



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Records of the General Conference

Actes de la Conférence générale

Actas de la Conferencia General

Акты Генеральной конференции

سجلات المؤتمر العام

大会纪录

38th session

38^e session

38^a reunión

38-я сессия

الدورة الثامنة والثلاثون

第三十八届会议

Paris, 2017

Proceedings

Comptes rendus des débats

Actas literales

Стенографические отчеты

المحاضر الحرفية

会议录

Published in 2017 by the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP
Composed and printed in UNESCO's workshops

Publié en 2017 par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP
Composé et imprimé dans les ateliers de l'UNESCO

Publicado en 2017 por la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP
Compuesto e impreso en los talleres de la UNESCO

Издано в 2017 г. Организацией Объединенных Наций
по вопросам образования науки и культуры
7, place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07 SP
Набрано и отпечатано в типографии ЮНЕСКО

صدر عام ٢٠١٧ عن منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة،
تُضد وطبع بورش اليونسكو، 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP

联合国教育、科学及文化组织 2017 年出版
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP
教科文组织排版和印刷

NOTE ON THE RECORDS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Records of the 38th session of the General Conference are printed in two volumes:

The volume Resolutions, containing the resolutions adopted by the General Conference, the reports of Commissions I to V, the Administrative Commission and the Legal Committee, and the list of officers of the General Conference and of the Commissions and Committees (Volume 1);

The present volume Proceedings (Volume 2), containing the revised and corrected version of the verbatim records of plenary meetings and the list of participants.

Under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the verbatim records are published in a single edition, in which each intervention is reproduced in the working language in which it was given and interventions given in a working language other than English or French are followed by a translation into either English or French alternately meeting by meeting.

NOTE CONCERNANT LES ACTES DE LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE

Les Actes de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale sont imprimés en deux volumes :

Le volume Résolutions, contenant les résolutions adoptées par la Conférence générale, les rapports des Commissions I à V, de la Commission administrative et du Comité juridique et la liste des membres du Bureau de la Conférence générale et des bureaux des commissions et comités (Vol. 1) ;

Le présent volume, Comptes rendus des débats (Vol. 2), contenant la version revue et corrigée des comptes rendus *in extenso* des séances plénières et la liste des participants.

Aux termes de l'article 53 du Règlement intérieur de la Conférence générale, les comptes rendus *in extenso* sont publiés dans une édition unique où les interventions sont reproduites dans les langues de travail employées par les orateurs et suivies, si elles ont été faites dans une autre langue de travail que l'anglais ou le français, de traductions effectuées, alternativement d'une séance à l'autre, dans l'une ou l'autre de ces langues.

NOTA RELATIVA A LAS ACTAS DE LA CONFERENCIA GENERAL

Las Actas de la 38ª reunión de la Conferencia General se publican en dos volúmenes:

El volumen *Resoluciones*, que contiene las resoluciones aprobadas por la Conferencia General, los informes de las Comisiones I a V, de la Comisión Administrativa y del Comité Jurídico y la lista de miembros de las mesas de la Conferencia General y de sus comisiones y comités (Volumen 1);

El presente volumen "*Actas literales*" (Volumen 2), que contiene la versión revisada y corregida de las Actas literales de las sesiones plenarias y la lista de los participantes.

Con arreglo a lo dispuesto en el Artículo 53 del Reglamento de la Conferencia General, las Actas literales se publican en una edición única en que las intervenciones se reproducen en las lenguas de trabajo empleadas por los oradores, seguidas, si se han hecho en lenguas de trabajo que no sean el francés o el inglés, de traducciones efectuadas, alternativamente, de una sesión a otra, en una u otra de esas lenguas.

ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ К АКТАМ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОЙ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ

Акты 38-й сессии Генеральной конференции печатаются в двух томах:

том *Резолюции*, содержащий резолюции, принятые Генеральной конференцией, доклады комиссий I – V, Комиссии по административным вопросам и Юридического комитета, а также список членов Президиума Генеральной конференции, комиссий и комитетов (том 1);

настоящий том, Стенографические отчеты (том 2), содержащий отредактированные и исправленные стенографические отчеты пленарных заседаний и список участников.

В соответствии со статьей 53 Правил процедуры Генеральной конференции стенографические отчеты печатаются в одном издании, в котором каждое выступление воспроизводится на рабочем языке, на котором оно было сделано, а выступления на другом рабочем языке, помимо английского и французского, сопровождаются переводом на английский или французский язык поочередно от заседания к заседанию.

مذكرة بشأن سجلات المؤتمر العام

تصدر سجلات الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام في مجلدين:

مجلد القرارات، الذي يحتوي على القرارات التي اعتمدها المؤتمر العام، وعلى تقارير اللجان من الأولى إلى الخامسة واللجنة الإدارية واللجنة القانونية، وقائمة أعضاء هيئات مكاتب المؤتمر العام واللجان (المجلد الأول). وهذا المجلد "محاضر الجلسات" (المجلد الثاني) الذي يحتوي على النسخة المنقحة والمصوبة من المحاضر الحرفية للجلسات العامة وعلى قائمة المشتركين.

وبمقتضى المادة ٥٣ من النظام الداخلي للمؤتمر العام، تصدر المحاضر الحرفية في طبعة واحدة تثبت فيها كل خطبة بلغة العمل التي يستخدمها المتحدث وتعبئها، إن كانت الخطبة بلغة عمل غير الإنجليزية أو الفرنسية، ترجمة بإحدى هاتين اللغتين بالتناوب من جلسة لأخرى. وهذا المجلد "محاضر الجلسات" (المجلد الثاني) الذي يحتوي على النسخة المنقحة والمصوبة من المحاضر الحرفية للجلسات العامة وعلى قائمة المشتركين.

关于大会记录的说明

大会第三十八届会议的会议记录分两卷印发：

决议卷，包括大会通过的各项决议，第 I 至第 V 委员会、行政委员会和法律委员会的报告，以及大会总务委员会成员及各委员会主席团成员名单（第一卷）。

本卷会议录（第二卷），包括各次全体会议逐字记录的校阅本和与会者名单。

根据《大会议事规则》第 53 条规定，逐字记录应出版单行本，其中发言应以发言时使用的工作语言复印；发言使用的语言如非英语或法语而为其它工作语言时，则应附以英语或法语译文，两种语言按会议顺序轮流使用。

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المحاضر الحرفية للجلسات العامة

全体会议逐字记录

First plenary meeting

Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 10.15 a.m.
President: **Mr Hao** (China)

Première séance plénière

Mardi 3 novembre 2015 à 10 h 15
Président : **M. Hao** (Chine)

Primera sesión plenaria

Martes 3 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.15
Presidente: **Sr. Hao** (China)

Первое пленарное заседание

Вторник 3 ноября 2015 г. в 10.15
Председатель: г-н **Хао** (Китай)

الجلسة العامة الأولى

الثلاثاء ٣ تشرين الثاني الأول/ نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحا
الرئيس: السيد **هاو** (الصين)

第一次全体会议

2015年11月3日星期二 10时15分
主席: **郝平先生** (中国)

Item 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION
Point 1 : ORGANISATION DE LA SESSION
Punto 1: ORGANIZACIÓN DE LA REUNIÓN
Пункт 1: ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ РАБОТЫ СЕССИИ

البند ١: تنظيم الدورة

项目 1: 届会的组织

Item 1.1: Opening of the 38th session of the General Conference
Point 1.1 : Ouverture de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale
Punto 1.1: Apertura de la 38^a reunión de la Conferencia General
Пункт 1.1: Открытие 38-й сессии Генеральной конференции

البند ١, ١: افتتاح الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

项目 1.1: 大会第三十八届会议开幕

1.1 The Temporary President (Mr Hao, President of the 37th session of the General Conference):

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ministers, distinguished ambassadors, friends and colleagues, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to UNESCO, to the 38th session of its General Conference. As President of the 37th session, and in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, I have the honour to preside over this meeting. I therefore declare open the 38th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

1.2 To celebrate the opening of the 38th session of the General Conference and the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, it is my pleasure to introduce a musical moment by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. The music is played by the Finnish string quartet Cajé, which is a group of talented musicians and former students of the Sibelius Academy. The Sibelius Academy is the highest-level music school in Finland and the flagship of Finland's world-famous music training. UNESCO is associated with the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius, and we will have great pleasure in listening to two pieces which will open our General Conference in a most inspiring way. Thank you.

(Musical interlude)

2.1 临时主席:

尊敬的执行局主席 Amr 先生，尊敬的总干事博科娃女士，尊敬的各国代表团团长，各位部长，尊敬的各位大使阁下，媒体代表朋友们，女士们，先生们，大家上午好。今年是联合国成立 70 周年，也是教科文组织成立 70 周年。七十年前，那些为了世界和平事业而献出青春和生命的反法西斯英雄们，唤起了人类和平与发展的良知；也是七十年前，那些在二战胜利后开创性地期望“通过人之思想维护世界和平”的有识之士们，创建了教科文组织并成为本组织的奠基人。回首过去七十年，作为联合国系统的有机组成部分，教科文组织通过科学教育普及、文化遗产保护、推动文明间对话与文化多样性建设、推广和平文化等多方面工作，在维护和促进世界和平、全球发展与人类精神进步方面，发挥了不可替代的特殊重要作用。在此，请允许我借今天这个神圣而隆重的场合，向教科文组织中一代又一代为此做出突出贡献的人们，表达我最深、最真诚的敬仰和敬意。

2.2 女士们，先生们，同事们，两年前的此时此刻，我在诸位的掌声和祝贺声中就任教科文组织大会主席，并作出庄严承诺，要和大家一起，在这个有着悠久历史的组织中进一步履行新的历史责任。这一幕至今仍记忆犹新。两年前，我们的组织业已取得辉煌的成就。但也必须承认，由于各种客观原因，在我上任大会主席一职时，我们的组织也面临着严重的困难和危机，改革迫在眉睫。没有改革，大会通过的各项决议将无法得到落实。为此，我们需要寻找新的思想理念来引领改革，需要确定新的机制方法来保障改革，需要更加饱满的热情和切实的行动来实现改革。至今我仍然记得，在我上任的第一天，时任 GBS 的秘书长带着我，几乎走访了秘书处的每间办公室。我看到工作人员们饱含热情，忘我地工作着，脸上挂着真诚的笑容，我为他们所感动。两年履职期间，我走访了教科文组织驻中国、柬埔寨、古巴、伊朗、泰国和突尼斯等办事处，其中印象最深的是在约旦见到了伊拉克办事处的同事们。受地区冲突影响，他们冒着炮火和生命危险撤离伊拉克的情景，仍然历历在目。我从他们的脸上看到的是执着、希望和信念。我赞赏执行局的智慧。在重组本组织计划项目优先次序、推动秘书处改革、确保大会决议的落实方面，执行局发挥了不可替代的作用。我赞赏会员国的慷慨。因为你们，本组织预算外财源才得以不断地增长。“众人拾柴火焰高”。如今，我高兴地看到大会第三十七届会议上的决议均已基本落实，这是对秘书处、执行局和会员国之间求同存异、团结一心、成功应对内部和外部挑战的最好肯定。

2.3 女士们，先生们，2015 年注定是一个将被历史铭记的年份。在不久前的纪念联合国成立 70 周年系列峰会上，与会各国代表共同讨论了当前国际形势的总体特征以及国际社会的共同责任，并制定了包括《2030 年可持续发展议程》在内的一系列愿景规划。大家普遍意识到，当前，人类正处在百年未有的深刻巨变之中，正处在重要的历史转折点上。为了我们子孙后代的未来，我们必须立刻行动起来。这让我回想起本世纪伊始，人们带着美好的憧憬，相聚于南太平洋的汤加，在这个最接近国际变更线的岛国上，迎接千禧年的第一缕阳光，分享着这一幸福美好的时刻。同年 9 月，147 位国家元首和政府首脑会聚在联合国总部，重申共同遵守《联合国宪章》，并通过制定千年发展目标对创建一个更加和平、繁荣和公正的世界作出郑重承诺。十五年的时间很快就过去了。当人们回顾这段历史时，既有各项事业不断取得进步的喜悦，也深刻感受到未来还充满着各种各样的危机、挑战和不确定性。极端贫困、性别不公、教育匮乏、青年失业、恐怖主义、教派冲突、地区动荡、气候变化、环境破坏、肆虐的传染性疾​​病及各种人道主义灾难等多重挑战，正日益威胁着世界的和平与安全以及各国的稳定与发展的前景。从“9·11”恐怖袭击到“伊斯兰国”崛起，从华尔街金融危机到目前各国普遍面临的发展困境，从“阿拉伯之春”后西亚北非各国政治的动荡到当前令人心痛的大规模叙利亚难民，人类社会就像坐上了一辆过

山车，在剧烈震荡中艰难前行。综上所述，当前的世界可能正处在一个较长的变化与重组时期，难免会产生某种程度的动荡与失序，甚至将付出一些沉重的代价。人类社会的发展迫切需要提出新的思想理念与制度创新，而这正是本届大会上需要各位集思广益的命题。

2.4 女士们，先生们，面对国际秩序的深刻变革和全球性挑战的快速增长，教科文组织应该像七十年前创立之初时选择捍卫世界和平为己任那样，敢于再次做出选择，敢于重申我们的选择，要让人们了解到，这将是一个决定未来人类前途命运的选择！我们也有理由相信，我们会站在前人努力的基础上，使21世纪比以往更加和谐美好。为此，我想提出五点建议：首先，要高度珍爱世界和平，始终将捍卫《联合国宪章》所体现的制度框架和价值理念作为我们的首要任务。二战后确立的以《联合国宪章》为核心的国际秩序来之不易，并在过去七十年中为维护世界和平与发展发挥了重要作用。虽然历经七十载，但《联合国宪章》所提倡的价值理念和行为规范依然有效，《联合国宪章》依然是当今和未来世界和平的最重要基石。日前，德国总理默克尔关于二战屠犹历史的表态，得到了在场各国的尊重，也让我钦敬有加。她说，“我们坚持就大屠杀担责，这桩反人类罪行是德国固有的历史责任，我们没有任何理由、以任何方式改变历史观。”我赞赏德国总理勇于正视历史、敢于承担责任的气魄，我认为只有这样，才能真正放下包袱，告别昨天的伤痛和仇恨，以开放包容之心去拥抱和平。

2.5 第二，要加大工作力度，推动世界各国人民形成并不断强化“命运共同体”的思想和理念。当今世界，人类生活在不同文化、种族、肤色、宗教和不同社会制度所组成的世界里，各国相互联系、相互依存、相互影响的程度空前加深，越来越成为你中有我、我中有你、休戚与共的命运共同体。积极倡导和推动各国强化“命运共同体”意识，是符合世界潮流和时代规律的必然要求，是各国在新时期进一步加强合作、共同应对挑战的重要思想基础，也同教科文组织“通过人的思想维护世界和平”的一贯宗旨一脉相承，更是未来教科文组织无可推卸的重要历史责任。作为联合国的思想库，教科文组织必须有所行动。要通过未来教科文组织的各项行动，进一步提升各国及其民众的无论大小贫富一视同仁的“平等意识”，一方有难八方支援的“互助意识”，既重视自身安全发展又兼顾他人利益的“共赢意识”，以及既有所获取更尽力付出的“责任意识”。

2.6 第三，要推动不同宗教与文明之间消除误解，开展更多对话，探寻21世纪多元文明的和谐共处之道。全世界各个宗教、各个文明拥有人类最基本的共同价值追求，而这正是人类命运共同体的思想基础。只有全天下之人相互尊重，只有国与国之间平等相待，家和国才能稳定、和睦。佛教提倡“众生平等”；《圣经》说，“凡事谦虚、温柔、忍耐，用爱心相互宽容，用和平彼此联络”；《古兰经》中也记载了穆罕穆德的圣训，“只有互亲互爱，方可谈及信仰”。2014年中国国家主席习近平访问本组织时强调，“文明是多彩的，人类文明因多样才有交流互鉴的价值。文明是平等的，人类文明因平等才有交流互鉴的前提。文明是包容的，人类文明因包容才有交流互鉴的动力。”今年4月，我和总干事、执行局主席应邀访问了梵蒂冈，教皇方济各针对当前宗教对立，倡导不同宗教之间开展对话；我所到访的国家包括欧洲、阿拉伯地区、亚洲和拉美等国家也都表达了同样的和平愿望。英国著名哲学家罗素曾在他的《中西文明比较》一文中指出：“历史反复地证明，不同文明之间的交流，乃是人类整体文明发展进步的不竭动力。”美国著名学者、普利策奖获得者威尔·杜兰特及其夫人阿里尔·杜兰特在其代表作《历史的教训》中也讲到：“文明是人类合作的产物，几乎所有的民族都对此有所贡献。”我们的一项重要任务，就是推动不同文明之间的和谐共存、交流互鉴、共同进步，让文明交流互鉴成为增进各国人民友谊的桥梁、维护世界和平的纽带、推动人类社会进步的动力。我们应该从不同文明中寻求智慧，汲取营养，为人们提供精神支撑和心灵慰藉，携手解决人类共同面临的各种挑战。

