'Espagne. Vous avez rappelé cet engagement avec force au Caire, au mois de mai dernier, en compagnie des ministres égyptiens de la culture et des affaires étrangères, lors de la Conférence régionale sur la culture en péril, qui a réuni dix ministres de la culture de la région et qui témoigne de l'influence et de l'importance de l'Égypte dans le domaine de la protection du patrimoine, de sa capacité à rallier les États autour d'une cause commune – j'en ai été personnellement témoin. Nous étions côte à côte, à l'Université al-Azhar du Caire, pour porter ce message de tolérance et de paix, un message de modération de l'islam, de dialogue des cultures. Cette mobilisation de l'UNESCO a donné le coup d'envoi d'une mobilisation internationale aux Nations Unies, au sein de l'Union européenne, de l'Union africaine et partout ailleurs, et vous en êtes un artisan privilégié. Pour tout cela, je souhaite vous remercier au nom de l'UNESCO. Je n'ai pas voulu vous priver de cet instrument important pour un président du Conseil exécutif qu'est le marteau et je suis heureuse, Monsieur le Président, de vous remettre cet objet symbolique en gage de notre reconnaissance et de notre amitié.

33. **The Chair** expressed his sincere gratitude to the Director-General for her gift.

٣٤ قال المملكة العربية **السعودية** إنه لن يزيد على ما أدلى به نائب رئيس المجلس التنفيذي عن مجموعة الدول العربية من ثناء وشكر مستحقَّيْن لرئيس المجلس، ولا على ما ذكره ممثلو المجموعات الأخرى من إشادة بالجدارة التي أثبتها في إدارته للمجلس. وأكد أنه كان خلال السنتين الماضيتين، هو وسائر الأعضاء من مجموعة الدول العربية، يزدادون فخراً يوماً بعد يوم بحسن اختيارهم لرئيس المجلس الذي مثل هذه المجموعة خير تمثيل. ورأى أن لدى الرئيس مميزات شخصية إضافة إلى الثقل الحضاري لدولة مصر، مما أتاح له إدارة فترة العامين الماضية التي اتسمت حقاً بقدر كبير من الصعوبة والحساسية. وقال إن ما يريده بمناسبة انتهاء فترة عمل رئيس المجلس التنفيذي هو تكريمه من خلال دعوة الجميع، باسم وفد المملكة العربية السعودية، إلى حفل استقبال في الدور السابع على شرف رئيس المجلس التنفيذي وأيضاً الفريق الذي يعمل معه في المجلس، وبحضور رئيس المؤتمر العام والمديرة العامة.

(34) The representative of **Saudi Arabia** said that he had little to add to the statement made by the Vice-Chair of the Arab group in commendation of the Chair of the Executive Board, nor to that which had been said by representatives of other groups in acknowledgement of the merit of his management of the Board. During the past two years, he and other members of the Arab group had become prouder by the day of the good choice of Chair of the Board, who represented the Arab group well. The Chair's character, in addition to the cultural significance of the State of Egypt, had enabled him to manage the Board over the past two years, which had been marked by considerable difficulty and sensitivity. As the work of

the Chair of the Executive Board was drawing to an end, he was pleased to invite everyone, on behalf of the delegation of Saudi Arabia, to a reception on the seventh floor, in honour of the Chair of the Executive Board and his team, and in the presence of the President of the General Conference and the Director-General.

(35.1) **The Chair** *in extenso* (*translation from the Arabic*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, we have now arrived safely and successfully at the end of our joint work, as we reach the end of the 197th session of the Executive Board. We have travelled a long road together as a single team over the past two years. Allow me to say, in all frankness, that I have relied on each and every one of you, who have been excellent partners and provided good support. I have always been confident of your joint commitment, your devotion and your expertise, which have helped us to bring added value to our Organization. The results of our work over the past two years are the fruit of the collective effort of each and every one of you. I should therefore like to address special greetings to you all, and my sincere thanks to the members of the Bureau for their support and effective participation in both the official and unofficial meetings we have held ever since we were elected as members of the Bureau right down to this week. I may say that you have shouldered the work of the secretariat together with me with great sincerity: our success is attributable to each and every one of you.

