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Estonia aligns itself fully with the statement delivered by the European Union.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement convey a strong message of universality, inclusiveness and shared responsibility. These internationally agreed development goals have also shaped and sharpened UNESCO's action as is evident in the draft Programme and Budget for 2018—2021 presented to this Board. The number of main lines of actions and expected results has been further reduced and their links to SDGs strengthened. Education Programme is built entirely around SDG 4 and Estonia would like to stress that for achieving the goal cooperation among relevant international organizations, quality in monitoring and sufficient financing are crucial. For the first time we see a specific expected result on the protection of culture in emergencies as part of Culture Programme. It reflects UNESCO's strong commitment and leadership in this area, but it is clear that real impact can be achieved only in partnership. The historic resolution 2347 adopted recently by the UN Security Council on heritage protection and peace building as well as the DR proposed to this Board by France and the United Arab Emirates on UNESCO's participation in the new Heritage Protection Foundation ALIPH are excellent examples of strategic partnerships and joint efforts.

In the framework of Communication and Information Programme Estonia values highly UNESCO's work on fostering the freedom of expression, supporting independent media, promoting safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. The journalists and media experts contribute daily to good governance, transparency and accountability in the world. Estonia is very concerned about the attacks at journalists, bloggers and media workers in many countries and strongly condemns all forms of violence committed against them for exercising their human rights – right to freedom of opinion and expression. It is imperative to create free and safe environment for journalists, bloggers and media professionals by coordinated efforts globally and to end the impunity of the perpetrators. We hope that UNESCO's work in monitoring, awareness-raising and sensitizing governments about the important role of journalists in

building healthy democracies and advancing SDG 16 on public access to information and fundamental freedoms will be enhanced with the help of the new dedicated Special Account that has been created to support UNESCO's work in promoting the safety of journalists.

Estonia welcomes the renewed Transparency Portal that is very helpful for the Member States for accessing programme monitoring information and also getting an overview of the integrated budget. The new integrated budget framework that is used for the first time in the 39 C/5 brings together different resources (RP+XB) and also identifies the funding gaps. It is a good way to strengthen the ownership and responsibility of the member states for both setting priorities as well as for helping to resource the C/5. The draft 39 C/5 tells us in no uncertain terms that, for instance, the UIS that has an indispensable role in monitoring progress towards the SDGs needs about 21 million dollars for 2018—2019, but the gap is around 10 million dollars. Clear assessment of resources at hand will be essential for the Structured Financing Dialogues and for developing resource mobilization strategies in the context of current budgetary restraints.

Let me now turn to another issue that has not been so transparent. We were surprised to learn from the draft plan for the organization of the work of the 39th session of the General Conference about the proposal for radical reforms of the Youth Forum. We regret that this proposal has reached the Member States at such a late state with no prior consultations. We find it unfortunate that the previous proposals from National Commissions and the youth representatives themselves aiming to improve the Youth Forum have not been taken on board. Nothing for youth should be done without youth. Therefore young people should be involved in the planning of the Youth Forum. Estonia also feels that the proposed format does not correspond to the intergovernmental nature of the Youth Forum and will not result in empowering the youth. We must ensure that the selection criteria and process are transparent and that Member States are involved. Youth Forum should not be transformed into an event for the selected best and brightest privileging only a narrow segment of youth population. We feel that in order to improve the format there is a need for transparent consultations that build on the analysis of the previous Youth Forums so that all interested parties could share their views.