2.7 第四，紧扣“2030年可持续发展议程”设定的目标，通过更大范围的普及教育，为彻底消除极端贫困、发展严重失衡以及由此带来的一系列全球挑战而努力。1999年我担任北京大学副校长时曾主持过南非总统曼德拉先生的一场演讲，当时曼德拉先生曾讲到：“如果数以百万计的人民像现在一样，处于无家可归、饥饿和文盲的状态，自由将是非常脆弱的，我们的文明将成为一句空话。”他寓意深刻、振聋发聩的演讲，至今让我记忆犹新。饥饿、贫困、无知、不平等、不公正正是恐惧的根源，是各类极端主义得以滋生蔓延的土壤。我们必须努力铲除这样的土壤。为此，我们要继续为践行教育第一、促进教育公平而奋斗，切实帮助人们通过教育改变命运。要进一步加大对发展中国家的援助力度，帮助这些国家的政府和人民大力发展教育、科学与文化事业，尤其是维护妇女、儿童和其他弱势群体的受教育权，帮助各国青年群体获得必要的工作技能和工作机会，通过公平发展、开放发展、全面发展、创新发展，为21世纪的和平与繁荣奠定坚实基础。

2.8 第五，要通过机制创新提高运作效率，团结一切可以团结的力量，提升本组织在文明交流领域的专业水平，不断拓展本组织在全球治理中的影响力。本组织七十年的历史已经充分证明，教育、科学、文化是不同文明之间彼此交流的重要途径和桥梁，没有思想隔阂和机制阻碍的互联互通更为持久和稳定。今后，本组织要继续更好地充当各国在教育、科学和文化领域多边交流和沟通的平台，竭诚为各会员国的利益服务，并通过合作机制创新进一步拓展合作空间，释放合作潜力，提高运行效率，放大合作成果。同时，本组织更应该成为全世界最杰出的思想家、科学家、教育家、文学家、艺术家的共同精神家园，凝聚起强大的人才力量，借鉴更多智慧和真知灼见，不断提高文明交流的专业水平，推动文明交流事业深入发展，并进一步加大同联合国系统的其他部门、各国政府以及各类非政府组织与私营机构的沟通合作，集中力量解决人类面临的重大问题。每个人都应该为教科文组织而努力。每个人的努力都将被教科文组织永远铭记。每个人也都因为对教科文组织所做的努力而自豪。最后，请允许我用这样的祝愿来结束我的发言。如果说联合国总部有“更强大的联合国，更美好的世界”的口号，那么我们教科文组织也应该有类似的豪情。让我们共同努力，为建设“更强大的教科文，更美好的世界”而奋斗！谢谢大家。

(2.1) **The Temporary President (translation from the Chinese):**

Mr Amr, Chair of the Executive Board, Ms Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, heads of delegation, ministers, Excellencies, ambassadors, friends from the media, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, as well as that of UNESCO. Seventy years ago, the heroes fighting fascism and giving their young lives for world peace awakened humanity's intuitive aspiration for peace and development. Seventy years ago, the insightful founders, hailing the victorious outcome of the Second World War and cherishing an epoch-making hope that the

defences of peace would be constructed in the minds of men and women, created the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In its 70-year history as an integral part of the United Nations system, UNESCO, through its efforts to popularize science and education, protect cultural heritage, promote dialogue among civilizations and preserve cultural diversity, has played a unique, important and irreplaceable role in maintaining and promoting world peace, global development and the intellectual progress of humanity. Allow me to take this momentous opportunity to pay my deepest and most respectful tribute to generations of people at UNESCO who have made significant contributions to the work of the Organization.

(2.2) Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, when I was elected President of the General Conference of UNESCO exactly at this moment two years ago, to applause and congratulations from you all, I made a solemn commitment that, working along with each and every one of you, I would live up to my new responsibility within this Organization with its long history. My memory of that moment is as fresh as ever. Two years ago, the Organization had accomplished outstanding achievements. However, it must be admitted that it was faced with such major difficulties and crises that urgent reform was called for. Without reforms, the implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Conference would be compromised. We had to develop new ideas and concepts to introduce reforms, new mechanisms and methodologies to guarantee them, and greater enthusiasm and more effective actions to realize them. I remember vividly that, as the then Director of the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies showed me around the Secretariat offices on the very first day of my term of office, I was deeply touched to see the members of staff working passionately, selflessly and cheerfully. In my two years in office as President, I have visited UNESCO field offices in China, Cambodia, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Thailand and Tunisia. What impressed me the most was the moment when I met in Jordan with colleagues from the Iraq office who had just retreated from the battles in Iraq, risking their lives in the conflict taking place in the region. What I saw on their faces was dedication, hope and faith. I appreciate the wisdom of the Executive Board for the pivotal role it has played in restructuring the Organization's programmatic priorities, advancing reforms in the Secretariat, and ensuring the implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Conference. I appreciate the generosity of Member States, which have brought about a steady increase in extrabudgetary funding sources for the Organization. As the Chinese saying goes, "It is the firewood gathered by all that keeps the fire going in the hearth". Today I am very pleased to see the implementation of all the resolutions adopted at the 37th session of the General Conference. This, I must say, is the best acknowledgement of the concerted efforts made by the Secretariat, the Executive Board and the Member States, in spite of their differences, to successfully address internal and external challenges.

(2.3) Ladies and gentlemen, this year, 2015, is bound to go down in history. At the world summit marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the participants discussed general trends in the world and the shared responsibilities of the international community, and formulated visions and plans for the future, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They reached a consensus that, at this critical moment in history, humanity is experiencing profound changes never seen in the last 100 years. For the generations to come, we must act now. I recall that at the beginning of this century, people gathered with beautiful visions in Tonga, which is in the South Pacific and nearest to the International Date Line, to welcome the first ray of sunshine of the new millennium and to share that moment of happiness. In September of that year, 147 Heads of State and Government and other leaders gathered at United Nations Headquarters to reaffirm their shared respect for the Charter of the United Nations and to fully commit to the creation of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world by adopting the Millennium Development Goals. Fifteen years have passed swiftly. Looking back at this period of history, we can rejoice at the steady progress in all fields; yet there are also concerns about various crises, challenges and instability for the future. Extreme poverty, gender inequality, insufficient access to education, youth unemployment, terrorism, religious conflicts, regional unrest, climate change, deterioration of the environment, communicable diseases and various humanitarian disasters: such challenges are increasingly threatening world peace and security and the prospect of stability and development for every country. From the terrorist attack of 9/11 to the emergence of ISIS, from the Wall Street financial crisis to the development dilemma facing most countries, from political uncertainty prevailing in western Asia and North Africa following the Arab Spring to the heart-wrenching, massive numbers of Syrian refugees, our society is moving forward with difficulties and through violent oscillations, as if on a roller coaster. In brief, we are probably in a relatively long period of change and reorganization. It is inevitable that there will be some oscillation and disorder and at a high price. New concepts and institutional innovations are badly needed for the development of human society. This is the issue that requires everyone's contribution of wisdom during this session of the General Conference.

(2.4) Ladies and gentlemen, faced with profound changes in the international order and rapid increase in global challenges, UNESCO should act as it did when it chose to defend world peace at its creation 70 years ago: it should dare to make different choices and reaffirm those choices, and let people know that these choices will determine our future. As for us, we have every reason to believe that, building on our predecessors' efforts, we will make the twenty-first century more harmonious than ever. To that end, I would like to make five suggestions: first, we should cherish world peace and make it our top priority to uphold the institutional framework and values reflected in the Charter of the United Nations. Following the Second World War, the international order was reconstructed around the Charter of the United Nations, which has played an important role in world peace and development during the past 70 years. Despite this long history, the values and conduct advocated by the Charter are still valid today; it remains the most important foundation of world peace for today and tomorrow. The recent statement by the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, about the Holocaust has earned the respect of all countries represented on that occasion, and my personal admiration. She said, "We are responsible for the Holocaust. I see no reason to change our view of history in any way. We know that the responsibility for this crime against humanity is German and very much our own". I admire the Chancellor's courageous choice to face history and shoulder that responsibility. I think this is the only way to lay down the burden, leave behind the pain and hatred of yesterday, and embrace peace with tolerance and an open mind.

(2.5) Second, we should intensify our efforts to develop and promote the idea of the "community of common destiny" among the peoples of the world. Today, we live in a world with different cultures, races, colours, religions and social systems. Countries are connected with, depend on, and influence one another more than ever, thus forming a community of common destiny. Fostering and reinforcing awareness in different countries of this community of common destiny is in accordance with the trends of the world and the times we live in. This idea is an important theoretical foundation for the strengthening of cooperation and a collective response to challenges in a new age; it also shares the spirit of UNESCO's purpose, "building peace in the minds of men and women". To foster and reinforce awareness of the community of common destiny is an undeniable mission for the Organization in the future. As the think-tank of the United Nations, UNESCO must take action. The Organization should further promote awareness of equality, mutual aid, mutual benefit and responsibility in different countries and among their people.

(2.6) Third, we should contribute to the elimination of misunderstanding between different religions and civilizations, have more dialogue and seek a way to achieve harmonious coexistence among diverse civilizations in the twenty-first century. All religions and civilizations share the same fundamental values, which constitute the theoretical foundation of the human community of common destiny. Stability and harmony in families and countries can be achieved only through mutual respect and equal treatment between people and countries. The Buddhist advocates the idea that "All are created equal". A quote from the Bible goes: "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity [...] in the bond of peace". And in the Qur'an the Prophet Muhammad states that those who love others as they love themselves are true believers. As H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, stressed during his visit to the Organization in 2014, "civilizations have come in different colours, and such diversity has made exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations relevant and valuable. Civilizations are equal, and such equality has made exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations possible. Civilizations are inclusive, and such inclusiveness has given exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations the needed drive to move forward". In spring 2015, together with the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board, I paid a visit to the Holy See at the Pope's invitation. Speaking of the religious antagonisms existing nowadays, His Holiness Pope Francis strongly recommended dialogue among different religions. The same peaceful wish is also shared by many of the countries I have visited in Europe, the Arab world, Asia, and Latin America. The famous British philosopher Bertrand Russell noted in his article "Chinese and Western Civilization Contrasted" that history had repeatedly proven that the exchanges among civilizations provided the inexhaustible driving force for the progress of all humankind. The American writers and Pulitzer Prize winners Will and Ariel Durant also said in their masterpiece "The Lessons of History" that "civilization is the product of cooperation, and all people have contributed to it". One of our important tasks is to promote harmony, exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations as well as their common progress, and to bring into play the role of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations in cementing friendship between all peoples, safeguarding world peace, and advancing human progress. We should draw upon the wisdom of all civilizations and seek for things that feed the heart and the mind so that people can work together in addressing the various challenges facing humanity.

(2.7) Fourth, bearing in mind the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we should make education available to all, as part of our efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and serious imbalances in development and to address the global challenges brought about by such problems. In 1999, when I was Vice-President of Peking University, I listened as the host to a speech given by the then President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. In his speech, Mr Mandela said, "Our freedom will remain fragile and our rights empty shells if millions of South Africans continue to be cursed by the legacy of homelessness and hunger, ill-health and illiteracy". That profound and thought-provoking speech remains fresh in my memory. Hunger, poverty, ignorance, inequality and injustice are the root causes of fear and the soil that breeds all kinds of extremism. We need to make sure that such soil is shovelled away. To that end, we should continue to put education first and promote equity in education to enable people to change their destinies. We should further increase assistance to developing countries, helping their governments and people develop educational, scientific and cultural programmes, particularly protecting the right to education for women, children and other vulnerable groups. We should help the young people of those countries develop necessary work skills and find job opportunities. By achieving equitable, open, comprehensive, and innovative development, we will lay a solid foundation for peace and prosperity in the twenty-first century.

(2.8) Fifth, we should improve operational efficiency through institutional innovation and pool all available resources to improve the Organization's professional competence in promoting exchanges among civilizations and to increase its influence in global governance. The 70-year history of the Organization has shown amply that education, science and culture serve as crucial channels and bridges for exchanges among civilizations and that connectivity free from misunderstandings and institutional barriers is more stable and enduring. Going forward, the Organization should continue to act as a platform for multilateral exchanges and communication among countries in the fields of education, science and culture, offering dedicated services to its Member States. By adopting innovative mechanisms for cooperation and by enhancing its operational efficiency, the Organization will be able to expand into new areas and unlock the full potential of cooperation. In the meantime, the Organization should become the spiritual home to the world's most outstanding thinkers, scientists, educators, writers and artists. By pooling and leveraging their wisdom and insights, the Organization will be able to improve its professional competence in promoting exchanges among civilizations. It should also enhance its communications and collaboration with other United Nations agencies and Member States as well as NGOs and private entities so that resources can be channelled into addressing major issues confronting humanity. Everyone should do something for UNESCO and each and every effort will be remembered by the Organization. Everyone should also be proud of having done something for UNESCO. Lastly, please allow me to conclude by making a wish. The United Nations has a slogan of "A Stronger United Nations, a Better World". UNESCO should be equally ambitious. Let us work together for "A Stronger UNESCO, a Better World"! Thank you.

(The Temporary President continues in English)

2.9 Ladies and gentlemen, I now have the honour of inviting His Excellency Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board, to take the floor.

3.1 **M. Amr** (Egypte), Président du Conseil exécutif :

Merci. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, honorables Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un plaisir et un grand honneur pour moi de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, au nom des cinquante-huit membres du Conseil exécutif et en mon nom propre, en tant que Président du Conseil.

3.2 Nous allons célébrer le soixante-dixième anniversaire de notre Organisation dans moins de deux semaines. Le Conseil exécutif, en collaboration avec la Directrice générale, a tout mis en œuvre pour la bonne préparation de nos célébrations. Nous sommes tous très heureux que plusieurs chefs d'État et de gouvernement représentant toutes les régions du monde aient décidé de se rendre à l'UNESCO pour ces célébrations. C'est plus qu'une marque de respect pour le travail que nous accomplissons. C'est la reconnaissance de la nécessité pérenne d'une organisation comme l'UNESCO, et aussi la preuve d'une volonté politique au plus haut niveau de reconnaître la seule organisation du système des Nations Unies responsable de la politique globale dans le domaine de l'éducation, des sciences naturelles, des sciences humaines et sociales, de la culture, et de la communication et l'information. Cette reconnaissance nous rend particulièrement fiers. L'écrivain et aventurier Antoine de Saint-Exupéry nous rappelle que « *Pour ce qui est de l'avenir, il ne s'agit pas de le prévoir, mais de le rendre possible* ».

(Le Président du Conseil exécutif poursuit en anglais)

3.3 Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, for decades now, we have known that the world is rapidly evolving in both positive and negative ways. The positive changes have created new opportunities – people are more connected. However, it is sometimes difficult to find efficient and relevant solutions to some of the more negative changes we experience. Nonetheless, we must consider sustainable solutions now with a view to preserving our planet – our only planet. As Charles, Prince of Wales, said: “Our children and grandchildren will ask not what our generation said, but what it did. Let us give an answer, then, of which we can be proud”. These are wise words indeed.

3.4 Let me reiterate, we are in a period of profound transformations, not only in social terms but also in all areas of the Organization’s activities and mandate. Transformations are upon us in education, in science, in culture and, above all, in the innovation-driven communications and information field. Today, at a time of such rapid change and after 70 years of our existence, what forces of ours make peace lasting? What foundations of ours make development sustainable and human-oriented? These are the kinds of questions that we must continue to ask ourselves.

3.5 Our objective is that we should be able to keep up to date with these kinds of challenges and changes and provide policy solutions that allow us to confront them head on. UNESCO is one of the leading specialized agencies within the United Nations system capable of tackling today’s major challenges through a prism covering our five fields of competence. This is our added value. And this is what should make us the “go-to” agency to resolve twenty-first century problems and preserve our world and its universal values for the future. This goal and holistic transformation has formally been announced by the decision of the United Nations summit this September to adopt the post-2015 development agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 connected targets. These goals and targets define the expectations of the world community for the next 15 years and beyond. This is why I believe that UNESCO now faces a new test of unusual proportions: a review of our relevance, our existence and our role. Most importantly, we need to adopt a dynamic approach in reviewing our strategy and our plans of action.

3.6 Let me reiterate again that I believe that the secret to our success will lie not only in multiplying our energies or increasing our financial resources but also in the kinds of effective partnerships we can achieve with our fellow organizations within the United Nations system and our alliances with non-governmental partners, including from the private sector, academic circles, the media and other interested stakeholders, in a way similar to the approach followed by the Education Sector in developing SDG 4.

3.7 We should begin to become concerned when we look where our core competences in culture and science have been integrated into the globe’s transformative agenda. Apart from a few marginal references in some targets, we – and here I mean both the representatives of our Member States and the Secretariat – should continue to work intensively to make this possible. What has the catchphrase “a driver and an enabler of sustainable development”, which can be applied to both culture and science, brought about?

3.8 In this regard, let me take this opportunity to appeal to all of us – and again I say both the Member States and the Secretariat – to redouble our efforts to gain ground in these areas. We must seriously and honestly undertake reflection about our future vision, our focus, our priorities and our modus operandi for the next 15 years and beyond. We must ensure that sustainability is written into the genetic code of our Organization. Our current Medium-Term Strategy runs until 2021, that is to say four years into that transformative period.

3.9 In order to attain further influence and impact, a review and analysis of the Medium-Term Strategy and its relation to the 2030 Agenda must be considered our first step towards the world community. The General Conference, therefore, should mandate the Executive Board to review our Medium-Term Strategy next year, in an in-depth manner, together with the Director-General. We all know that structural and conceptual changes are difficult to implement and that it is often hard to change our habits including the need to leave marginal activities aside. But this change has to come from a bottom-up approach, emerging from a space for exchange and thought, and we need to provide support to accompany this process.