(35.2) Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the Board, in a few days' time, we will be holding the General Conference, at which we shall present our report, and hopefully thereby help to advance the work of this venerable Organization. What a wonderful opportunity that this should coincide with the celebration of the Organization's seventieth anniversary. Allow me, as our work comes to an end today, to share with you my vision and what I believe in for a better tomorrow for this Organization, which is striving to achieve a number of noble goals focused on advancing humanitarian thought and the shaping of individuals. I promise you that I shall not take too long in presenting my vision, but having occupied this post for the past two years, I nevertheless feel bound to apprise you of what I feel may help to open up new horizons for the future of the Organization.

(35.3) I am certain you will agree that today's world is different in both form and content from the world we lived in when UNESCO was founded. I became convinced of this from the moment you honoured me by electing me to this office. I remember saying that the basic principles contained in UNESCO's Constitution were undoubtedly still effective, given that they were aimed at striving to inculcate the foundations of peace and at achieving mutual understanding for a better world, and that our Organization was an appropriate forum for intellectual cooperation – the watchword of the Organization in its

٣٥,١ **الرئيس** *النص الكامل:*

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرة العامة، السادة أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، أصحاب السعادة، السيدات والسادة، الزملاء الأعزاء، لقد وصلنا الآن بسلام ونجاح إلى نهاية عملنا المشترك مع انتهاء الدورة السابعة والتسعين بعد المائة للمجلس التنفيذي حيث سلكنا معاً الطريق كفريق واحد على مدى عامين من الزمان. دعوني أقول صراحة إنني اعتمدت على كل واحد منكم وكنتم خير شريك وسند وكنت دائماً على يقين من شعوركم بالالتزام المشترك والتفاني والخبرة مما ساهمنا به في إحداث قيمة مضافة لمنظمتنا. إن نتائج عملنا على مدى العامين الماضيين هي ثمار جهد جماعي ساهم فيه كل واحد منكم. ولهذا، أود أن أوجه تحية خاصة إليكم جميعاً وشكري الخالص لأعضاء المكتب على دعمهم ومشاركتهم الفاعلة خلال الاجتماعات الرسمية وغير الرسمية التي عقدناها منذ انتخابنا كأعضاء للمكتب وحتى هذا الأسبوع. ويمكن أن أقول لهم إنكم تحملتم الأمانة معي بكل إخلاص وأهدي لكل فرد منكم نجاحنا.

٣٥,٢ السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، خلال أيام قليلة، سينعقد المؤتمر العام وسنقدم فيه تقريرنا أملا أن نساهم بذلك في دفع عمل هذه المنظمة العريقة إلى الأمام ويا لها من مناسبة عظيمة أن يتزامن ذلك مع احتفال المنظمة بالذكرى السبعين لتأسيسها. واسمحوا لي بمناسبة انتهاء مهامنا اليوم أن أطلعكم على رؤيتي وما أؤمن به لغد أفضل لهذه المنظمة التي تسعى لتحقيق عدد من الأهداف النبيلة التي تتمركز حول الارتقاء بفكر الإنسان وتكوينه. وأعدكم أنني لن أطيل في عرض رؤيتي ولكنني وجدت لزاما عليّ بعد أن شغلت هذا الموقع لمدة سنتين أن أشارككم ما أعتقد أنه يمكن أن يساهم في فتح آفاق مستقبلية جديده لهذه المنظمة.

٣٥,٣ ولعلكم تتفقون معي أن عالم اليوم يختلف شكلاً وموضوعاً عن العالم الذي تأسست فيه اليونسكو. وهذا ما أكدت عليه منذ يوم شُرفت باختياركم لي لتولي هذه المهمة حيث أذكر أنني قلت إن المبادئ الأساسية الواردة في ميثاق هذه المنظمة التأسيسي لا تزال بلا شك تتمتع بفاعلية إذ إنها تهدف إلى السعي لإرساء أسس السلام وتحقيق التفاهم المشترك لعالم أفضل، وإن منظمتنا تعتبر الأرضية المناسبة للتعاون الفكري الذي يمثل أيقونة عمل المنظمة في مجالات عملها الرئيسية. وعلى الرغم من اختلاف عالمنا اليوم عن سبعين سنة مضت فإن الاختلاف ليس في الظروف والآليات، وإنما في طبيعة مشكلاتنا وعددها، فقد أصبحت أكثر تعقيداً وغير متوقعة ولعلنا نشعر بزيادة التعقيدات كلما حاولنا إيجاد حلول بسيطة لهذه الإشكاليات.

