

## Swedish Statement UNESCO EXB 201st meeting, April 2017

In 2015 the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement gave us global tools for a sustainable future. UNESCO has a decisive role to play to support Member States in the implementation. The Sustainable Development Goals demonstrate that UNESCO's mandate is more relevant than ever.

In 2016 it was clearly illustrated that many challenges remain in implementing these commitments. UNESCO's values were contested globally. Developments in 2016 also demonstrated that climate change and environmental damage have dire global consequences.

Today in 2017 the Executive Board has several key issues on the table. We will nominate a new Director General. We will finalize a programme and budget that integrates the global commitments we have made within the resources available. And we need an even more competitive, competent and relevant UNESCO to meet our common challenges.

It is clear that we must get many things right this year.

Firstly, we must nominate a new Director General with integrity who continues to stand up for UNESCO especially in areas where UNESCO has a unique mandate within the UN Family such as freedom of expression and media freedom. We want to see an unwavering rights' based approach for UNESCO's entire mandate - with gender equality at its core. We also expect the new Director General to continue to assume full management responsibility for the development of this organisation and to assist the Executive Board to make necessary decisions even when they are inconvenient.

Secondly, we need to get the new program and budget right. The C/5 is the key steering tool and as an integrated budget framework it is the investment case to secure extra budgetary funding. It is also the document on which UNESCO will be assessed when compared with other agencies. Given this importance I would like to make a few concrete comments on the draft C/5.

For the first time we have a C/5 that includes both regular and extra budgetary funding and sets priorities for all of UNESCO's money. And on the basis of this C/5 we will for the first time hold a financing dialogue. This is truly an achievement and represents a major shift in how we do business here in UNESCO.

Let me first say that Sweden welcomes that the Main Lines of Action and Expected Results are fewer and more results focused and we recognize improvements in the results framework. We propose that the **results framework is peer reviewed** by WHO and FAO with focus on expected results and indicators. Also, **all sectors should include baselines and 'assessment of performance indicators'** as is done very well already for MP II and MP IV.

In the **appropriation resolution the total sum stemming from the Regular Budget should be included for clarification**. This is done already for extra budgetary resources, which is very helpful.

Different parts of the C/5 seem to have been drafted separately. UNESCO must act as one and the C/5 is where that unity must be clearly expressed. The **draft C/5 and the draft resolutions should therefore be reformulated as regards more coherent ambition and**

**language for transversal themes such as the operationalisation of Agenda 2030, gender equality, youth and resource mobilization.**

This C/5 will decide how UNESCO implements Agenda 2030, so we must get the structure right. The draft needs coherence in **language and in level of ambition for the Agenda 2030 in all Major Programmes as regards Expected Results and indicators.** We also want language that the **operationalisation of Agenda 2030 in the C/5 should be reviewed by IOS after the first biennium.**

Gender equality is a stand-alone goal in SDGs and a global priority for UNESCO and UNESCO needs to do more. Expected results and indicators in the Major Programmes on gender equality are in our eyes unevenly operationalized with varying levels of quality and ambition. We request that **gender equality in all sectors in the C/5 and in the draft resolutions are reformulated to ensure a coherent and high ambition in expected results and indicators as well as regards resource allocation and gender disaggregated data. We also want to see assurance of the establishment of a budget tracking mechanism for gender.**

As regards Youth in the C/5 we want language that **UNESCO systematically engages and includes young experts in all its fields of competence in appointing expert panels, meeting chairs, rapporteurs and key note speakers.**

We would also like to request language that brings together resource mobilization in each Major Programme to **an organization wide, strategic resource mobilization effort.**

**SDG 16 and particularly target 16.10 on public access to information and fundamental freedoms must be more clearly and strategically featured in MP V, in particular as regards the work on access to information. UNESCO's unique access to governments and public institutions as well as its convening capacity to gather key stakeholders for knowledge sharing should be clearly emphasized.**

The indicators in MP V should be reformulated so that they are more specific in order to **measure the implementation of the normative work.** As regards the two **intergovernmental programs it is crucial to clarify how they contribute to the C/5.** UNESCO's "**ROAM-principles on Internet**" need to be clearly integrated in both **MLA 1 and MLA 2 with a human rights based approach** as the guiding principle.

We strongly support UNESCO's leading role in implementing the "UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity". Important progress has been made but much remains to be done, and today there are global concerns about journalist safety. Sweden is committed to working together with other Member States in order to reinforce UNESCO's work in this field. The 2030 Agenda gives UNESCO an important role to monitor progress, and to support Member States' efforts to strengthen their institutional capacity to prevent attacks against journalists as well as to combat impunity. It is equally important to find concrete measures to tackle the specific risks and dangers facing women journalists, including threats, hate and sexual harassment.

A global fundamental change in how we think and act is needed, and education and learning are the means to achieve this. Education is the formula to achieve our common SDG:s and the climate agreement. In the C/5 we welcome the operationalisation of SDG 4 as a framework for the Expected Results in MP I, Education, but we request a much more ambitious gender mainstreaming in order to achieve our global commitments.

Today, more than yesterday, we need knowledge based policy decisions in order to succeed with the Paris agreement and the SDGs and natural and social sciences play a crucial role. Sweden attaches great importance to the Oceans and we welcome the draft C/5 on IOC. In MP II, Science, we welcome the focus on capacity building and in MP III, SHS, we welcome the refocused approach and acknowledge the adherence to the recommendations from IOS. We also welcome the level of ambition and quality in how both Science and SHS have approached gender equality in their results framework.

Regrettably we still do not see how the **intersectoral and joint work between Science and SHS** as described in the C/5 are visible **in the results framework**. This **should be further improved** to reflect that the challenges that we face globally are transversal by nature.

Culture is a transversal theme in the SDGs and a key component for sustainable development. In MP IV, **culture**, on UNESCO's work **in emergencies** we ask that "**cultural institutions and safety of artists**" are included in the indicators and not only in the assessment. In MP IV we would also like to see "**artistic freedom**" more highlighted in the results framework.

2017 is the year when we move from setting goals and taking out directions to implementation and action. The directions and coordinates for this work are formulated in the C/5 and the new Director General will lead UNESCO forward along this path. We are looking forward to an even more relevant UNESCO with a strong mandate and an effective and efficient leadership. This will be the organisation we want in 2018 and beyond.