3.10 Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to begin with culture for the future. Should UNESCO concentrate almost all of its resources, both human and financial, only on the implementation and administration of our conventions? Certainly this may satisfy the expectations of many Member States. I would suggest that we must concentrate our efforts to pursue other intellectual and creative dimensions, such as in the field of the arts, in literature and books, in creativity, and in linkage to the creative economy, to name just a few. In this regard, I would urge us all not to lose sight of the potential for culture to be a source of human dignity, that is, the celebration of our diversity becomes the common ground for each to live equally with the Other and for culture in all its many forms to be that true driver of sustainable development that we so desire.

3.11 Our concept of a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue – which are based on the principle of living together better and on respect and acceptance of one another, which were born here at UNESCO and which gave rise to the rapprochement of cultures – must be much more than a well-meaning slogan. We must regain our moral and intellectual leadership of these meaningful concepts to establish the harmony of civilizations. After all, the world looks to UNESCO for guidance and inspiration on these vital matters.

3.12 Now, Mr President of the General Conference, let me turn to science for the future. The coming years mark a unique and challenging time for UNESCO to reconfirm its relevance and to prove the impact of its mandate in science. UNESCO’s role in promoting international science, technology and innovation cooperation, as well as its work concerning the ethics of science and technology, has never been as relevant as it is now, especially as we begin to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our work in science must become more visible. For example, the research and analysis undertaken by the United Nations Secretary-General’s Scientific Advisory Board, hosted here

at UNESCO, must be further promoted. In fact, everything that we do must take into consideration our ability to provide effective policy advice that can especially provide real impact in our Member States. This requires focus, determination and confidence. It calls for support and trust among Member States and the Secretariat to share this noble mission. We must encourage and facilitate the spread of ideas by today's young and dynamic thinkers. Our youth are too often considered lacking in experience. However, as the results of the ninth UNESCO Youth Forum show, young people have excellent creative potential and also great aspirations for our Organization. UNESCO must be a centre for close collaboration among all generations so that all experience is mutually beneficial and knowledge and creativity are transmitted between the generations.

3.13 This leads me to the field of education, which is the cornerstone of our collective future. We must be sure that information and communication technologies (ICTs) will provide the tools for a more human education, essential for every individual to accept differences whatever they are. The use of ICTs is an efficient means of reaching this objective through a greater focus on mobile and e-learning so that we are able to attain the unattainable, in particular in Africa and the Arab States region. Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me now to address you in my own language, Arabic, one of the official languages of UNESCO, to demonstrate that UNESCO is indeed a centre of diversity.

(The Chair continues in Arabic)

٣,١٤ السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرية العامة، معالي الوزراء، زملائي وزميلاتي السفراء، ومثلي الدول والوفود، تأسست اليونسكو منذ ٧٠ عاماً، سعياً من مؤسسها إلى بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر. وكان الهدف في ذلك الحين هو الحد من حالات استخدام القوة ومنع اللجوء إلى الحروب التي تشتعل بين الدول لتسوية خلافاتها. واليوم فرضت المنازعات الداخلية والأهلية نفسها على المشهد، وتنامى عددها بشكل مخيف، وأصبحت أشد في بأسها وأكثر ضراوة من الحروب الدولية التي عرفتها شعوب العالم بمفهومها التقليدي.

٣,١٥ وتأسست اليونسكو عام ١٩٤٥ قبل أن يستخدم الناس جهاز التلفاز، وحتى منتصف الثمانينيات، كنا لإجراء مكالمات تليفونية دولية نحتاج إلى قضاء يوم كامل، وحتى نهاية التسعينيات، كنا كطالبة ندرس في الخارج، ننتظر أي شخص يحضر من بلادنا ليحضر مع جرائدنا المحلية لنقرأها. والآن كل هذا يمكن أن يتم في لحظة واحدة من خلال جهاز واحد يحمله معظمنا في جيبه أو في حقيبته. فيمكن لنا أن نتابع الأخبار والأحداث التي تقع في أي مكان بالعالم لحظة وقوعها بالصوت والصورة، سواء كنا نسير في الشارع أو ننتظر الأتوبيس أو نركب المصعد أو حتى عندما نجلس في قاعات الاجتماعات. كما يمكن لنا من نفس الجهاز أن نجري اتصالاتنا الهاتفية سواء كنا على الأرض أو مستقلين الطائرات في السماء.

٣,١٦ وعندما تأسست اليونسكو وحتى منتصف التسعينيات، كانت الأفكار محبوسة في الأجساد. وكانت لا تنتقل إلا بانتقال جسم صاحبها من دولة إلى أخرى بما يلزم معه عبور الحدود السياسية والجغرافية. وعلى أحسن حال، كانت تنتقل من خلال الكتب التي كانت قد تصل إلينا من الخارج وقد لا تصل. وعندما كنت باحثاً أكاديمياً في التسعينيات، كان لزاماً عليّ أن أترك بلدي وأسافر إلى الخارج للحصول على المقالات أو الاطلاع على الكتب في مجال تخصصي العلمي. والآن، هذا الأمر أصبح لا يستغرق مني أكثر من ساعة أو ساعتين للحصول على جميع المصادر والمراجع العلمية الصادرة في أي مكان في العالم وبأي لغة أريد.

٣,١٧ وهنا لي أن أتوقف قليلاً وأقول لكم إنني أشعر في بعض الأحيان بالدهشة في عيون ابنتي عندما تأتيني أيهما وتقول لي إنها ترغب في السفر إلى دولة أخرى للقاء أصدقائها، فيكون ردي عليها تلقائياً بأن عليها الحصول على التأشيرات اللازمة، وهذا يتطلب بعض الوقت. فتد عليّ ببساطة شديدة قائلة إذن، اسمح لي أن أدخل حجرتي وأتصل بجمي جميعاً في الدول المختلفة وأتواصل معهم. ويمكن أن نتبادل الآراء والأفكار دون حاجة إلى الحصول على تأشيرات ودون حاجة إلى عبور الحدود السياسية. وإن جيلنا المعاصر يشعر بالفخر والزهو لأننا نستطيع استخدام الكمبيوتر وتصفح الإنترنت، بينما جيل أبنائنا يتعامل مع الوسائل الإلكترونية بمنتهى السهولة واليسر باعتبارها جزءاً لا يتجزأ من حياته. وانظروا إلى أي طفل لم يتعد العاشرة من عمره كيف يتعامل مع جهاز "التابلت" أو الكمبيوتر أو التليفون المحمول، بل لعلي لا أبالغ إذا ما قلت إنني شخصياً، وأعتقد أن هذا حال معظمنا، نلجأ إلى أبنائنا لنعلمونا كيف نستخدم الأجهزة الإلكترونية الحديثة وكأهم ولدوا ومعهم جرعة المعرفة التكنولوجية الكافية لاستخدامها.

٣,١٨ إن العالم تغير وهو يتغير بسرعة شديدة وفائقة. وإن انتقال الأفكار وتداولها وانتشارها أصبح سريعاً جداً. ويبقى التحدي أمامنا، كيف نحمي أبنائنا وبناتنا من صور الاستخدام السيء لوسائل الاتصال. وكيف نضمن ألا يقبوا ضحايا أو فريسة للفكر المتطرف ودعوات العنف والترويج لاستخدام القوة. ولا يزال البعض منا يعتقد أن حدود دولنا السياسية أو حتى جدران منازلنا تشكل السياج اللازم لحماية أبنائنا وبناتنا، والواقع أن هذه الحدود أصبحت بالنسبة إليهم حدوداً افتراضية. وأصبح من السهل أن تنتقل الأفكار المغلوطة والمتشدة من أي بقعة في العالم إلى أي ابن أو بنت من أبنائنا وبناتنا في أي وقت وهم داخل منازلنا، بل حتى ونحن جالسون معهم في نفس الغرفة، بينما نشعر بالاطمئنان بأنهم محصنون من ذلك طالما أننا نحيط بهم داخل المنزل أو الغرفة الواحدة. وفي ظل كل هذه المتغيرات، أصبحت التحديات التي يواجهها العالم مضاعفة وأكثر تعقيداً، وأصبح لها شكل وتكوين مختلف يقتضي منا أن نتعامل ونتفاعل معها بنفس درجة سرعتها وقدرتها على التحور المتنامي.

٣,١٩ وهذه المنظمة هي جزء أصيل من عالم اليوم بكل مكوناته وبكل تناقضاته أحياناً، ولا سبيل أمامنا إلا أن نتوحد محاربة التطرف ونبذ العنف ومناهضة الحركات التي تسعى إلى نشر ثقافات جديدة تهدف إلى إنماء الشعور بعدم الاحترام والاضطهاد والحض على كراهية الآخر، ولا يقتصر ذلك على الذين يخالفونهم في الحضارة والدين والعقيدة، بل للأسف يشمل حتى من يتفق معهم في الحضارة والدين والعقيدة. وإن هذه الجماعات تحاول أن تغزو وتحتل عقول شبابنا. وعلينا واجب ومسؤولية تجاه الأجيال القادمة بأن نوفر لهم الحماية اللازمة من خلال إتاحة فرص التعليم المناسبة بما يحميهم ذاتياً، وأن تتم تنشئتهم بما

ينمي ملكات التفكير السليم لديهم والقدرة على الدخول في حوارات بناءة. وإن التحدي الذي نعيشه اليوم لم يعد يتمثل في البحث عن كيفية التعامل مع الظاهرة بل هو كيف نوفر سبل الوقاية اللازمة قبل أن تتطور هذه الظاهرة وتخرج عن السيطرة تماماً.

٣,٢٠ وهنا يجب أن أشدد على ضرورة النظر إلى الدور الذي يضطلع به كل من قطاع العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية وقطاع الاتصالات والمعلومات في المنظمة. ويجب أن نوفر لهما البيئة والموارد المناسبة لوضع مبادرات وخطط عمل تتسم بالابتكار والتجديد والمرونة. ولا يفوتني في هذا المقام أن أعبّر عن خالص شكري وتقديري للمديرة العامة، إيرينا بوكوفا، التي كانت واعية بهذا الخطر ومسؤولية منظمنا في مواجهته، فنظمت أول مؤتمر دولي بشأن مكافحة التشدد والتعصب والتطرف لدى الشباب على شبكة الإنترنت خلال شهر حزيران/يونيو الماضي بدعم مالي من الصين وبلغاريا ومصر. ولقد لمسنا إلى أي مدى كانت المناقشات خلال هذا الاجتماع مفيدة ومثمرة. ويلزم علينا أن نستثمر هذا النجاح الكبير ونبني على نتائجه ونتحرك بفاعلية، وألا نتنظر أكثر من ذلك كي نتحرك قدماً على هدي من نتائجه. وإذا كنا نخشى انتشار الأسلحة الذرية والأسلحة الدمار الشامل ونعمل بكل السبل على الحد منها، فأني أعتقد وبشدة أن علينا أن نخشى انتشار أفكار التطرف والعنف أيضاً فإن خطرهما قد يكون أشد فتكاً من الأسلحة النووية. ويجب أن نجتثها من جذورها قبل فوات الأوان.

٣,٢١ السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدات والسادة، إنني أؤمن بدور هذه المنظمة الدولية إيماناً شديداً يصل إلى حد العقيدة. وأتمنى أن تستمر في مسيرتها للاضطلاع بدورها الريادي في مجالات عملها، وأن تظل اليونسكو قادرة على التعامل مع التحديات التي يواجهها عالم اليوم بنفس الروح والحماس اللذين كانا موجودين عند مؤسسيتها وكانا دافعاً رئيسياً لتأسيسها. وعلينا أن نواجه مشكلاتنا بصراحة وقوة وجرأة. وعلينا أن نترفع عن التفاصيل الصغيرة وننظر إلى الصورة كاملة. وعلينا أن ننظر إلى مشكلاتنا بعين الطائر وأن نسمو على الخلافات الشكلية والصغيرة. وعلينا أن نعمل كفريق عمل واحد وأن نواجه عدونا المشترك الذي يسعى إلى إفساد عقول شبابنا، وأخطر شيء أن يفسد الرأس فجميع الكائنات تفسد إذا فسد الرأس. ولقد اعتبرنا لعمود من الزمان أن اليونسكو هي "ضمير العالم". وإذ أقولها اليوم أمامكم وبصوت عالٍ، إن اليونسكو لا تمثل بالنسبة إليّ ضمير العالم فقط، بل أيضاً عقل العالم. ونحن كدول أعضاء، يجب أن نمد هذا العقل بالدماء التي تغذيها لنجعلها قادراً على أن يفكر بحكمة وواقعية. فهذه الدماء التي نضخها لعقل العالم، اليونسكو، هي التي ستمنع من أن تسيل دماء الأبرياء على أرض الواقع نتيجة العنف والجهل.

٣,٢٢ وإنني أأمل، عند المشاركة في مناقشات اللجان المنبثقة عن هذا المؤتمر، أن يحضر كل منا في ذهنه واعتباره صورة الطفل الذي يريد أن يتعلم ولا يجد فرصة والباحث الذي يتمنى أن ينجح ولا يجد مكتبة، والعالم الذي لديه فكرة علمية أو اختراع وليس أمامه فرصة لإيجاد معمل يجري فيه تجاربه. وعلينا أن نتصور حجم العذاب والمشقة التي يتحملها من يهجر وطنه ومنزله مرغماً باحثاً عن مكان له ولأولاده يشعر فيه بالأمان ويجدوه الأمل أن يوفر لأسترته الحد الأدنى من احتياجاتهم الأساسية من تعليم وصحة. وعلينا أن نعي أن تراثنا الإنساني المشترك أصبح مستهدفاً ويتعرض للتدمير والسرقة والنهب أكثر مما كان في أي مرحلة سبقت في التاريخ. وعلينا أن نفكر في التبعات والآثار السيئة التي تنتج عن التغيرات المناخية، باعتبار أن ذلك يمثل تحدياً بيئياً جديداً يواجه البشرية في كل مناطق العالم. وعلينا أن نفكر في الأخطار التي تحيق بسكان الجزر الصغيرة التي يمكن أن تندثر وتختفي من على خريطة العالم. وعلينا أن نعي المشكلات التي يواجهها سكان المناطق التي تعيش مهددة بمخاطر التصحر والمناطق التي تعاني من ندرة الموارد المائية، وأصبح شاعلاً قادماً الرئيسي هو كيف يوفر نقطة مياه نظيفة للشرب والزراعة. وعلينا أن نفكر في كيفية توفير مصادر الطاقة النظيفة والمتجددة تحقيقاً لمتطلبات التنمية في الدول بأقل التكاليف. وعلينا أن نفكر في كيفية توفير الحماية للصحفيين والإعلاميين من المخاطر التي يتعرضون لها عند قيامهم بمباشرة أعمالهم. وكل هؤلاء وغيرهم من مواطني العالم ينظرون ويتطلعون إلينا باليونسكو ويأملون أن تأتي قراراتنا وبرامجنا التي سنوافق عليها خلال هذه الدورة لتساهم في الوفاء باحتياجاتهم وتحقيق أحلامهم وطموحاتهم، الأمر الذي سيعود بالنفع عليهم وعلى جميع مواطني العالم، وبالتالي تتمكن المنظمة من أن تفي برسالتها ليعم السلام ويتحقق الرخاء لبني البشر.

٣,٢٣ وعلى المستوى الداخلي لهذه المنظمة، علينا أن نسعى إلى فتح أبوابها بشكل دائم للمثقفين والمفكرين والمبدعين والفنانين والأدباء والعلماء والخبراء بما يمكنها من أن تكون هذه المنظمة ملتقى لقادة التنوير والعلم. وعلينا أن نشرك الشباب على نحو أكثر عمقاً في أنشطتنا. وعلينا أن نجذب الشركاء غير الحكوميين ليكون لهم دور مؤثر في مساعدتنا على أداء مهامنا. وعلينا أن نعلم ثقافة التعددية وأن نقف بقوة أمام من يحاول فرض فكره أو تغليب ثقافته على حساب الآخر، وأن نبرهن للجميع أن التعددية واختلاف الرؤى هي مصدر للإثراء الفكري. وعلينا أن ننشر ثقافة احترام الآخر بجميع جوانبها. وعلينا أن نعزز مفهوم التعاون الفكري الذي أنشئت من أجله هذه المنظمة. وعلينا أن نشجع الإبداع وإيجاد الحلول المبتكرة. وعلينا أن نغير نمط ومنهج تفكيرنا لنكون قادرين على استشرف التحديات المستقبلية والتأهب لها ونؤدي دور الطبيب الوقائي وليس دور الطبيب المعالج. وعلينا أن ندرس بشكل علمي أفضل الطرق لجذب الموارد المالية للمنظمة. وإنني على ثقة بأن هناك أموالاً يمكن جذبها لتمويل أنشطتنا وبرامجنا، إذا ما استطعنا أن نثبت للممولين أن لدينا قصص نجاح وأن برامجنا وأنشطتنا تواكب العصر وتتعامل مع التحديات التي يواجهها العالم بالقدر اللازم. وعلينا أن نستغل مصادر قوتنا وإبجازاتنا التي حققناها في السنوات السبعين الماضية لتكون أساساً لانطلاقة جديدة بحيث تكون المنظمة قادرة على أن تتعامل مع إشكاليات العالم المتلاحقة بنفس القدر من الفالية والسرعة.