٣٥,٤ إننا نتعامل معاً تحت سقف هذه المنظمة مع خمسة مجالات عمل ضخمة وهي التعليم، والعلوم الطبيعية، والعلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية، والثقافة والاتصال والمعلومات. ولعنا أيضاً نتفق على أننا لا نسعى فقط لنحقق أفضل النتائج في جميع هذه القطاعات من منظور فردي بل أيضاً من منظور متكامل تسعى من خلاله هذه القطاعات المختلفة إلى أن يكون لها إسهاماتها في كل برنامج نتفق عليه. وقد يرى البعض أن هذه المجالات الخمسة تشكل حملاً زائداً على هذه المنظمة وتعيقها عن أداء رسالتها في ظل الظروف الصعبة التي يموج فيها عالمنا اليوم خاصة في ظل ضعف الموارد المالية التي نخصصها لعمل هذه المنظمة. والملاحظ أننا مهما حاولنا بين الحين والآخر إلى التوصل إلى قائمة بأولويات عملنا إلا أننا نسعى في ذات الوقت إلى المطالبة بزيادة دور المنظمة وتعميق عملها وزيادة نشاطها لخدمة بني البشر. وقد نلاحظ أن البعض يرى أننا أمام حالة وأزمه تستعصي على الحل إلا أنني من أشد المؤمنين بأن أي أزمة تحمل في طياتها تحدياً وفرصة كي نثبت للعالم أهمية عملنا وقدرتنا على العمل معاً بنجاح. وهذا ما تثبته لنا الأيام، فقد أصبحت هذه المنظمة ملء السمع والبصر وتتعلق بها الآمال أكثر من ذي قبل. وهذا الوضع يذكرني بما قاله الرئيس والمناضل الأفريقي نيلسون مانديلا: "قمة المجد ليست في عدم الإخفاق أو الفشل بل في القيام بعد كل عثرة".

٣٥,٥ السيدات والسادة، إن اليونسكو تستيقظ مع كل صباح لتواجه اختباراً جديداً يطرح علينا سؤالاً يتعلق بذاتياتنا ووجودنا ودورنا واليوم وبعد تبني الأمم المتحدة الشهر الماضي "خطة التنمية المستدامة لعام ٢٠٣٠"، نقف أمام اختبار جديد يمكن من خلاله أن نؤكد للعالم من جديد موقعنا الريادي داخل منظومة الأمم المتحدة. وإنني على ثقة بأننا سوف نعزز دور هذه المنظمة لكي تستمر في القيام بدورها النبيل وتحافظ على مكانتها وقيمتها الفريدة.

main fields of work. Despite the fact that our world today is very different from that of 70 years ago, the difference does not lie in the circumstances or the mechanisms, but rather in the nature and number of our problems, which have become more complex and unexpected; indeed, we feel that the complications increase whenever we endeavour to find simple solutions for these problems.

(35.4) We are cooperating together, under the roof of this Organization, with its five great fields of competence: education, the natural sciences, the social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information. And I am certain that we also agree that we strive to achieve the best possible results in all these sectors not only from an individual point of view, but also from an integrated point of view, whereby these various sectors endeavour to ensure that they all make contributions to each of the programmes that we agree on. Some may feel that these five fields constitute an increasing burden on the Organization, and prevent it from performing its mission given the difficult circumstances affecting our world today, especially in light of the low level of financial resources that we allocate to the work of the Organization. It should be noted that however hard we try, from time to time, to agree on a list of priorities for the work of the Organization, we at the same time seek to increase its role, to intensify its work and to increase its activity in the service of humankind. We may note that some believe that we find ourselves in a situation and a crisis which are difficult to resolve. However, I strongly believe that any crisis carries within itself both a challenge and an opportunity for us to demonstrate to the world the importance of our work and our ability to work together successfully. This is what events show: this Organization is listened to and looked to far and wide, with hopes being pinned on it more than ever before. This situation reminds me of the words of that great activist African president, Nelson Mandela: “Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall.”

