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SPEECH

**BY H.E. MR. LE HOAI TRUNG, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
CHAIRMAN OF THE VIETNAM NATIONAL UNESCO COMMITTEE**

Your Excellency Chairman of the UNESCO Executive Board

*Your Excellency Mdm Director General Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO,
Distinguished Participants*

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Her Excellency Director-General for her continued important leadership and contribution and believe that under the guidance of Your Excellency Mr. Chairman and with the active participation of all delegates, our Session will come to a successful outcome.

Viet Nam welcomes member states and the Secretariat's efforts to incorporate sustainable development goals into the 2018-2021 Medium-term Strategic Plan and promote the effective distribution of resources based on expected outcomes with due regards reserved for the priority targets related to Africa, gender equality and small island states.

Viet Nam supports the 2018-2019 budget option of \$653 million with a \$518 million expenditure ceiling.

Regarding important cooperation programs, Viet Nam would like to endorse the Draft Document 39C/5, and, at the same time, wish to highlight the following points:

We agree that UNESCO should continue to promote programs on education and vocational training, mutual recognition of professional qualifications and the global citizenship education. Educational and training reform in member states are of particular importance given immense impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

On this occasion, I am pleased to inform the Board that Vietnam has just hosted a conference on "Innovative Education and Human Resource Building for Sustainable

Development" in late March this year in Hue. This is the Vietnamese Prime Minister's initiative cosponsored by Finland, India, Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea in the ASEM framework.

Since many cultural heritages are severely destroyed in conflicts in various regions, Vietnam reiterates its strong support for the "United for Heritage" initiative.

Viet Nam welcomes UNESCO's efforts in working with the UN to respond to climate change. In this regard, we wish effective cooperation to realize UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change and well underline Viet Nam's National Determined Contributions (NCD) for the attainment of the Paris Agreement's goals.

We also welcome the efforts made by the Secretariat in Natural and Social Sciences, Communication and Information and underline the important achievements in various fields and program such as : IOC, MAB, Geoparks and MOST. We appreciate the work being undertaken by the International Advisory Committee and the expert working groups to review the Memory of the World Programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Viet Nam unreservedly supports UNESCO's noble mandate and has indeed actively participated in the Organization's many initiatives and actions.

Of the strong base of our contribution to UNESCO are our nation's long historical experience, age-old culture and profound aspirations for peace, humanity and tolerance. These intertwine the nation's contemporary experiences in multifaceted post-conflict development, encouraging achievements in comprehensive reforms including those related to the Development goals of the United Nations.

Proceeding from the strong desire to make further substantial contribution to UNESCO's noble cause Viet Nam wishes to nominate her national, Ambassador Pham Sanh Chau to the post of Director General of UNESCO for the period of 2017-2021.

I Thank you for your kind attention.