٣,٢٤ وخلال أعمال هذه الدورة، علينا أن نستثمر وجودنا معاً وأن نحول طاقتنا إلى برامج واقعية يلمسها كل فرد في العالم بشكل علمي ومنتج. وعلينا أن نستغل الزخم السياسي الكبير الذي سينشأ عن مشاركة القادة الذين سيحضرون خلال أعمال هذا المؤتمر لتتعرف على المشكلات التي تدور حولنا من منظورهم وتتعرف على أفكارهم ورؤاهم بالنسبة إلى كيفية مواجهتها وأعتقد أنها فرصة متميزة لنقل من خلالها لشعوب العالم رسالة مفادها "إننا في اليونسكو راغبون في البقاء، وراغبون في العمل بنفس القدرة والحماس وإننا قادرين على التطوير وقادرون على التفاعل وقادرون على التعامل مع التحديات المعاصرة".

٣,٢٥ وإننا في هذه اللحظة الفارقة أمام تحد كبير مفاده "كن أو لا تكون"، وإنني على ثقة بأننا سننجح معاً وبأننا "سنكون"، نعم إنني متأكد بأننا سنكون النبراس، وسنكون البوصلة التي يهتدي بها الجميع لصالح خير البشر وأمنهم، ولتحقيق التنمية المنشودة، ويعم السلام بمفهومه الواسع على كافة الأصعدة والمستويات. وبهذه الكلمات التي عبرت من خلالها عن الآمال التي تسكن صدري وتشغل عقلي، وإنني على يقين أنها أيضاً تشغلكم بنفس القدر إن لم يكن

أكثر، أحتتم كلمتي وأتمنى، بالنيابة عن جميع أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة اليونسكو، وباسمي الشخصي، أن توتي هذه الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو ثمارها المنشودة، وأن تُكَلِّل جهودنا بالنجاح، وأن يكون نجاحاً غير مسبوق. وأشكركم على حسن استماعكم.

(3.14) (*translation from the Arabic*) Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ministers, ambassadors, representatives of States and delegations, dear colleagues, UNESCO was established 70 years ago in a bid by its founders to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men. The aim at that time was to reduce the incidence of the use of force and resorting to war between States in order to settle their differences. Today, internal conflicts and civil wars have become legion on the international scene; their numbers have grown alarmingly and they have become more calamitous and ferocious than the traditional inter-State wars experienced by the peoples of the world.

(3.15) UNESCO was founded in 1945 before people used television, and even up to the mid-1980s, in order to make an international telephone call we would sometimes need to spend a whole day, and even in the late 1970s, when we used to study abroad, we would eagerly await friends from our home country who would bring local newspapers for us to read. Nowadays, all this can take place in the twinkling of an eye, using a single machine which most of us can carry in our pocket or our briefcase. We can keep abreast of news and events which take place anywhere in the world as they happen in real time in sound and image, whether we are walking in the street, waiting for a bus, or even sitting in meeting rooms. With the same machine, we can make phone calls either on the ground or in mid-flight.

(3.16) When UNESCO was founded, and up to the mid-1990s, thoughts were confined to physical bodies, and did not move about except as the body carrying them moved about from one country to the next, with all the concomitant crossing of political and geographical borders. At best, ideas circulated by means of books which might or might not reach us from abroad. When I was an academic researcher in the 1990s, I had to leave my country and travel abroad in order to get the articles or books I needed for my academic field. But now it does not take more than an hour or two to get all the academic references and resources published anywhere in the world and in any language I want.

(3.17) Here I must pause to tell you that I sometimes feel surprised when one of my two daughters comes and tells me that she wants to go to some other country to meet her friends. My first reaction is that she must get the necessary visas, which will take some time. She says quite simply, "Well then, let me go to my room and get in touch with them all in the various countries and chat. We can exchange views and thoughts without needing to get visas or cross political borders". Today's generation is proud of being able to use computers and surf the Internet; the generation of our children use the electronic media with the greatest of ease and consider them an integral part of their lives. Look at how any child no older than 10 handles tablets or computers or portable televisions. Indeed, I am hardly exaggerating when I say personally, and I think this is the case for most of us, that we seek the help of our children in order to learn how to use these new electronic devices, since our children seem to have been born with them and have an almost innate technical knowledge of how to use them.

(3.18) The world has changed and continues to change at a dizzying pace. The transfer and sharing of ideas has become extremely rapid, and it remains a challenge for us to know how to protect our sons and daughters from various kinds of misuse of the communication media, and to ensure that they do not fall prey to extremist thought and appeals to violence or propaganda in favour of the use of force. Some of us still believe that the political borders of our States or even the walls of our houses constitute a protective hedge sheltering our sons and daughters, but the reality is that these borders have become merely virtual ones for them. It has become easy for wrong, extremist ideas to circulate from any corner of the world to any son or daughter of ours at any time in their own homes, and even with us sitting right beside them in the same room, feeling perfectly confident that they are protected from that as long as we are by their side in the same house or room. Against the backdrop of all these changing circumstances, the challenges the world is facing are multiple, increasingly complex, and different in shape, requiring us to cope and interact with them just as rapidly and forcefully as they are evolving.

(3.19) This Organization is an integral part of today's world, with all its various components and, at times, contradictions. There is no alternative but to join forces in order to combat extremism, reject violence, and oppose movements which seek to disseminate new cultures aimed at increasing attitudes of disrespect and persecution and inciting hatred of the Other. This is not limited to those who are different from them in culture, religion and creed, but unfortunately also includes those who are like them in culture, religion and creed. If these groups attempt to invade and occupy the minds of our youth, we have a duty and responsibility to provide coming generations with the necessary protection by ensuring appropriate education opportunities, which would afford them protection in and of itself, and to raise them in such a way as to develop sound intellectual capacities and an ability to enter into constructive dialogue. The challenge we are facing today no longer consists in searching for how to address this phenomenon, but rather how we can provide the necessary protection before such a phenomenon develops and gets completely out of control.

(3.20) Here I must stress the need to examine the role played by the Social and Human Sciences Sector and the Communication and Information Sector in the Organization. We need to provide them with an appropriate climate and the resources for them to draw up initiatives and work plans of an inventive, innovative, flexible nature. In this connection, I am bound to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Director-General, Irina Bokova, who is aware of this danger, and the responsibility of the Organization to address it. She organized the first International Conference on "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism" last June with financial support from China, Bulgaria and Egypt. We were pleased to see how useful and fruitful the discussions were. We need to harness this great success and build on its outcomes and act effectively and not wait for more things to happen before moving forward, guided by these results. If we feared the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and worked by all means possible to prevent it, I strongly believe that it behoves us to fear just as much the proliferation of ideas of extremism and violence; indeed, the danger thereof may be more lethal than that of nuclear weapons. We need to eradicate them completely before it is too late.

(3.21) Mr President of the General Conference, ladies and gentlemen, I believe strongly, almost dogmatically, in the role of this international organization, and I trust that it may continue along its path and play its pioneering role in its fields of work, and that UNESCO may be able to meet the challenges facing the world today in the same spirit of enthusiasm that animated its founders and which was the primary impetus for its establishment. We need to view our problems from a bird's-eye vantage point and to overcome our petty formal differences. We need to work as a single working group and to confront our joint enemy who is endeavouring to poison the minds of our youth. The worst is when the head rots; all creatures rot once the head begins to rot. We thought for decades that UNESCO was the "conscience of the world". As Member States, we need to provide this brain with a good flow of blood to enable it to think wisely and realistically. And this blood, which we pump to the brain of the world, UNESCO, is that which will prevent the blood of innocents from being shed in practice as a result of violence and ignorance.

(3.22) I hope, as we participate in the debates of the commissions of the General Conference, that each and every one of us will keep in mind the image of the child who wanted to learn but could not find an opportunity to do so, and the researcher who wanted to be outstanding but could not find a library, or the scientist who had a scientific idea or invention, but had no access to a laboratory where he might carry out his experiments. We need to imagine the amount of suffering and hardship borne by those who have to leave home and country in search of a place where they and their children may feel safe, and in which they may provide their families with the basic necessities for education and healthcare. We need to be aware that our joint humanitarian heritage is under attack and is being destroyed, stolen and plundered more now than at any time in history. We need to think about the adverse consequences and impacts of climate change, since that constitutes a fresh environmental challenge for humankind worldwide. We need to think about the dangers confronting the inhabitants of small islands which may disappear beneath the waves. We need to be aware of the problems facing the inhabitants of regions subject to desertification and those suffering from water shortages. The greatest problem for their leaders is how to provide clean drinking water and sufficient water for irrigation. We need to think of how to provide clean and renewable energy at cheap prices in response to the development needs of countries. We also need to think of how to provide protection to journalists and media specialists from the dangers facing them as they pursue their work. All these and other citizens of the world are looking to us at UNESCO and hope that the decisions and programmes we approve at this session will help them to meet their needs and realize their dreams and aspirations, which will be of benefit to them and to all citizens of the world, and enable the Organization to fulfil its mission of spreading peace and achieving prosperity for all human beings.

(3.23) At the internal level of the Organization, we need to strive to keep our doors permanently open to intellectuals, thinkers, creators, artists, writers, scientists and experts, so that the Organization may act as a meeting place for the leaders of enlightenment and knowledge. We need to involve youth in greater depth in our activities. We need to attract non-governmental partners so that they may play an influential role in helping us to perform our missions. We need to deepen the culture of pluralism and to stand up strongly to those who attempt to impose their ideas or make their own culture dominant at the expense of the Other, and we need to prove to all that pluralism and differences of opinion are a source of intellectual enrichment. We need to spread a culture of respect for the Other in all its aspects. We need to strengthen the concept of intellectual cooperation for which this Organization was established. We need to encourage creativity and find innovative solutions. We need to change our way of thinking in order to anticipate and be prepared for future challenges and engage in preventive rather than palliative medicine. We need to consider seriously the best ways of attracting financial resources to the Organization. I am confident that there are resources which may be mobilized to fund our activities and programmes, if only we can demonstrate to potential funders that we have success stories and that our programmes and activities keep sufficiently abreast of current developments and adequately meet the challenges facing the world. We need to harness our sources of strength and our achievements over the past 70 years in order to provide a new platform to enable the Organization to cope with the various problems of the world as effectively and as rapidly as before.

(3.24) During this session, we need to pool our efforts and direct our energies towards realistic programmes whose effects may be felt by every individual worldwide in a scientific and productive manner. We must harness the great political impetus that will follow from the participation of political leaders in this General Conference in order to keep abreast of the great problems confronting our world from their point of view and to become acquainted with their ideas and views on how to deal with those problems. I believe that this is an excellent opportunity to send through those leaders to the peoples of the world the message that "We in UNESCO want to build, we want to act with the same force and enthusiasm, and we are able to develop, we are able to interact, we are able to deal with contemporary challenges".

(3.25) At this crucial moment, we stand before a great challenge, namely "To be or not to be". I am confident that we shall be successful together, and that we shall indeed "be". Yes, I am certain that we shall serve as a shining example and a compass which may guide everyone in the service of the welfare and security of all humankind in order to achieve the desired level of development and ensure that peace, in its broadest sense, prevails at all levels. With these words, with which I have expressed the hopes that fill my breast and occupy my mind, I am certain that they will also occupy you just as much, if not more. I conclude my statement and express the wish, on behalf of all the Members of the Executive Board of UNESCO, and in my own personal capacity, that this 38th session of UNESCO's General Conference may bear fruit and be crowned with success, an unprecedented success. Thank you for your attention.

4. The Temporary President:

Thank you for your speech, Mr Chair. We shall now have the pleasure of hearing the Director-General. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

5.1 La Directrice générale :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'inauguration de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale est un moment spécial et privilégié. Je voudrais commencer par saluer l'action menée par le Conseil exécutif, sous la présidence de S. E. M. Mohamed Sameh Amr, pour préparer cette session décisive.

5.2 J'aurai plus tard l'occasion de vous remercier, Monsieur le Président de la 37^e session de la Conférence générale, de votre soutien et de votre engagement envers l'Organisation, mais je tiens dès à présent à vous exprimer mon estime et ma reconnaissance.

5.3 Notre ambition pour les prochaines semaines est double. Il s'agit d'abord de renouveler notre attachement aux principes fondateurs de cette institution, 70 ans après sa création. Chaque conférence générale est l'occasion d'un retour aux sources, et cette fois-ci, nous ressentons tout spécialement l'importance du moment historique où nous nous trouvons, un mois après l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, à quelques semaines de la COP21, avec la menace d'un point de non-retour dans le dérèglement climatique, et face aux crises multiples qui déstabilisent des régions entières et jettent des millions d'individus sur les routes à la recherche d'un avenir meilleur. Il faut réaffirmer des principes clairs, des valeurs fortes capables d'allumer des lumières dans la nuit.

5.4 L'UNESCO est née du principe que la paix et le développement, pour être durables, doivent s'ancrer profondément dans le cœur et dans l'esprit des peuples. Cette conviction n'a pas changé et reste notre boussole, au milieu des mutations du monde actuel. Devant les menaces de l'extrémisme violent, tout le monde perçoit la profonde cohérence de notre mandat et le besoin d'aborder ensemble les enjeux de l'éducation, du dialogue des cultures, de la

liberté d'expression, qui sont des armes de résistance et de résilience. Ces dimensions ne sont pas séparables et l'UNESCO est le seul lieu où les États peuvent créer des synergies entre elles. Face au défi climatique, devant la multiplication des phénomènes extrêmes, tout le monde perçoit l'urgence qu'il y a à investir massivement dans la recherche, la prévention des risques et l'éducation au développement durable, qui sont autant de priorités de l'UNESCO.

5.5 Au-delà de la justesse morale qui porte l'UNESCO, au-delà de la pertinence de ses analyses ou de son mandat, l'enjeu de cette Conférence, c'est d'assurer une mise en œuvre concrète des programmes, au plus près des besoins des peuples. Il faut investir dans l'UNESCO. Il faut lui donner les moyens de son immense ambition. Et mon appel, en ouverture de cette Conférence générale, est un appel à la mobilisation générale.

(The Director-General continues in English)

5.6 Ladies and gentlemen, this is my solemn appeal to you today: to advance the education of every child, especially girls; to counter violent extremism and prevent it ransacking the sites of our common memory, of our common history; to tackle the consequences of climate change, in harmony with the boundaries of our planet; to nurture the greatest renewable energy of humanity, the boundless wellspring that is human ingenuity, human creativity. It is indeed time to invest in UNESCO, the United Nations agency for human rights and dignity, for innovation, for sustainability. UNESCO has changed these last few years; UNESCO has profoundly reformed. This has been root and branch. This has affected all aspects of UNESCO's action and delivery. The Organization has changed, a long road has been travelled, and we did this together, the Secretariat and Member States.

5.7 We did this guided by a clear strategy of transformation, focusing on priorities, betting on our strengths, being stable on our values. We did this by remaining, indeed, true to the values that inspired the founders of this Organization after a devastating war, 70 years ago. Two years ago, I promised the General Conference of UNESCO, I promised you Mr President, that we would overcome the crisis. Today, UNESCO's priorities are built firmly into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and this was strongly welcomed by the Executive Board at its last session. This shows UNESCO is moving, UNESCO is transforming. But we must forge ahead to improve efficiency even more, to sharpen delivery even more, to build capacity in our Member States, to support every woman and man, every boy and girl.

5.8 Societies across the world are turning to UNESCO to defend human rights and dignity, to take forward a new humanism. The same spirit inspired the founders of UNESCO to meet in London in 1942, in the middle of a war that was far from over, to chart a new course for human solidarity and peace in a world riven by devastating conflict and war. Today, in the face of rising violence, in the face of emergencies, we must renew this spirit of audacity because I am deeply convinced that this is the DNA of UNESCO. This is the promise I believe we must renew today during the 38th session of the General Conference of the Organization. I believe, on the 70th anniversary of the Organization, this is a promise of humanity united. Thank you.

6. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much for your speech, Ms Bokova. Ladies and gentlemen, after having listened to this wonderful piece of music and the speeches from the Chair of the Executive Board and the Director-General, we are now moving to a more procedural part of this meeting.

Item 1.2: Establishment of the Credentials Committee

Point 1.2 : Constitution du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs

Punto 1.2: Constitución del Comité de Verificación de Poderes

Пункт 1.2: Учреждение Комитета по проверке полномочий

البند ١, ٢: تشكيل لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد

项目 1.2: 成立全权证书委员会

7. **The Temporary President:**

As you know, at the beginning of each session the General Conference establishes such committees, commissions and other subsidiary organs as may be required in order for the Conference to conduct its business efficiently. This morning we will elect two such committees. First, we need to establish the Credentials Committee, which is in charge of verifying the credentials of all delegations, representatives and observers to the Conference. In accordance with Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure, this Committee consists of nine Member States, elected by the General Conference on the proposal of the Temporary President. I would also like to remind you that, following 197 EX/Decision 22 (IV), the Executive Board decided to recommend the election of Her Excellency Ms Mariam Katagum of Nigeria as Chairperson of the Committee. Now I shall give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference.

8. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je souhaite juste informer la Conférence générale qu'à ce jour, le Secrétariat a reçu, en plus évidemment de celle de la Présidente, Mme l'Ambassadrice Katagum, cinq candidatures, à savoir celles de la Turquie, de la Guinée, du Niger, d'El Salvador et du Kazakhstan. Il reste donc encore trois sièges à pourvoir et les États, notamment du Groupe II et du Groupe V b, qui souhaitent siéger dans ce comité sont priés de le faire savoir immédiatement au Secrétariat, le comité des candidatures se réunissant à midi en salle VIII. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Establishment of the Nominations Committee
Constitution du Comité des candidatures
Constitución del Comité de Candidaturas
Учреждение Комитета по кандидатурам
تشكيل لجنة الترشيحات
成立提名委员会

9. **The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now time for us to establish the Nominations Committee. This Committee will determine and submit to the Conference the list of nominations for the posts of President and of Vice-Presidents, as well as proposals for the composition of committees, commissions and other subsidiary organs of the Conference. According to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure, the Nominations Committee consists of the heads of all delegations entitled to vote in the Conference. The head of a delegation may designate another member of his or her delegation to attend meetings and vote in his or her place. Representatives to the Committee may be assisted by another member of their delegation. The Nominations Committee is responsible for electing its own Chairperson, but I would also like to remind you that the Executive Board, by means of 196 EX/Decision 21 (IV), recommends for this position His Excellency Mr Michael Worbs, from Germany. I invite the Nominations Committee to meet at 12 noon in Room IV.

Item 1.4: Adoption of the agenda (38 C/1 Prov.Rev.)

Point 1.4 : Adoption de l'ordre du jour (38 C/1 Prov.Rev.)

Punto 1.4: Aprobación del orden del día (38 C/1 Prov.Rev.)

Пункт 1.4: Утверждение повестки дня (38 C/1 Prov.Rev.)

البنء ٤, ١ : اعءماء ءءءول الأعمال (١/٣٨ مؤقءة معءلة)

ءمء 1.4: ءءءءءء (38 C/1 Prov.Rev.)

10. **The Temporary President:**

We shall now examine item 1.4, the adoption of our agenda, contained in document 38 C/1 Prov. Rev. which was prepared by the Executive Board at its 196th and 197th sessions. Allow me to remind you that, at this stage, according to Rule 15, only new items of an important and urgent character may be added to the agenda. Any such proposals would be considered by the Bureau tomorrow morning, before being put to the General Conference for approval by a two-thirds majority vote. I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the Executive Board, who will present the provisional agenda. Please, sir, you have the floor.

11. **Mr Amr** (Egypt), Chair of the Executive Board:

Thank you. Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. In accordance with the provisions of Article V.B 6(a) of the Constitution, the provisional agenda of the present session of the General Conference was prepared by the Executive Board at its 196th session on the basis of a document submitted to it by the Director-General. Subsequent to its discussions in this regard, the Board adopted 196 EX/Decision 21 (I). Pursuant to Rule 9, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the provisional agenda was communicated to Member States and Associate Members as soon as possible after the closure of the 196th session, by a circular letter dated 21 May 2015. At its 197th session, the Executive Board examined the revised provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference and by 197 EX/Decision 22 (I) retained the five supplementary items that were submitted within the time limit set by Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and added those items stemming from the decisions taken at its 197th session. These items were included in the supplementary list circulated to the Member States and Associate Members, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, by a circular letter dated 15 September 2015. Mr President, on behalf of the Executive Board, I have the honour to submit for adoption by the General Conference the revised provisional agenda contained in document 38 C/1 Prov. Rev. Thank you.

12.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, sir, for your presentation. I would like to inform you that by a letter of 30 October 2015, addressed to the Director-General, the representatives of Saint Lucia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who had requested the inclusion of item 5.5 "Transparency at UNESCO" in the revised provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference, have requested the withdrawal of this item from the agenda. Are there any objections to this? I see none, and so this item will be deleted from the agenda. Are there any further comments on this agenda? I see none. *The agenda is adopted.*

12.2 Ladies and gentlemen, Serbia wishes to make a statement.

13. **Serbia:**

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, in relation to item 8.3 concerning the request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO, the Republic of Serbia would like to recall that the way this item was included in the provisional agenda of the Executive Board of UNESCO raises serious concerns about compliance with procedure and UNESCO rules and practices and is contrary to United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The same applies to the inclusion of this item in the revised provisional agenda of the General Conference of UNESCO. The recommendation of the Executive Board was made without debate on this sensitive and complex issue that is creating a dangerous precedent with unforeseen consequences and is polarizing the membership of the Organization. The Executive Board meeting on 21 October clearly demonstrates how controversial this issue is. In fact, an absolute majority of the 58 Member States – 31 of them – did not support the adoption of this untimely and premature recommendation.

This delegation reserves its right to elaborate in more detail its position on the issue during the discussion of this agenda item. Thank you, Mr President.

Item 1.7: Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO, and recommendation of the Executive Board thereon (38 C/12)

Point 1.7 : Admission aux travaux de la Conférence générale d'observateurs d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales autres que celles bénéficiant du statut de partenaires officiels de l'UNESCO et recommandation du Conseil exécutif à ce sujet (38 C/12)

Punto 1.7: Admisión en los trabajos de la Conferencia General de observadores de organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no sean las que colaboran oficialmente con la UNESCO, y recomendaciones del Consejo Ejecutivo al respecto (38 C/12)

Пункт 1.7: Допуск на сессию Генеральной конференции наблюдателей от других международных неправительственных организаций, помимо тех, которые пользуются статусом официальных партнеров ЮНЕСКО, и рекомендации Исполнительного совета по этому вопросу (38 C/12)

البند ١,٧: قبول مراقبين من منظمات دولية غير حكومية، غير المنظمات المصنفة في فئة الشركاء الرسميين لليونسكو، لحضور أعمال المؤتمر العام، وتوصية المجلس التنفيذي في هذا الشأن (١٢/٣٨)

项目 1.7: 接纳享有教科文组织正式合作伙伴地位以外的国际非政府组织观察员列席大会会议和执行局就此问题的建议 (38 C/12)

14. The Temporary President:

Thank you very much. Are there any comments? Ladies and gentlemen, our next task is to examine item 1.7 of our agenda concerning the admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO, and recommendations of the Executive Board thereon. The relevant working document is document 38 C/12. I am pleased now to invite once more the Chair of the Executive Board to present the Board's recommendations on this matter. Sir, you have the floor.

15.1 Mr Amr (Egypt), Chair of the Executive Board:

Thank you, Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. In presenting this item to the General Conference I would like to commend the passion and the dedication that our NGO community has for the goals and objectives of our Organization. Now, more than ever before, we have come to rely on the important role that NGOs play nationally, regionally and internationally to both promote our work and assist us in the implementation of our programme. Their action and achievements demonstrate that together we can accomplish what we set out to do while continuing to strengthen international cooperation for peace and development.

15.2 It was in this spirit that the Executive Board examined item 22.V of the agenda of its 197th session relating to the 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 and on which the Board took a unanimous decision. Mr President, I therefore recommend on behalf of the Executive Board that those organizations, now listed in document 38 C/12, be invited to participate in the 38th session of the General Conference as observers in the debates on specific agenda items relating to their fields of competence. Thank you.

16. The Temporary President:

Thank you for this presentation, Mr Amr. I now wish to submit this recommendation to the approval of the General Conference. As I see no objections, I will take it that this recommendation is **adopted** unanimously. Thank you very much.

Item 8: RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Point 8 : RELATIONS AVEC LES ÉTATS MEMBRES ET LES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Punto 8: RELACIONES CON LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS Y LAS ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES

Пункт 8: ОТНОШЕНИЯ С ГОСУДАРСТВАМИ-ЧЛЕНАМИ И МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫМИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯМИ

البند ٨: العلاقات مع الدول الأعضاء والمنظمات الدولية

项目 8: 与会员国和国际组织的关系

Item 8.2: Request for the admission of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO (38 C/59)

Point 8.2 : Demande d'admission de Montserrat en qualité de Membre associé de l'UNESCO (38 C/59)

Punto 8.2: Solicitud de admisión de Montserrat como Miembro Asociado de la UNESCO (38 C/59)

Пункт 8.2: Просьба о приеме Монтсеррата в члены – сотрудники ЮНЕСКО (38 C/59)

البند ٨,٢: طلب قبول مونتسيرات عضواً منتسباً إلى اليونسكو (٥٩/٣٨)

项目 8.2: 要求接纳蒙特塞拉特为教科文组织准会员 (38 C/59)

17.1 The Temporary President:

We will now examine the item concerning the request from Montserrat for admission as an Associate Member of UNESCO. The request for admission of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO is presented in document 38 C/59 under item 8.2. The document includes a letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland applying for associate membership on behalf of Montserrat, for whose international relations his country is responsible. This letter complies with Article II, paragraph 3 of the Constitution, which states that territories which are not responsible for the conduct of their

international relations may be admitted as Associate Members by the General Conference by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, upon application made on behalf of such territory by the Member having responsibility for its international relations. I now present to the General Conference the request for admission of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO. I see no objections to this request. I therefore declare that Montserrat has been admitted as a new Associate Member of the Organization. *It is so decided.*

17.2 This decision further enriches the cultural diversity of our Organization. I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Montserrat, our new and tenth Associate Member of UNESCO. It is now my pleasure to give the floor to the Honourable Janice Panton of Montserrat, who will briefly address the General Conference. Please, Madam, you have the floor.

18.1 **Ms Panton** (Montserrat):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I express sincere thanks on behalf of the Government and people of Montserrat and especially convey the gratitude of the Honourable Premier Mr Donaldson Romeo and his Deputy, Honourable Minister of Education Ms Delmaude Ryan, who regrettably could not be here, for embracing the vision last year of becoming an Associate Member of UNESCO and today that vision has come to life.

18.2 The activities of UNESCO, now aged 70, are woven into the fabric of national governments, as the Organization is seen as an essential resource bank, providing policy guidance on education and science, and promoting cultural diversity. The longevity and the status of the Organization say much for its relevance in an ever-changing world. The objectives of UNESCO – peace and equitable sustainable development – are the objectives of large and small countries and the method of implementation has the potential to impact on every child in the universe.

18.3 Its inclusive mandate provides small territories like Montserrat with the opportunity to share policy guidelines and good practices first hand. Montserrat is a United Kingdom territory, a small island situated in the eastern Caribbean. The Montserrat flag reflects its status as a British territory, but the observant will notice that the flag includes an emblem showing a lady with a harp. The lady is Erin, from Ireland; the Irish were the first to settle on Montserrat under British rule in the late seventeenth century. The names of persons and places in Montserrat reflect this Irish heritage. Africans became the major ethnic group a few decades later, providing a rich cultural heritage, reflected in music, song and dance. Montserrat gave the world the Soca anthem *Hot Hot Hot*, composed and sung by Arrow (Alphonsus Cassell). The development of culture falls under our now newly functional Montserrat Arts Council.

18.4 Historically, Montserrat's population fluctuated between 10,000 and 14,000. Today it is approximately 5,000 and that includes a high percentage of recent migrants from within the region, including those from Spanish-speaking countries. This reduction in population is a result of volcanic eruption, which started in 1995, and which made two-thirds of this 40 square mile island uninhabitable and caused mass off-island evacuation. The impact of this crisis has been huge. Montserrat lost its core middle and senior management workers and their offspring. The previous boast of being in the top educational league in the region is no longer true as standards have dropped due to inability to recruit and retain qualified teachers, and there is now a need to look afresh at our education system.

18.5 Over the last 20 years, sustained volcanic activity has had, and continues to have, a devastating effect on the island's economy, which had just barely recovered following the damaging effects of Category 5 Hurricane Hugo in 1989, even though activity is now at a low level. Today, Montserrat is in receipt of budgetary aid.

18.6 The volcanic eruption had other effects. Montserrat now has a volcano observatory, which continues to bring world-class volcanologists and geologists to our shores. The recent winner of one of the most prestigious awards in science, the Vetlesen Prize, considered to be the earth sciences equivalent of the Nobel Prize, is the British volcanologist, Professor Stephen Sparks, once a household name on the island, as were the names of other scientists, as lives depended on this. His work, and that of others, has been an inspiration to budding scientists, and Montserrat now has at least two home-grown earth scientists.

18.7 Another effect of the volcanic eruption is the opportunity it has given Montserrat to turn from fossil fuel to geothermal energy. With aid from the United Kingdom Department for International Development we have commenced drilling and discovered enough geothermal energy resources to meet current needs. These energy resources will provide cleaner and cheaper energy and should boost the economy. Implementation will call for an educated workforce and skills not currently employed or available on the island. Montserrat does not want to be a bystander as technology develops around us. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or global goals, mean that each individual has a responsibility to contribute towards fulfilling them. As an Associate Member of UNESCO, our mandate would be to facilitate this where possible.

18.8 In Montserrat we have also seen the negative effect of the volcano on sustaining terrestrial and marine life. During the last twenty years there has been a lack of home-grown fruit and vegetables, and our reefs have been affected by volcanic material deposited in the sea during the eruption. More importantly, however, there has been a lack of capacity building owing to the small workforce of around 2,000 now.

18.9 In small communities it is taken as a given that education is a driver for individual upward mobility, and more often than not the success of an educated son or daughter trickles down to other members of the family. In Montserrat we are looking, as an Associate Member of UNESCO, for benefits to include the tools to build an educated community – not just an educated individual but a whole community of educated individuals who, working together, can learn from and act on the experiences and policies of UNESCO and its Members. We benefit from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in this respect, and we can only imagine the effect that learning from over 190 other UNESCO Member States would have on our development.

18.10 About 10 years ago a review was undertaken to find out the factors that would encourage Montserratians who settled in the United Kingdom to return to the safe northern part of Montserrat. Not surprisingly, education was a major factor, together with available housing and jobs. Unfortunately, we have not yet reached that level of development, and this is still a major consideration for the second generation living in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

18.11 The Government of Montserrat has recently reviewed its policy and agenda and has prioritized three of the Sustainable Development Goals: SDGs 4, 7 and 8. In Montserrat, Goal 4 – to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – can act as a motor for sustainable development through the provision of qualified teachers and a curriculum that would equip our children to aim for a bright and sustainable future. In Montserrat we will in the near future play a part in global carbon reduction while at the same time providing consumers with cheaper, geothermal, energy and fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 7: to ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all. In Montserrat our economic policy is based on Sustainable Development Goal 8: to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. We are committed to UNESCO's mandate, which we see as vital for the betterment of our people.

18.12 In closing, the Government of Montserrat would like to thank the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its support in its application and also for the support given with the process. In this regard we would also like to thank UNESCO for affording Montserrat the opportunity to participate in this august Organization. This is a landmark occasion for the people of Montserrat, and we look forward to playing our part as an Associate Member of UNESCO.

19. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Madam. I now give the floor to His Excellency, Mr Mohamed Amr, Chair of the Executive Board. Please, Sir, you have the floor.

20. **Mr Amr (Egypt), Chair of the Executive Board:**

Thank you, Mr President. It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome the "Emerald Isle of the Caribbean", otherwise known as Montserrat, as an Associate Member of UNESCO on behalf of all Members of the Executive Board and in my own name. UNESCO takes great pride in the universal nature of its membership, currently standing at 195 Members and now 10 Associate Members. The notion of membership is an important one, and we should be glad that everyone wishes to join our ranks. Members join to receive beneficial help, guidance and assistance but also to share their expertise with others. As you are a small island developing State (SIDS), let me assure you, Ms Pantou, that UNESCO makes your needs a priority. Associate membership will ensure that you are part of a wider network of States working towards mitigation and resolution of the challenges that you face. Equally, you may look forward to any policy advice that you may seek concerning the protection, preservation and promotion of the flora and fauna that is native to your homeland. I am certain that we will all look forward to the vital contribution that Montserrat will make in the future. Once again, I extend my warmest welcome and heartfelt congratulations to Montserrat. Thank you for your attention. Thank you, Mr President.

21. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Sir. I now give the floor to the Director-General. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

22.1 **La Directrice générale :**

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un privilège d'accueillir Montserrat à l'UNESCO comme nouveau membre associé. Cette nouvelle adhésion marque une étape dans notre cheminement collectif, dans l'affermissement de l'UNESCO comme une plate-forme universelle pour un ordre multilatéral plus ouvert et efficace, fondé sur la dignité humaine, l'égalité et le respect mutuel.

22.2 L'UNESCO est prête à soutenir les aspirations du peuple de Montserrat pour les droits humains, l'éducation de qualité pour tous, la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel et la protection de la diversité des expressions culturelles, ainsi que la préservation de la diversité biologique pour atténuer les conséquences du changement climatique. Et j'ajouterais que l'UNESCO a particulièrement besoin de la voix des petits États insulaires en développement.

22.3 Au lendemain de l'adoption du programme de développement durable de l'ONU à l'horizon 2030 et à quelques semaines de la conférence COP21, l'expérience, l'expertise et les préoccupations des petits États insulaires en développement sont essentielles pour aller de l'avant. Dans cet esprit, l'adhésion de Montserrat nous renforce collectivement.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)

22.4 Montserrat, ladies and gentlemen, today becomes a new Associate Member, but it is a longstanding UNESCO partner. As an overseas territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Montserrat has taken part in a range of programmes implemented through the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in Kingston. Montserrat has participated in the capacity-building programme, in education policy, analysis and planning, in education statistics, technical and vocational training in education, along with skills development, education for sustainable development and quality assurance in higher education.