(35.5) Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO wakes up each morning to face a new test, which poses the question of our relevance, our existence, and our role. Today, following the adoption by the United Nations last month of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we are facing a new test by which we may demonstrate once again to the world our leading position within the United Nations system. I am confident that we shall strengthen the role of this Organization, which must continue to perform its noble role and maintain its unique standing and value.

(*The Chair continued in French*)

35.6 Chers collègues, l’UNESCO doit être en mesure de mettre davantage à profit ses compétences spécifiques et de mobiliser encore plus efficacement ses capacités à exécuter son programme, non seulement au niveau mondial mais aussi aux niveaux national et régional, et de le faire d’une manière pluridisciplinaire. Le changement climatique, la consolidation et la promotion des sociétés du savoir et l’obligation de préserver la diversité et le patrimoine culturel exigent un haut degré d'interdisciplinarité. Telle est la valeur ajoutée de l'UNESCO.

35.7 En ce qui concerne le changement climatique, permettez-moi d’appuyer ce qu’a dit le Secrétaire général de l’Organisation des Nations Unies, M. Ban Ki-moon : il n’y a qu'une seule planète, il n'y a pas de « planète B ». Les pays les moins avancés et les petits États insulaires ne le savent que trop bien car ce sont eux qui souffrent le plus. Leur existence même est menacée. Mais ce sont tous les pays et tous les citoyens du monde qui sont affectés par le changement climatique. Le « S » de l’UNESCO nous confère une légitimité dans le domaine de la science du climat mondial. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas encore assez forts et nous ne sommes pas encore assez entendus. Mais, encore une fois, nous ne pouvons agir seuls. Pourquoi ne pas établir de nouveaux réseaux scientifiques sous notre direction pour accomplir ce travail et conseiller les dirigeants politiques sur ce qu'ils doivent faire ? Trop souvent, nos rapports scientifiques sont trop difficiles à lire et à transmettre. Nous devons trouver des moyens de permettre au grand public et aux dirigeants de mieux comprendre les découvertes scientifiques et leurs implications. La politique et les programmes du Secteur de la communication et de l’information pour l’accès libre à l’information scientifique sont un bel exemple de réussite. À cet égard, je me réjouis de notre contribution active aux préparatifs de la COP-21 qui, organisée par notre État hôte, la France, aura lieu en fin d'année.

35.8 Nous avons un rôle important à jouer dans le cadre de cette problématique et ce, à plusieurs niveaux : scientifique, éducatif, socio-transformationnel, culturel, mais aussi sur le plan de la communication et de la diffusion d’informations. Notre rôle est, sinon essentiel, du moins complémentaire avec les mesures que doivent prendre les États membres, sans être redondant. Par exemple, les domaines de compétence pluridisciplinaires de l'UNESCO pourraient être mieux intégrés afin de diffuser au monde ce que sont les meilleures pratiques de l'intégration des migrants. Cette intégration pourrait prendre sa source dans la culture et les sciences, notamment. Les coopérations régionale et internationale sont le socle sur lequel les cinq domaines de compétence et les sujets transversaux tels que le développement durable en Afrique, l'autonomisation des filles et des femmes, la place des jeunes et l'intégration des migrants dans les sociétés peuvent être renforcés. À cette fin, nous devons aussi tendre la main à tous les partenaires possibles pour trouver des solutions simples, effectives et faciles à mettre en œuvre dans un laps de temps raisonnable.

35.9 En ce qui concerne l'Éducation en vue du développement durable, je me rappelle de ces mots du sociologue Edgar Morin : « Il faudrait enseigner des principes de stratégie qui permettent d’affronter les aléas, l’inattendu et l’incertain, et de modifier leur développement […] On n’élimine pas l’incertitude, on négocie avec elle ». Ce ne sera possible que si nous proposons dès le plus jeune âge une éducation de qualité qui accompagne des valeurs humaines, des comportements et des modes de consommation qui protègent notre environnement et qui réduisent notre empreinte carbone.

