

Mr Chairperson,
Mr President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Dear colleagues,

In the recent years we have witnessed the emergence of serious challenges to multilateralism and, especially, to the UN System. And UNESCO has been heavily impacted by this reality, exacerbated by the severe context of financial constraints. The difficulties, however, must not deter us from building the bridges to the future we want.

The daily reports we see on the drama of refugees, the rising manifestations of intolerance and the persistence of poverty and marginalization are urgent calls for action to the international community, which shall endeavor to build effective and lasting responses. Despite all the obstacles, we must believe in our capacity to overcome the challenges we are facing, as we could see in the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

As Brazil has argued, UNESCO must have a pivotal role in the implementation of these new global commitments. Indeed, this Organization has shown clear signs of its leadership, for instance in the promotion of SDG 4-Education.

In fact, UNESCO's vocation for universalism and the complexity of the issues before us demand an ever more cross-pillar approach. This is how we can best deal with the multitude of tasks encompassed in UNESCO's mandate.

In this regard, I would like to refer to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, approved last December by the UN General Assembly, with strategic policy orientations to better support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It

presents many guidelines Brazil has stressed here at UNESCO, such as national ownership, inclusivity (leaving no one behind) and clear accountability.

Mr Chairman,

During this session of the Board, we shall address the hard task of the proposals of the document 39 C/5, which presents, for the first time, a draft integrated budget framework for the next quadrennium. In this sense, Brazil notes with satisfaction the streamlining of practices and procedures of management that have been gradually applied, such as the adoption of performance indicators and benchmarking and the integration of regular contributions and donor funding.

Committing to ensure UNESCO's proper functioning over the following years means to commit to the pursuit of efficiency, to avoiding duplication and overlap and to expanding and strengthening partnerships across all the areas of the Organization's program.

Concerning specifically the staff management, I would like to congratulate the Director-General for the results achieved in the promotion of gender balance. I shall recall, nevertheless, that we expect similar success related to the geographical representation of the staff. Latin America, Brazil in particular, is still represented below average in the composition of the secretariat. UNESCO team must reflect the diversity we all advocate.

Mr Chairman, dear colleagues,

Brazil will pay careful heed to all of these issues during the interviews of the candidates to the office of Director-General of UNESCO. This process will mean not only the beginning of the election of the most senior officer of this Organization, but also, and most important of all, the opportunity to ensure the relevance of UNESCO in the world scenario, projecting its leadership and effectively realizing its potential.

Thank you