22.5 Montserrat has taken part in activities aiming at disaster risk reduction as well as in tsunami and other coastal hazard warning systems for the Caribbean and adjacent regions. Journalists from Montserrat participate every year in UNESCO celebrations of World Press Freedom Day through the Caribbean Media and Communication Conference. They have taken part in events hosted by the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, sponsored by UNESCO, including the annual Caribbean Broadcasting Union Awards. So I look forward to strengthening these bonds ever more, and I wish to

convey today sincere appreciation and gratitude and congratulations to the authorities and people of Montserrat. Welcome to UNESCO. Thank you.

(Applause)

23. The Temporary President:

Thank you very much, Ms Bokova. Ladies and gentlemen, we have a special guest paying the General Conference a visit this morning, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. I will now suspend the meeting in order to welcome our distinguished visitor. I kindly ask you to remain in your seats until we return to the room.

The meeting is suspended from 12.10 p.m. to 12.20 p.m. to allow the Temporary President of the General Conference and the Director-General to welcome His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway enters Room I and is escorted to his place.

24. The Temporary President:

Your Royal Highness, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour and great pleasure to welcome to UNESCO His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. Before listening to Crown Prince Haakon, we will have the great pleasure of listening to a choir, composed of members from four Confucius Institutes in France. They are students in local universities and colleges, and they will sing one Chinese song and one French song.

(Musical interlude)

25. The Temporary President:

Thank you very much for that beautiful music.

Item 4.5: Conclusions of the Youth Forum (38 C/19)

Point 4.5 : Conclusions du Forum des jeunes (38 C/19)

Punto 4.5: Conclusiones del Foro de la Juventud (38 C/19)

Пункт 4.5: Выводы Молодежного форума (38 C/19)

البند ٤,٥ : نتائج منتدى الشباب (١٩/٣٨)

项目 4.5: 青年论坛的结论 (38 C/19)

26. The Temporary President:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I propose to listen to the report of the Youth Forum which was held from 26 to 28 October 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters, to which the Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message for the success of the opening. It is my pleasure to give the floor to Ms Virginia da Graça da Cruz from Timor-Leste, Mr Elton Bon from Liberia and Ms Annie Thamar Garçon from Haiti, delegates at the Forum who will present the conclusions of this year's Youth Forum.

27.1 Mme Garçon (Haïti, représentante du Forum des jeunes):

Votre Altesse Royale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est un honneur et un plaisir pour moi d'être la première à intervenir sur la question de la participation des jeunes à la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO.

27.2 En effet, du 26 au 28 octobre 2015, environ 500 jeunes femmes et jeunes hommes venus de 159 États membres se sont réunis à l'occasion du 9^e Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO qui avait pour thème « Jeunes citoyens du monde pour une planète durable ». Ils ont discuté autour des thématiques liées au changement climatique et au Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 récemment adopté. Tout au long de ces trois jours, les jeunes participants ont imaginé l'avenir et défini les recommandations ci-après.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

27.3 And now, I would like to introduce my colleague from Timor-Leste, Virginia da Graça da Cruz, thank you.

28.1 Ms da Graça da Cruz (Timor-Leste, Youth Forum representative):

Hello, good afternoon everybody. My name is Virginia Graça and I am from Timor-Leste. Here I would like to present the recommendations from the Youth Forum to this session of the General Conference. On the theme "Young Global Citizens for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", I would like to talk about rights, freedoms, responsibilities, diversity and identity. Rights, freedoms and responsibilities: we have to approach human rights every day through innovative forms of education, to learn to respect, enjoy and live our rights. By educating through peer experiences, by sharing responsibility with each other and by making a difference to each other's lives, we can all experience our rights. We have to create a contextually adaptable programme or toolkit on global citizenship education using innovative methods to be implemented at all levels to ensure the universal enjoyment of human rights. We have to coordinate a network of organizations that empower young women and men to start and stay in school through mentorship and tutoring. We must guarantee partnerships, networking and adequate support for the African and Caribbean regions to ensure their success in achieving their targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We need to emphasize further cooperation between local entities and United Nations agencies in order to empower local economic and social actors from targeted communities to be agents of change. We should dramatically increase and improve allocation of resources in the education sector to accomplish SDG 4.

28.2 For diversity and identity, we must increase intercultural exchange between refugees and youth organizations through exchange programmes and sports events. We should train members of local youth organizations to become

peer trainers who will coach their peers in their communities. We must enhance cultural, sexual and ethnic diversity, including breaking down gender stereotypes. We need to create a global environment youth organization, develop a youth foresight knowledge-lab forum to be deployed all around the world starting in countries with UNESCO field offices. Thank you very much. Now I would like to introduce my friend from Liberia, Elton Bon, who is going to read the next recommendation. Thank you very much again.

29. **Mr Bon** (Liberia, Youth Forum representative):

Good afternoon. My name is Elton Bon from Liberia and I will be reading the recommendation on learning, personal development and sustainability. Regarding education and experience for life, we need universal civic service to enable youth to get a better intercultural and inter-societal view of life and its stakeholders. Schools must be seen as a community, not only as a structure. Therefore, they must be built as places for personal development and for establishing social skills such as interpersonal communication, critical and innovative thinking, and debating. School must be an institution where we can try, learn, fail and succeed, a safe place where we can learn by experience and where we could be encouraged to explore beyond limits. We need community-built knowledge rather than imposed knowledge. We propose the use of crowdsourcing information and normal critical thinking for cultural understanding by developing a platform through which a student can access different information about historical events and social norms, leading them to question and search. This will make education more inclusive and non-discriminatory, allowing voices that are normally not heard to be taken into account. We can help reduce the gap between adulthood and youth by raising recognition of vocational training. On the topic "Young Global Citizens for a Sustainable Planet: Knowledge, Awareness and Media", we call upon UNESCO to create bridging capacity between young men and women from different continents by establishing intercontinental social innovation incubators that will produce social start-ups with empowering knowledge, skills and experience. We must acknowledge climate as a co-existing cultural heritage and recognize that the way to preserve local knowledge and cultures is through climate change mitigation, adaptation and transformation. As young people, we are confident that we are agents of sustainable change. We commit ourselves to promoting active global citizenship by adopting and advocating healthy and sustainable lifestyles in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by involving ourselves in the implementation and monitoring of the Goals so as to achieve a better understanding of the issues surrounding the newly-adopted SDGs. We need to implement in local education systems new ways of knowledge creation that increase social and emotional intelligence. My colleague, Annie Thamar Garçon from Haiti, will now conclude with the final recommendation.

30.1 **Mme Garçon** (Haïti, représentante du Forum des jeunes) :

Je m'appelle Annie Thamar et je viens d'Haïti. Voici les recommandations du Forum : « Pratiques locales, biodiversité et prévention des catastrophes naturelles ».

30.2 Nous recommandons de créer une communauté en ligne qui permettra aux gouvernements et aux organisations internationales et locales de partager des informations, des récits positifs et des données avec les communautés du monde entier, et encouragera les communautés locales à prendre conscience de l'importance de la préservation de la biodiversité et de la prévention des catastrophes naturelles.

30.3 La communauté en ligne sensibilisera les populations et les communautés du monde entier aux liens existants entre les pratiques locales, la biodiversité et la réduction des catastrophes naturelles. Elle permettra aux communautés locales de partager leurs expériences au-delà des frontières afin d'aider à atténuer les catastrophes naturelles par la valorisation de la biodiversité, de partager des informations relatives aux risques de catastrophes, notamment les pratiques efficaces et les récits positifs, et d'encourager les jeunes femmes et les jeunes hommes en créant une plateforme qui fera la promotion du financement participatif des start-up, des sociétés de financement et d'autres types d'investissement dans des projets innovants qui préservent la biodiversité.

30.4 Comment capter l'énergie de la jeunesse ? Le Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO devrait se tenir tous les jours et partout pour que toutes les voix puissent se faire entendre. Le processus devrait être ascendant, les jeunes participants transmettant toutes les idées des communautés locales aux responsables internationaux de l'élaboration des politiques. Il faudrait étendre à l'UNESCO le programme des délégués de la jeunesse auprès de l'ONU afin d'associer activement les jeunes femmes et les jeunes hommes aux processus décisionnels. Des programmes-cadres sur l'éducation environnementale, le développement durable et les droits de l'homme devraient être élaborés pour l'enseignement primaire et secondaire. Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO devraient coopérer directement avec les ministères de l'éducation pour assurer l'inclusion des objectifs de développement durable dans les manuels et autres ressources pédagogiques et aider à renforcer les capacités des enseignants et des jeunes leaders dans les établissements éducatifs.

30.5 L'UNESCO devrait inclure encore davantage les jeunes et leur être accessible. Les participants au Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO devraient être plus nombreux et devraient être assistés par des experts de l'Organisation. Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO devraient organiser avant le Forum des réunions préparatoires au niveau national pour discuter du thème du Forum, réunir des idées et les affiner.

30.6 L'UNESCO devrait créer une plateforme et une application mobile pour établir des liens entre les jeunes leaders et élaborer un système de crédit-débit en matière de pollution pour réglementer la quantité de déchets produite par les pays.

30.7 Durant ces trois jours, nous avons partagé notre culture, notre enthousiasme, notre énergie mais surtout un sentiment d'humanité. Ce sentiment nous a aidés à comprendre que la survie de l'être humain dépendait de son influence sur son milieu, et donc qu'un choix intelligent et rationnel était de participer à la recherche scientifique et de contribuer à la promotion des valeurs universelles et surtout à la construction d'un progrès durable. C'est ce que nous vous invitons à faire à travers ces recommandations. Merci.

31.1 The Temporary President:

Thank you very much, young friends. Can I suggest that the General Conference take note of the report contained in document 38 C/19? I see no objections. *It is so **decided**.*

31.2. Your Royal Highness, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we now have the great honour of hearing an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway to the General Conference. Crown Prince Haakon is a man deeply concerned with international development. Having graduated from the Royal Norwegian Naval Academy, Crown Prince Haakon studied at the University of California at Berkeley and later at the London School of Economics, where he was awarded a graduate degree in development studies. Over the past 12 years, Crown Prince Haakon has been serving as the United Nations Development Programme's Goodwill Ambassador for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Crown Prince Haakon also served as a member of the advisory panel for the Human Development Report and was an active member of the Forum of Young Global Leaders. Your Royal Highness, Crown Prince Haakon, you have the floor.

32.1 His Royal Highness, Haakon Magnus, Crown Prince of Norway:

Thank you, Mr President. Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to speak here at the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, and I appreciate the opportunity to address you as one of the key organizations in the United Nations family about to celebrate its 70th anniversary. UNESCO's role and mandate is as important today as it was 70 years ago. Education, science, culture, communication and information are all essential in a world where people are increasingly interconnected and dependent on each other. New generations are growing up as global citizens, sharing responsibilities. UNESCO was founded in the wake of a world war. Millions had perished; millions had been forced to flee from death and despair; millions had lost their homes and left everything behind in search of a better future. Today, the world is facing the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Sixty million people are fleeing from war and conflict. We share a joint responsibility to act: each and every one of us, as global citizens; each and every nation, as committed members of the United Nations. We have a responsibility to provide protection and aid. We have a responsibility to promote peace, reconciliation and resilience, to try to prevent future crises of the magnitude we are now witnessing.

32.2 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO today, as it was 70 years ago, is in an excellent position to unite and strengthen our efforts. Take global education and development. More than 120 million children and young people are out of school. Lack of quality education and poor learning outcomes leave millions more without the opportunity to make a decent life for themselves and their future families. Hardest hit are the many victims of war, natural disasters and epidemics. Increased efforts are needed to prevent military attacks on schools and universities. More support is necessary to ensure quality education in emergencies and protracted crises. Education is a fundamental human right; it is also essential for ensuring inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. Quality education provides people with the skills, knowledge and values they need to tackle the various challenges they are likely to face in society. I would like to mention here the ongoing work on developing a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications. In a world where an increasing number of people are on the move, everybody should be able to have their qualifications assessed and have the opportunity to contribute to the society in which they are living. In my capacity as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador, I have seen how crucial quality education is for development. Girls learn about health and sexuality and avoid early pregnancies. The opportunities of marginalized groups, such as children with disabilities, are improved. Children and adolescents can reach their potential, and societies are able to grow and prosper. As the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Malala Yousafzai, put it, "Education is one of the blessings of life – and one of its necessities".

32.3 World leaders have recently adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Successful achievement of the goal on education, SDG 4, is crucial to eradicate extreme poverty and to meet many of the targets of the new 2030 Agenda. I would like to congratulate and commend UNESCO for the leading role it has played in promoting access to quality education for all. The framework for action to be agreed on during this session of the General Conference will certainly be a key reference point over the next 15 years. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Director-General Bokova for being one of the convenors of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity that was announced at the Oslo Summit on Education for Development.

32.4 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO's role and mandate is as relevant today as it was 70 years ago. Education is one vital area of its work; freedom of expression is another. As the United Nations agency with a specific mandate to promote "the free flow of ideas by word and image", UNESCO plays a key role in fostering free, independent and pluralistic media. Essentially this is about providing us with the information we all need as global citizens, enabling us to understand and make informed decisions in a world that is rapidly changing and becoming increasingly complex. It is not in our interest to create new barriers between peoples. In a world that is ever more closely interconnected, the values of democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of the press are essential for promoting peace, building inclusive societies and jointly addressing the challenges we face. Just as important and timely are the efforts UNESCO is making to protect the world's tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promote our cultural diversity. Director-General, you have spoken out clearly on this issue. You have been instrumental in mobilizing the United Nations Security Council, governments, legal authorities, market operators, culture experts and, last but not least, young people against the senseless destruction of cultural heritage and against the illicit trafficking and trade in cultural artefacts. Through initiatives such as the #Unite4Heritage campaign, launched in Baghdad earlier this year, violent extremism and thefts will be defeated with both specific countermeasures and a joint universal message of tolerance and dialogue.

32.5 Ladies and gentlemen, every human being has the right to lead a dignified life. This means that we all have the opportunity to fulfil our potential, which requires adequate healthcare, education, income and security. It means having the freedom to make the decisions governing our own lives and to have this right respected by others. It also means

having a common responsibility to strengthen the dignity of others and, through that, ultimately our own. This ties in well with UNESCO's mandate and the notion that peace can only be established on the basis of shared values and close and meaningful dialogue. And it ties in well with UNESCO's global citizenship education, the idea that learners are empowered by becoming responsible global citizens, by being equipped with values, knowledge and skills that are based on – and instil respect for – human rights, social justice, diversity, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

32.6 Ladies and gentlemen, this conference coincides with one of the biggest humanitarian crises in recent history. I am confident that UNESCO is well placed to unify and strengthen our response, just as it was 70 years ago. I wish you every success over the next two weeks. Thank you very much.

33. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much for your wonderful speech Your Royal Highness. Ladies and gentlemen, before I adjourn this meeting I would like us to be punctual for this afternoon's session, which will resume at 3 p.m. sharp. Thank you in advance. *The meeting is adjourned.*

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

La séance est levée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.55

Заседание закрывается в 12.55

رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٢,٥٥ بعد الظهر

会议于 12 时 55 分结束

Second plenary meeting

Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 3.15 p.m.
President: **Mr Hao** (China)
later: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Deuxième séance plénière

Mardi 3 novembre 2015 à 15 h 15
Président : **M. Hao** (Chine)
puis : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Segunda sesión plenaria

Martes 3 de noviembre 2015 a las 15.15
Presidenta: **Sr. Hao** (China)
después: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Второе пленарное заседание

Вторник 3 ноябрь 2015 г. в 15.15
Председатель: **г-н Hao** (Китай)
затем: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الثانية

الثلاثاء ٣ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٣،١٥ بعد الظهر
الرئيس: السيد هاو (الصين)
ثم: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第二次全体会议

2015年11月3日星期二 15时15分
主席: **郝平先生** (中国)
随后: **Simataa先生** (纳米比亚)

Item 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION (*continued*)

Point 1 : ORGANISATION DE LA SESSION (*suite*)

Punto 1: ORGANIZACIÓN DE LA REUNIÓN (*continuación*)

Пункт 1: ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ СЕССИИ (*продолжение*)

البند ١ : تنظيم الدورة (تابع)

项目 1 : 届会的组织 (续)

Item 1.5: Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees

Point 1.5 : Élection du président et des vice-présidents de la Conférence générale, ainsi que des présidents, vice-présidents et rapporteurs des commissions et comités

Punto 1.5: Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia General, y de los Presidentes, Vicepresidentes y Relatores de las comisiones y comités

Пункт 1.5: Выборы Председателя и заместителей Председателя Генеральной конференции, а также председателей, заместителей председателей и докладчиков комиссий и комитетов

البند ١,٥ : انتخاب رئيس المؤتمر العام ونواب الرئيس ورؤساء اللجان ونواب رؤسائها ومقرريها

项目 1.5 : 选举大会主席和副主席以及各委员会主席、副主席和报告人

Election of the President of the 38th session of the General Conference

Élection du président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale

Elección del Presidente de la 38^a reunión de la Conferencia General

Выборы Председателя 38-й сессии Генеральной конференции

انتخاب رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

选举大会第三十八届会议主席

1. **The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the second plenary meeting. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we will now examine, under item 1.5, the election of the President of the General Conference. The related documents are 38 C/NOM/1 and 38 C/NOM/1 Add. I now call upon His Excellency Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, to present the recommendation of the Committee for the election of President of the 38th session of the General Conference. Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

2. **Mr Michael Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. At noon today, the Nominations Committee held its first meeting, during which it examined the recommendation of the Executive Board on the subject of the election of the President of the 38th session of the General Conference. The recommendation of the Nominations Committee is contained in document 38 C/NOM/1 and 38 C/NOM/1 Add. The Nominations Committee decided to recommend that the General Conference approve the candidature of Mr Stanley Simataa of Namibia as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. Thank you, Mr President.