35.10 L’éducation a un rôle important à jouer dans un autre domaine : la construction d’une culture de la paix est impossible sans une éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale, une éducation en faveur du dialogue, de la tolérance et de la compréhension mutuelle. À cet égard, nous pourrions aussi améliorer les kits éducatifs afin qu'ils soient plus adaptatifs et qu’ils prennent en compte les espaces d'apprentissage contextualisés. L’éducation, pilier de notre Organisation, peut, à travers les TIC,

provoquer une révolution dans l'apprentissage. L'introduction de la formation en ligne ouverte à tous, ainsi que les autres formes d'apprentissage à distance, promettent de repousser les limites du possible dans nos systèmes éducatifs actuels. L'UNESCO doit être au premier plan de cette révolution, en la facilitant tout en s'assurant qu'elle sera un chemin sûr vers une éducation de qualité. Nous devrions aussi être conscients que l'utilisation des TIC permet d'accéder aux espaces isolés et donc de renforcer l'inclusivité. Cependant, assurons-nous que les TIC soient au service d'une éducation plus humaine avant même de considérer leur potentiel économique. Il existe d'autres domaines d'apprentissage qui seront touchés par l'impact des nouvelles technologies. À nous de les mettre en avant, et à l'UNESCO d'assumer son rôle en matière d'éducation pour tous à tous les âges.

(*Le Président poursuit en anglais*)

35.11 Ladies and gentlemen, linking education and science, we need to encourage the development and broad-based introduction of innovative and renewable energies and services, by developing partnerships between the private and public sectors. In this context, the sciences must be at the service of society and humanity. They provide us the tools to partly anticipate the consequences of our actions. They should provide efficient solutions to achieve peaceful and sustainable societies that improve our relationship with the land, the ocean and the atmosphere, thereby truly protecting our planet for future generations. Technological advances must also take into consideration ethical dimensions and consequences.

35.12 Over the past years, UNESCO has been accompanying social transformations, which is a long-term task. Our actions in this regard must be flexible enough to provide policy solutions to meet the needs of Member States, especially as regards the rapid rise in mass migrations and the eventual needs of displaced populations because of the effects of global environmental change or conflicts and wars. In the field of culture, we must take great care to deal with the global rise of extremism in all its forms. During the past year, we have experienced violence, extremism and terrorism that threaten culture and cultural identities in an unprecedented way. UNESCO must reflect on what it can do in the face of incidents that mock its time-tested world heritage system. Tomorrow's UNESCO must lead in fostering and strengthening cultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and shared responsibility, among all concerned stakeholders.

35.13 Turning to our work in the field of communication and information, I believe that the spread of information and communication technology (ICT) has great potential to accelerate human development and to bridge divides between diverse societies and cultures. In this regard, let me once again recognize UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP) for its timely initiative to organize, together with other major partners, the first ever World Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism. The use of enabling technology should also serve to promote the empowerment of women and girls. However, regarding the rapid spread of information, we need to be sure that every individual is adequately equipped to be critical of any information with which he or she is confronted.

35.14 In this context, let me underline the need to enhance women and youth employment, which is a major challenge for all countries, but especially for those in the Africa and Arab regions. Every young person should be prepared through education to use ICTs to help navigate the current job market, thus increasing opportunities to gain quality employment. We must build capacities and launch awareness-raising campaigns for beneficial workplace internships as well as job placement training.

35.15 We should also think about how to improve the visibility of our work, sharing with everyone the untold success stories that prove UNESCO's added value. Our publications, for example, must be better referenced, especially by applying to them universal standards for open data sources, and recourse to our networks must be reinforced, notably through the use of social media and other networking applications. And here, we have the added capacity of our National Commissions, which must be equipped to communicate the good work done in our countries, regionally and internationally. Moreover, we should improve our links with the academic and professional communities through regular and joint endeavours maximizing our strengths to achieve mutually beneficial objectives for the benefit of our Member States.