(Applause)

3.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, I see that this proposal is widely supported and I am therefore happy to proclaim the election of His Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa from Namibia as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. *It is so **decided**.*

(Applause)

3.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a delight for me to introduce to you His Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa. For the past five years, many of us have become familiar with the voice of Mr Simataa and especially his interventions during the plenary sessions of the Executive Board. Mr Simataa completed a Master of Science in Agricultural Education in the United Kingdom and he also holds a Master of Business Administration degree. He has held several senior governmental posts – in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Ministry of Education, the National Council for Higher Education, and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology as Deputy Minister.

3.3 As a friend and a colleague, I have come to appreciate his personality and contributions to the intellectual watchtower of the United Nations system. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where Africa's challenges have been fully taken on board, his presidency will promote UNESCO's global mission for peace and development for all. Ladies and gentlemen, with these words I would like to invite the Chair of the Executive Board to say a few words in this regard as well.

4.1 **Mr Amr** (Egypt, Chair of the Executive Board):

Thank you, Mr President. Allow me to express my gratitude to you, Mr Hao Ping, Vice Minister of Education of China, for the friendship we have developed over these past two years. I wish also to thank you for the wisdom you have kindly shared with me. As the Chinese saying goes, "listening to your advice is better than reading books for 10 years". Representing the supreme governing body of our dear Organization is a challenging task for those who have been honoured to be elected. I have admired your heartfelt dedication to UNESCO's universal values, your belief in consensus

building and your overarching aim to reach harmony in international fora. You were a guiding light for all of us on the Executive Board. We always waited for your words of wisdom to give us inspiration for our work and encouragement when necessary. Let me say, I believe that all the Members of the Executive Board share this conviction and we wish you well, Mr Hao Ping, in your future endeavours and very much look forward to meeting again soon.

4.2 Let me now turn to the newly-elected President of the General Conference to warmly congratulate him on behalf of all the Members of the Executive Board, and also in my own name. Your Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa, I wish to express the collective sentiment of all the Members of the Board that this session of the General Conference will benefit from the leadership and wisdom you have demonstrated during your tenure as Member of the Board for your country, Namibia. Through your election to this high office, the entire African continent, to which I also belong, is honoured.

4.3 I know you will ensure that the “C” in UNESCO – for communication and information as well as culture – will get its rightful recognition during your mandate. I also know that the “E” and the “S” will receive the attention they deserve. Your term of office coincides with this important moment in the life of our Organization as we celebrate our 70th anniversary. We will also begin a new era, guided by the recently-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for which UNESCO’s mandate is more relevant than ever. We are all certain you will carry out your responsibilities as President of the General Conference with distinction, commitment and energy, so let me simply wish you every success in your tasks ahead. Thank you very much.

5. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you Mr Chair. I now give the floor to the Director-General.

6.1 **The Director-General:**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour for me to congratulate His Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa on his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Namibia is one of UNESCO’s great champions, supporting the Organization in its action across the world. We see this in the leadership Namibia has brought to the Executive Board of UNESCO, in the support Namibia has provided to the Special Emergency Multi-Donor Fund for UNESCO Priority Programmes and Reform Initiatives, and in the vision Namibia has provided to advancing the reform of UNESCO.

6.2 Namibia knows the meaning of freedom of expression, free media and a culture of peace, and it understands the need for inclusive development. Namibia is one of few countries in the world that pledges in its Constitution to safeguard biodiversity and natural resources. As the Namibian proverb says, “The earth is not ours. It is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations.” This knowledge is wisdom for today and the future, and it will be especially important in implementing the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(The Director-General continues in French)

6.3 Je connais, Monsieur le Président, votre passion pour l’UNESCO, et je me réjouis d’approfondir notre partenariat encore davantage. Je connais l’engagement de la Namibie auprès de l’UNESCO, qu’il s’agisse de la Déclaration de Windhoek qui, il y a plus de 10 ans, a lancé un mouvement mondial pour la liberté de la presse, ou bien de la protection du Patrimoine immatériel, dont la Namibie va accueillir le Comité dans quelques semaines. Cet engagement est important pour l’UNESCO. Il est important pour l’Afrique, notre priorité globale, et peut nous aider à faire une différence pour le monde.

6.4 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, il m’est aussi agréable de rendre hommage à S. E. M. Hao Ping, Vice-Ministre de l’éducation de la République populaire de Chine et Président de la 37^e session de la Conférence générale de l’UNESCO.

6.5 Monsieur le Président, vous avez donné une impulsion décisive à la coopération de l’UNESCO avec la Chine, impulsion qui a rejailli sur l’ensemble de nos missions. Je pense au Congrès international historique de Hangzhou « La culture : clé du développement durable » tenu en mai 2013, où vous vous êtes particulièrement impliqué et qui fut une étape capitale pour l’intégration de la culture dans l’Agenda 2030. Je pense également aux deux conférences majeures organisées à Beijing au mois d’octobre 2013 sur les villes apprenantes et sur les villes créatives.

6.6 Moins de six mois après votre élection, le 27 mars 2014, l’UNESCO a eu le privilège d’accueillir S. E. le Président Xi Jinping pour une visite historique. Le Président Xi Jinping en personne a confirmé cet engagement à de nombreuses reprises, notamment dans le cadre de l’initiative l’Éducation avant tout et, il y a une semaine, dans son message au Forum des jeunes de l’UNESCO. J’étais à vos côtés, avec le Vice-Premier Ministre, Mme Liu Yandong, à la Conférence internationale sur les langues tenue à Suzhou.

6.7 Nous étions ensemble à Beijing, encore une fois avec le Président Xi, pour la Conférence internationale sur les sciences et technologies de l’ingénieur, et également lors du Forum mondial sur les glissements de terrain, au mois de juin 2014.

6.8 Vous avez été actif dans tous les domaines de notre mandat : lors du débat thématique de l’Assemblée générale des Nations Unies (à New York) sur la culture et le développement, le 5 mai 2015, et à la Conférence internationale sur les technologies de l’information et de la communication et l’éducation post-2015 (à Qindao, votre ville natale), au mois de mai. Vous avez été aux avant-postes pour promouvoir la vision globale de l’éducation selon l’UNESCO lors du Forum mondial sur l’éducation tenu à Incheon (en République de Corée), ainsi que pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique, par l’intermédiaire du fonds-en-dépôt chinois, et vous avez été aux côtés de S. E. Mme la Professeure Peng Liyuan, Première dame de la Chine et envoyée spéciale de l’UNESCO pour l’éducation des filles et des femmes.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)

6.9 Ladies and gentlemen, dear Mr Hao Ping, we saw this leadership embodied on 4 September 2015 at the International Seminar on Girls and Women's Education held in Beijing, China, led by the UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, First Lady Peng Liyuan, focusing on the role of female teachers in achieving gender equality. Under your leadership, Mr President, and as Vice Chancellor of Beijing University, the partnership between China and UNESCO has surged forwards at every level. We have seen this in UNESCO's deepening cooperation with leading universities in China. We have seen this in the 18 UNESCO Chairs in universities across the country, the largest number in the Asia and the Pacific region, addressing almost every aspect of UNESCO's mandate. We have seen this in UNESCO's intensifying partnerships with the private sector in China: with HNA Group in Hainan and the Hainan Cihang Charitable Foundation to advance girls' and women's education in Africa and Asia; with the Weidong Cloud Education Group to harness the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education; and with Perfect Games Holding Limited (Perfect World) to support the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum. In all this, Mr President, you have acted as a force for cooperation and dialogue.

6.10 Once, Mr President, you told the Executive Board of UNESCO: "Please remember that our united will is our strength. When people are united with the same will, they are as strong as great walls." Today, in this spirit of unity, all Member States of UNESCO I am sure will join me in thanking you for the vision that inspired you and helped this Organization become stronger, sharper and more responsive to societies across the world. In your inaugural speech, you said that "The aspiration of this Organization is to realize the dream we all share." To this end, Mr Chair, I will join hands with you to shape the future of this Organization for a better world. In this spirit, if you will allow me, I am honoured to thank you and to award you, Mr President, a UNESCO Silk Roads medal, in recognition of your ground-breaking contribution to this Organization, to sustainable development and to lasting peace. Thank you.

7.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, Ministers, distinguished Ambassadors, friends and colleagues, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. Finally, it is time for me to say goodbye to this stage and to pass my mandate to my friend Mr Simataa. This morning, I shared my vision of the Organization's future, and as my term draws to a close, I now feel complete and satisfied. In the past two years, my colleagues and I have worked in solidarity and our achievements belong to us all. Here I would like to thank all the people who have given me support. I would like to thank my country. I am so deeply grateful to the Chinese Government, which lent me its full support during my presidency. My thanks also go to my country's National Commission and Permanent Delegation to UNESCO. I would like to thank all the Member States and representatives for your unconditional support for my presidency. You are my backbone and the friendship between us will always be a treasure in my life.

7.2 Madam Director-General, my friend, Irina Bokova, I want to thank you sincerely. Your wisdom, global vision and ability in difficult and complicated times are the precious characteristics of a leader of an international organization. You have never wavered in your duties and you have always remained true to your convictions. Today, you are the role model for many young people and you are the best example of women's empowerment. Please accept, Ms Bokova, my most sincere appreciation and respect. To my friend Mr Mohammed Amr, I thank you for always standing by me, for assisting me in my presidency. We have shared the joy and the pain. My most special gratitude goes to those I cannot even name. They are the cleaning staff who have kept my office clean, the security personnel and my driver. Thanks also to the translators and interpreters, the technical personnel and support workers. You are the treasure of this House. Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to say goodbye. I am not going to say "so long" or "farewell" as I will just be moving to my delegate's seat. I will remain here, caring about you and you will always have my support. Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I will see you around. Thank you very much for your attention. I now invite the President of the 38th session of the General Conference to take his place at the podium.

Address by the President of the 38th session of the General Conference

Allocution de la Présidente de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale

Discurso pronunciado por la Presidenta de la 38^a reunión de la Conferencia General

Выступление Председателя 38-й сессии Генеральной конференции

كلمة رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

大会第三十八届会议主席致辞

8.1 **Mr Simataa** (Namibia) (President of the 38th session of the General Conference):

Mr President of the 37th session of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, honourable ministers and heads of delegations, Your Excellencies, ambassadors and permanent delegates to UNESCO, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon once again. I am deeply honoured and humbled by the confidence and trust bestowed on me to serve this great Organization as President of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

8.2 Your unanimous endorsement of my nomination is a testament to the principle of the equality of States as espoused in UNESCO's founding Constitution. It is indeed an honour for Namibia, as a young nation, to be accorded the opportunity to preside over the supreme governing body of our Organization. I thank my government for having endorsed my candidature in spite of the demanding national responsibilities I am vested with. I also thank my family, represented

here this afternoon by my wife, Maggie, for providing the much-needed support that has rebooted my often-depleted energy levels.

8.3 Equally, I would like to express my particular gratitude to the Africa Group for their unreserved support for my candidature. My predecessor, His Excellency Mr Hao Ping, Vice Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, is also thanked for his sterling contributions during his tenure. In the same vein, the Chair of the Executive Board, His Excellency Mohamed Sameh Amr, is thanked for his able stewardship of the operations of the Board during very testing times.

8.4 And yes, let me thank someone for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration: that is you of course, Madam Director-General. Your unparalleled endurance in leading our Organization has been highly appreciated during what will likely go down in the annals of history as one of our most challenging times. Madam Director-General, where many would have hurriedly exited, you consciously chose to stay the course. Your unrelenting efforts, together with the sacrifices of the unsung heroes of our Organization, the Secretariat, under the measured guidance of the Executive Board, have succeeded in bringing oxygen to our Organization. As Trevor Noah, a famous South African comedian, has noted, "Every obstacle, every pain, every heartbreak, every tear, every single negative thing in your life is the fuel you must use to get you to a positive place." Thank you, Madam Director-General and members of the Secretariat, for having kept faith in our UNESCO.

8.5 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the year 2015 is significant in the history of humanity. We are celebrating the 70th anniversaries of both the United Nations and UNESCO. Both Organizations were established to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the world. The United Nations General Assembly recently adopted ambitious and forward-looking Sustainable Development Goals to, among other things, end hunger, eliminate poverty and ensure equitable quality education.

8.6 In the case of UNESCO, our founding members had a lasting vision when they established the Organization 70 years ago. They remind us today, just as they did 70 years ago, as stated in the UNESCO Constitution "That a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind". The historic narrative of a humane world order characterized by lasting peace has never been as relevant or profound as it is today when the world and humankind continue to experience unending conflicts and natural disasters.

8.7 Coming from a country which has emerged from a lengthy armed conflict filled with hatred and mistrust, I am inclined to reason that humankind needs to invest more in sustained efforts to construct true and lasting peace. We need first to understand who the others are and why they do things the way they do. There is no single correct way of addressing issues. As human beings, it is natural that we look at issues through the lenses framed by our norms, values and cultures.

8.8 Similarly, as individual countries, we appreciate world events based on our backgrounds and experiences. This, Your Excellencies, makes our coexistence complex. And we have no choice but to coexist. To appreciate each other's ways, we need first a strong and unprejudiced will to listen to each other with open minds. Second, we need to pause for a while and put ourselves in each other's shoes. Let us allow ourselves a few minutes to forget about our own conditions and visualize ourselves in the situation of fellow human beings experiencing daily challenges. This may change our view and enable us to understand why countries have different positions. This may bring us to the realization that there is no single right way. With two opposing views, both may be right! Only when we try harder to understand and appreciate each other's ways will we be able to tolerate each other and be truly supportive.

8.9 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let us redouble our efforts to ensure that UNESCO achieves its sacred mission of building peace. However, peace alone is an insufficient condition to address the prevailing global challenges. As the current President of the Republic of Namibia, Mr Hage G. Geingob, noted when addressing the Executive Board of UNESCO in 2010 as Minister of Trade and Industry, and as he continues to remind Namibians, people do not eat peace, democracy or stability, nor do they sleep in good constitutions. Peace, democracy and stability are but prerequisites that enable us to go a step further, to achieve equitable sustainable human development. However, it is true that development that is sustainable is premised on the enduring peace, security and equitable prosperity of nations and their citizenry.

8.10 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in times of despair, UNESCO is called upon to bring foresight and hope to the peoples of the world through education, including education for peace, tolerance, democracy and human rights; through the sciences, notably with the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge to improve responses to the unprecedented environmental changes now occurring; through culture, by building bridges between different cultures, and safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage and creativity; and of course through communication and information, with the free flow of information and ideas. There is no doubt that UNESCO remains a beacon of hope in a world littered with deep-seated intolerance and despair.

8.11 The celebrations of the 70th anniversaries of UNESCO and the United Nations provide us with opportunities to reflect on where we have come from and where we want to go. UNESCO must therefore draw on ancient Buddhist wisdom, which teaches us that if we want to know our past, we must look into our present conditions, and to know our future, we must look into our present actions. Can we, as nations, build a better world for future generations, characterized by mutual respect, tolerance and coexistence? These are some of the questions to ponder as we celebrate the 70th anniversaries.

8.12 As Nelson Mandela teaches us in his book *Long Walk to Freedom*, “To be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning. I have walked that long road to freedom. I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance that I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk to freedom is not ended.”

8.13 The wisdom of Nelson Mandela should inspire our Organization to take stock and embark on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with renewed vigour and determination. UNESCO’s Member States must reflect deeply on the prevailing conditions of our Organization. We must appreciate the opportunities presented by the SDGs, where our Organization has leadership and delivery obligations in all 17 goals. We must continue to build on measures initiated so far to break the “financial El Niño” hovering over our Organization. We must spare no effort in providing adequate resources to make UNESCO’s field network more functional, for it is the field offices that are the epicentre of our Organization’s operations. We must, however, pursue initiatives undertaken to tweak, with due care, the existing governance structure of our Organization, to ensure we are better placed to lead the delivery of the SDGs. We dare not waste this opportunity, because if we do, the relevance of our mandate will be severely compromised. This calls for a recalibration of our actions.

8.14 In the case of Africa, there is an established blueprint: Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want. Let us draw lessons from our experiences in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the education for all (EFA) goals, and promise future generations that we will bequeath them a world in better shape than we ourselves inherited.

8.15 In conclusion, allow me, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, a final quote from the President of Namibia. As you are aware, the independence of our country 25 years ago stands out as one of the most successful stories in the history of the United Nations. For this reason, President Hage G. Geingob, at our 25th Independence Day celebration and on the occasion of his swearing in as the third President of the Republic of Namibia in March this year, reminded Namibians that “Namibia is a child of international solidarity, friend to all and enemy to none.”

8.16 This is the spirit, Your Excellencies, in which I pledge to preside over the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I will rely on your support and cooperation in exercising my duties and responsibilities. Thank you very much, *merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, xièxie, shukran, spasibo*.