35.16 Finally, in order for UNESCO to maintain its position as global leader in its fields of competence, we also need to look carefully at our governance structures. This was confirmed by the External Auditor and, during the past months, an effort has been made to make this a reality through the work of the informal task force on governance. Here I am reminded of the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson, who said: *"*Institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy*"*. One of the observations made during the meetings of the informal task force was that we have learned so much by doing and that we must benefit from the experience gained. It was also said that those new to the Board must take advantage of the expertise acquired by those with greater Board experience. This will help improve the solidarity of our Members, while also producing greater efficiency in our working habits.

35.17 Most of you underlined that we have been speaking about governance at UNESCO for too long. It is time for action – decisive action – to ensure that the diplomatic representatives sent by their capitals are well informed and are invested in their task not only to represent their interests, but also to watch over the best interests of UNESCO. I welcome the decision taken at this session of the Board, which represents real progress, perhaps not as much as some of us may have wanted, but nonetheless progress has been made. We have proven that we can agree on incremental change. Steady progress is being made regarding our own methods of work especially through lessons learned by doing – demonstrating that we are not unwilling to change our working methods. I am encouraged that the Board will meet more often on a trial basis in the coming biennium. While these meetings will remain informal, I am certain they will prove useful in making us a more active, engaged and responsible governing body.

35.18 It remains my hope that a more continuous governance mechanism will allow the Members of the Executive Board to take advantage of the time between each of its sessions to better follow up, monitor and prepare decisions, better involve non-Members of the Board and improve working relations with the Secretariat. Thus, I am hopeful that during the coming two years the Board will be able to take advantage of progress we have

made here now with a view to improving our governance mechanism. UNESCO is not the first organization to examine its governance structure. We have benefited from the experience provided by Mr Martin O'Malley of The Global Fund, but there are many others. With improved governance mechanisms we will not only be a better and more efficient organization, we will also be a more attractive organization to external partners and potential donors.

35.19 I believe that it is our duty as an Executive Board to make sure that we are dedicated. To make sure that we are engaged. To make our work and interventions of high quality. And to make sure that we genuinely have UNESCO's best interests at heart when we make decisions to support the Director-General in her noble task of executing the programme that the General Conference has adopted, and which the General Conference has charged us to oversee. This is why, I think, we need an Executive Board which meets more often, which concentrates on current challenges and which provides useful assistance and, most importantly, competent guidance to the Director-General and her teams. We need a governing body that is truly executive in its outlook, and not "micro-managing" the Organization. For this, there needs to be a renewed authentic sense of trust and harmony between the Board and the Secretariat.

35.20 At the end of the last biennium, my predecessor, Ms Alissandra Cummins, was wondering whether the resources we are committing to the Organization are sufficient to accomplish its mandate. I think that the work we did on the renovation of Room X is an example, on a small scale and in a very short time, just under three months, of what we can do with a proactive vision of any project. As we realized, very often we have to face unexpected problems that remind us of the unpredictability of processes. But every problem has a solution.

35.21 Ladies and gentlemen, I will leave this Chair with fond memories of the people I have met and of the times we have spent together. I am proud of the work we have accomplished, sometimes with difficulty, but always with the greater cause of UNESCO's mission in mind. It is my sincere wish that we all together – Member States and the Secretariat – strive for a UNESCO that we aspire to, that we continue to fight tirelessly for a better world tomorrow by acting responsibly and effectively today. Allow me, dear colleagues, to leave you with this one last thought, as expressed by Victor Hugo: "There is nothing like a dream to create the future". Together let us continue to dream to build the better future we want.

35.22 Now let me say a few words to you as friends, not colleagues, not Members of the Executive Board. Dear friends, these were the messages that I wanted to leave you with based on our experiences together over the past two years. Before leaving this Chair, allow me to share with you a message of friendship. As you know, two years ago I thanked you for electing me as Chair and for having confidence in me in this very high office. I must admit it is an honour for anyone to play such a role, especially when he or she feels that they have done their utmost in every manner to serve this Organization and to protect its interests. I am today much happier than the first day when I was elected and this is because I leave this room carrying with me all the memories of a successful mission that we have accomplished together.

35.23 I did not want to end my speech using formal diplomatic language. I wanted to say a special word of thanks, from the bottom of my heart, to all those who stood by me, you, every one of you here, and to the former Members of the Board and the Bureau with whom I have worked during these past two years, who have now moved on to other important posts, or who are no longer with us. First and foremost let me thank UNESCO, an Organization that we all hold so dearly in our hearts and minds. It is because of UNESCO that we are all here. And it is for UNESCO that we all work. In fact, we do not live in UNESCO but UNESCO lives in us. What an amazing feeling, which I am certain you all share with me.

35.24 Let me now turn to the President of the General Conference, Mr Hao Ping. Sir, you have become a true friend. I have learned a great deal from you. I am proud to have learned Chinese wisdom and patience from you. Madam Director-General, I am the third Chair with whom you have had to work during your mandate here at UNESCO. I am certain that I have left you with some very special memories. Let me wish you all the best in the coming years with my successor. I would also like to truly wish you every success in your future endeavours. Mr Deputy Director-General, you sometimes appear discreet, but you have always been effective in resolving issues during long debates in commissions and committees and when replacing the Director-General in plenary. Thank you very much.

35.25 The Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, my dear friend, Anna Segall, will understand only too well that it is difficult for one lawyer to say good things to another lawyer. It is a well-known fact that if you put two lawyers together in the same room, you almost always come away with three opinions. Madam, thank you for your support and the opinions you provided which helped solve some complex issues. For this I am most grateful. Through you, I wish to convey a special word of thanks to your team and I hope that the team will be reinforced in the future, so that it may provide the service that our governing bodies truly deserve. Let me also say a special word of thanks to each of the Assistant Directors-General and, in fact, to all members of the Secretariat. Believe me when I say that UNESCO could not succeed without you. The assistance and advice that you have provided to me have been very helpful. I do not wish to name you, because you know who you are, but I do wish to thank you and to say that you have become my true friends.

35.26 I also want to say a very special word of thanks to each and every member of the Permanent Delegation of Egypt to UNESCO. They have agreed to be burdened with extra work in order to enable me to handle my responsibilities as Chair. My due thanks go also to my own country, Egypt, which allowed me the privilege of representing it here at UNESCO and at the Executive Board. My due thanks go to all ministers and members of the Government who I worked with and who understood my duties as Chair and provided me with all the necessary support.

35.27 And finally, let me move on to my team in the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies (GBS). To Jacques Rao and Susana Sam-Vargas, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Board. Let me express my profound gratitude to you both for your professionalism and devoted service. The wheels of the Board run smoothly because of you, which I have appreciated very much. Through you, let me please say a special word of thanks to the entire GBS team, and here I mean Jacques and Susana's full-time and part-time team, who we do not

always see, and also our room clerks, my driver Rhatna and the entire security team, as well as the translators who produced our documents and the interpreters who ensured that our discussions were well understood by all. I wish also to say a special word of thanks to the technicians who ave worked tirelessly to make sure that this particular session of the Board in our newly renovated Room X worked. I may have caused you some sleepless nights, but please know that your efforts are most appreciated.

35.28 Now let me say a special word of thanks to the two people with whom I have worked most closely during my term, namely Victoria Moorhead and Frederick Russell. Dear Vicky, it really isn't overstating the case to say that I would not have made it this far without you. You have put up with many challenges, most of them caused by me, but you always did it with a smile. I have grown to count on you as a loyal and efficient assistant who has shown an extraordinary level of patience and unfailing support. Dear Russ, you too have provided much appreciated support and advice. In this short time you have managed to understand me and help me express my thoughts in a logical manner. I also appreciate your professionalism and dedication. Let's face it, we all know that the renovation of Room X was no easy task, but you did it. Vicky and Russ – your combined sense of humour has helped us to survive these two years. Let me say openly that I now consider you both as more than just colleagues. You have indeed become true friends. My dear friends, please remain seated because I would like to pass by and thank you individually, to express my sincere gratitude to all of you. With this, I *declare the 197th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO* ***closed***.

The meeting rose at 1.00 p.m.