(Applause)

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference

Élection des vice-présidents de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale

Elección de los Vicepresidentes de la 38^a reunión de la Conferencia General

Выборы заместителей Председателя 38-й сессии Генеральной конференции

انتخاب نواب رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

选举大会第三十八届会议副主席

9. The President:

Thank you very much, your Excellencies, We will now proceed with our deliberations on item **1.5** of the agenda concerning the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Conference. The relevant documents are 38 C/NOM/1 and 38 C/NOM/1 Add. I call upon His Excellency, Mr Michael Worbs, the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, to present the list of the 36 Member States which are candidates for the posts of Vice-President for this session. Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

10. Mr Worbs (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Before continuing with item **1.5**, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. You can count on my support as you carry out your duties and responsibilities throughout the term of your presidency. Mr President, the Nominations Committee recommended at its meeting earlier today the election to the posts of Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference of the following 36 Member States: Albania, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, Chad, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Guinea, Honduras, India, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sudan, Sweden, Togo and Yemen. I therefore submit, Mr President, this recommendation of the Nominations Committee concerning the 36 Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference for the penary’s consideration. Thank you.

11. The President:

Thank you, Sir. I now submit for approval the list proposed by the Nominations Committee. I see no objections. I therefore declare the Heads of the Delegations of the 36 Member States on the list that was just read out **elected** Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference.

Establishment of the commissions and committees

Constitution des commissions et comités

Constitución de las comisiones y los comités

Учреждение комиссий и комитетов

تشكيل اللجان

成立各专门委员会和委员会

12. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, we will now elect the chairpersons of the commissions and committees for this session of the General Conference. If you agree, we will examine as a whole the proposal of the Nominations Committee for the chairpersons of the commissions and committees. I give the floor again to the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Mr Worbs, to present the recommendations of the Committee for the chairpersons of the six commissions. Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

13. Mr Worbs (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you very much, Mr President. Mr President, I have the honour of informing the General Conference that the Nominations Committee's recommendations regarding the chairpersons of commissions and committees of the 38th session of the General Conference are as follows: the Finance, Administration and General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations Commission (APX) – Mr Matthew Sudders of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the Education Commission (ED) – Ms Kris Rampersad of Trinidad and Tobago; the Natural Sciences Commission (SC) – Ms Noorul Ainur binti Mohd. Nur of Malaysia; the Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS) – Ms Hadidja Alim Youssouf of Cameroon; the Culture Commission (CLT) – Mr Arūnas Gelūnas of Lithuania; the Communications and Information Commission (CI) – Mr Abdulla El Reyes of the United Arab Emirates; the Legal Committee (LEG) – Mr Pierre Michel Eisemann of France; the Credentials Committee (CRE) – Ms Mariam Y. Katagum of Nigeria; and the Nominations Committee (NOM) – myself, Mr Michael Worbs of Germany. Thank you, Mr President.

14. The President:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. The General Conference notes the distinguished delegates that have been proposed to chair the commissions and committees, as read out by the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish to warmly congratulate those of you who have been nominated. Let me recall that in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the committees and commissions shall elect their own chairpersons. I also wish to inform you that in accordance with Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure, chairpersons of the commissions and committees are members of the Bureau of the General Conference, which will convene for its first meeting tomorrow at 9 a.m. in Room X. Pending official elections by your respective commissions and committees, I invite nominees to attend that meeting. You will receive, later today, the formal invitation together with the draft agenda for the meeting.

Establishment of the Legal Committee

Constitution du Comité juridique

Constitución del Comité Jurídico

Учреждение Юридического комитета

تشكيل اللجنة القانونية

成立 法律委员会

15. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, I now give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference, who will read out information concerning the composition of the Legal Committee. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

16. The Secretary:

Thank you, Mr President. At the 38th session, the Legal Committee will be composed of the following 17 members: Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Kenya, Nicaragua, Niger, Palestine, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan, United States of America and Uzbekistan. Thank you, Mr President.

17. The President:

Thank you very much. On this subject, let me recall that pursuant to Rule 36.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Legal Committee shall elect its own Chairperson. Let me also recall that the Executive Board, at its 197th session, recommended Mr Pierre Michel Eisemann of France as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee will hold its first meeting tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Room VI. I wish to recall as well that the Chairperson of the Legal Committee is a member of the Bureau.

Item 1.2: First report of the Credentials Committee (38 C/73)

Point 1.2 : Premier rapport du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs (38 C/73)

Punto 1.2: Primer informe del Comité de Verificación de Poderes (38 C/73)

Пункт 1.2: Первый доклад Комитета по проверке полномочий (38 C/73)

البند ٢، ١: التقرير الأول للجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد (٧٣/م٣٨)

项目 1.2 : 全权证书委员会的第一次报告 (38 C/73)

18. The President:

We will now proceed to item 1.2, the first report of the Credentials Committee, which will be presented by Ms Mariam Y. Katagum of Nigeria, the Chairperson of this Committee. Allow me to congratulate you, Madam, on your election as Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. You now have the floor.

19.1 Ms Katagum (Nigeria) (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee):

Thank you very much, Mr President. Permit me to congratulate you on your election and wish you a very successful term of office. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour of presenting the first report of the Credentials Committee.

19.2 At its first plenary meeting, held on Tuesday 3 November 2015, the General Conference of UNESCO, in accordance with Rules 26 and 32 of its Rules of Procedure, established a Credentials Committee for its 38th session, which consists of the following Member States, in alphabetical order: El Salvador, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Turkey and Yemen.

19.3 The Credentials Committee held its first meeting at 12.00 p.m. on the same day. The Committee elected H.E. Ms Mariam Y. Katagum, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO, as its Chairperson. At the request of the Chairperson, the Legal Adviser informed the Committee of the criteria for deciding whether credentials are valid, as laid down in Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. This Rule provides that the credentials of delegates and alternates shall be issued by the Head of State, the Head of the Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs or another minister authorized by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to issue credentials. The Legal Advisor also explained the meaning and implications of the expression "provisional credentials" according to the practice established by the General Conference of UNESCO.

19.4 The Secretariat then informed the Committee of the state of the credentials received so far. The Committee concluded that the credentials of the Member States so listed in document 38 C/73 had been issued in conformity with Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference; namely that the credentials had been issued by the Head of State, the Head of the Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs or another Minister authorized by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to issue credentials. The delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen were considered to be duly accredited.

19.5 The Committee recommends that the delegations of the above-mentioned Member States be allowed to take part in the work of the General Conference at its 38th session. The delegations of the Member States whose names appear on the screen now, and so listed in document 38 C/73, have submitted credentials in the form of notes, letters or other documents issued by a minister other than the Minister for Foreign Affairs and have not been authorized by the latter, the head of a diplomatic mission, a Permanent Delegate to UNESCO or a senior government official.

19.6 The Committee proposes that these notes, letters and other documents be accepted as the provisional credentials of the delegations of the Member States concerned, subject to the later presentation of credentials in due form, and that in the meantime these delegations be allowed to take part in the work of the General Conference at its 38th session. Credentials in due form have been submitted by the delegations of the Associate Members whose names are displayed on the screen. The Committee has also received provisional credentials of the Associate Member whose name is displayed on the screen. Credentials in due form have been submitted by the observer organization whose name is displayed on the screen. These are all also listed in document 38 C/73. The Committee proposes that these credentials should also be accepted. The delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The delegations of the Associate Members whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The observer organization whose name is displayed on the screen has not yet submitted credentials. They too are all listed in document 38 C/73. Thank you, Mr President.

20. The President:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for your report, its excellent presentation and the efficient manner in which the Committee has worked. May I take it that we agree to take note of the report contained in document 38 C/73? I see no objections. It is so **decided**.

Item 2: REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Point 2 : RAPPORTS SUR L'ACTIVITÉ DE L'ORGANISATION ET ÉVALUATION DU PROGRAMME

Punto 2: INFORMES SOBRE LAS ACTIVIDADES DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN Y EVALUACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA

Пункт 2: Доклады о деятельности Организации и оценка программы

البند ٢: تقارير عن أنشطة المنظمة وتقييم البرنامج

项目 2: 关于本组织活动的报告和计划评估

Item 2.1: Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2012-2013, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board (38 C/3)

Point 2.1 : Rapport de la Directrice générale sur l'activité de l'Organisation en 2012-2013, présenté par la Présidente du Conseil exécutif (38 C/3)

Punto 2.1: Informe de la Directora General sobre las actividades de la Organización en 2012-2013, presentado por la Presidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo (38 C/3)

Пункт 2.1: Доклад Генерального директора о деятельности Организации в 2012-2013 гг., представляемый Председателем Исполнительного совета (38 C/3)

البند ٢,١: تقرير المديرية العامة عن أنشطة المنظمة في عامي ٢٠١٢ - ٢٠١٣، قدمته رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي (٣٨/م٣)

项目 2.1 : 由执行局主席提交的总干事关于本组织 2012-2013 年活动的报告 (38 C/3)

Item 2.2: Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation (38 C/9)

Point 2.2 : Rapports du Conseil exécutif sur ses activités et sur l'exécution du programme (38 C/9)

Punto 2.2: Informes del Consejo Ejecutivo sobre sus actividades y sobre la ejecución del programa (38 C/9)

Пункт 2.2: Доклады Исполнительного совета о своей деятельности и о выполнении программы (38 C/9)

البند ٢,٢: تقارير المجلس التنفيذي عن أنشطته وعن تنفيذ البرنامج (٩/م٣٨)

项目 2.2 : 执行局关于其活动和计划执行情况的报告 (38 C/9)

21. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, we now come to the introduction to the general policy debate and we will start with item 2.1 of the agenda, "Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2012-2013, introduced by the Chair of the Executive Board". The pertinent document is 38 C/3. The Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, will also present item 2.2, "Report by the Executive Board on its activities and on programme implementation in 2014-2015, including its methods of work". The relevant document is 38 C/9 Parts I and II. The two reports will be presented by the Chair of the Executive Board. Your Excellency, Mr Amr, you now have the floor, Sir.

22.1 Mr Amr (Egypt) (Chair of the Executive Board):

Thank you very much, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure to present to the 38th session of the General Conference the oral report of the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation for the 2014-2015 biennium.

22.2 The written report for this item is contained in document 38 C/9. Part I of this document contains the report of the Board on its own activities for the biennium including its methods of work, while Part II outlines the implementation of document 37 C/5, together with results achieved in the previous biennium. In this regard, I am also pleased to introduce to the General Conference the report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2012-2013, as contained in document 38 C/3, which is customarily presented by the Chair of the Executive Board. During its 194th session, the Executive Board examined document 194 EX/4 – Draft document 38 C/3 and decided to convene meetings of the Preparatory Group between Board sessions to consider, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, ways to improve the format of results reporting, to make it more efficient and better suited to the new four-year programming cycle.

22.3 At its 195th session, the Executive Board endorsed the new proposed approach to reporting, and at its 196th session, the Director-General presented the first programme implementation report (PIR). This document represents a step forward in reporting on programme implementation, demonstrating progress towards results achievement. It also contains relevant information that the Board can use for its discussions on programme implementation.

22.4 By its 195 EX/Decision 4 (V) transmitted to the 38th session of the General Conference in document 38 C/22, the Executive Board recommended that the General Conference endorse the new format of document EX/4 and the reporting cycle on programme implementation. As with the previous biennium, 2014-2015 continued to be a challenging period for UNESCO, in which much of the work of the Executive Board was directed at strengthening the vitality of the Organization in its efforts to face a difficult budgetary situation.

22.5 It is important to note that throughout this biennium, the Board took the decisions it considered appropriate to assist the Director-General in fulfilling the 37 C/5 Approved Budget and Programme and ensure that she strive for greater impact and sharper delivery of UNESCO's programmes within the Member States while preserving and strengthening the Organization's relevance for the future, despite our budgetary constraints. During this period, the Board expressed its appreciation to the Director-General for her efforts to implement the programme and achieve the expected 37 C/5 results despite significant budgetary cuts.

22.6 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Board noted significant achievements realized in all programme areas, following its prioritization of key programmatic areas. Members also recognized the progress made in reforming the Organization as a whole. We encouraged the Director-General to continue her efforts to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of each of the major programmes.

22.7 The Board also noted that some activities had to be discontinued or postponed. The Board gladly welcomed corrective measures, including strong extrabudgetary resource mobilization, a strengthening of partnership development, the willingness of Member States to provide secondments, and increased cooperation with external partners. Programme implementation throughout the biennium was challenging. However, the Board observed that programme implementation

in each of the sectors was always generally on track. We also welcomed the Director-General and her team's dedication to programme execution, despite the challenges faced.

22.8 The Board, together with the Director-General and the Assistant Director-Generals, systematically assessed each of the programme priorities with a view to continuing to sharpen the Organization's focus. The Board also continued to encourage implementation of the Operational Strategy for Priority Africa, and the Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014-2021 (GEAP II), noting that both had helped to strengthen UNESCO's two global priorities.

22.9 During the first half of the new four-year cycle (2014-2017), the Executive Board continued to monitor the progress of programme implementation, as well as the reform initiatives undertaken by the Director-General as a follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of UNESCO. Emphasis was placed on defining a new format of results reporting with a view to aligning it with the new programming cycle and providing a basis for strategic decision-making by the Executive Board on programme implementation matters. Additionally, the Executive Board examined a number of items pertaining to each of the major programmes. I would invite you to examine in greater detail all of the progress made during the biennium for each programme sector, as outlined in document 38 C/9.

22.10 Let me also mention the attention the Board gave to the Organization's participation and engagement in United Nations-related processes, leading to the positioning of UNESCO's core mandate areas in the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, it examined a series of reports presented at each session by the Director-General on UNESCO's engagement and participation in the global and regional processes, leading to the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 held in New York in September, during which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted.

22.11 Leading up to the United Nations Summit, the Board supported a stand-alone goal on education, and amended an overarching goal of ensuring "inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030" (ED); expressed the need for a stand-alone goal on biodiversity, as well as for water, including access to water and sanitation, integrated water resources management, and disaster risk reduction (SC); highlighted the need to empower youth and to prioritize marginalized and vulnerable groups of society to ensure equality and equity (SHS); pledged to recognize in the post-2015 development agenda the key role of culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development (CLT), and also emphasized the need to include freedom of expression and the media and to reduce the digital divide (CI). It is my belief that these requests have been at least partially fulfilled by the 2030 Agenda.

22.12 Board Members also considered it important to develop steps and strengths, strategized to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as to define a framework for action at both regional and national levels to monitor implementation of the targets. This provides a series of strategic guidelines to be implemented by the Secretariat with a view to further raising awareness among Member States and ensuring that the thematic areas of education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information are properly reflected in the 2030 Agenda.

22.13 Distinguished delegates of the General Conference, let me now turn to other areas of relevance to programme implementation in which the Board took action. First, our examination of UNESCO's comprehensive partnership strategy; second, progress in the field network reform; and finally, the improved management of extrabudgetary funds.

22.14 A comprehensive reform of UNESCO's field network was approved by the General Conference at its 36th session. While the first phase of the field reform was implemented in Abuja, Dakar, Harare, Nairobi, Yaoundé and 11 other national offices, unfortunately, the financial constraints of the 2014-2015 \$507 million expenditure plan did not allow for implementation in other regions. We were continuously kept up-to-date on reform progress throughout the period. The Board also sought clarification on the accountability and responsibility of field office directors, and requested that performance agreements be developed for all directors or heads of field offices, with clear objectives and targets, accompanied by consistent performance indicators. Finally, the Board raised concerns over the size and sustainability of the current field network within the expenditure plan, and emphasized the importance of UNESCO's presence in the field alongside other United Nations agencies.

22.15 UNESCO's comprehensive partnership strategy was crafted in response to the recommendations made in the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of UNESCO. The first-ever biennial report on the strategy was presented to the Board at its 195th session. It contained an overview of the evolution and implementation of the strategy, as well as a consolidated report of progress against expected results. The Board acknowledged the importance of viewing the comprehensive strategy in a transparent manner and encouraged the Director-General to continue reflecting on its enhancement. The Board also requested that it be annexed to document 38 C/5 with targets and expected results for each category of partner covered by the strategy, and to present the next biennial report to the Executive Board at its 199th session.

22.16 A revised action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary funds was presented to the Board during its 195th session. It gave an updated presentation of the processes in place to implement the guiding principles covered by the original plan issued in 2006, and included updated processes for budgeting and cost recovery that were not included in the original plan. The Board emphasized the need for a coherent and transparent approach to the management of extrabudgetary resources, considering their growing role in comparison with the funds available under the regular programme and bearing in mind that many programmes were now relying entirely on voluntary contributions. The importance of strengthened planning, implementation and monitoring, and full alignment with the C/5 and C/4 documents was underscored.

22.17 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, while the Board constantly requested the Director-General and her team to pursue their efforts to increase the impact of programme implementation within Member States, we were also aware of the need to undertake a serious examination of our own working methods, with a view to achieving efficiencies and cost

savings and maintaining our position as global leader in our fields of competence. It was felt that with improved governance mechanisms, we would be not only a better and more efficient Organization, but also a more attractive one for external partners and potential donors. This sentiment was confirmed by the External Auditor, and during the past months an effort has been made to achieve this through the work of an informal task force on governance.

22.18 At its 197th session, the Board formulated a recommendation to the General Conference to examine further ways and means of improving our governance structure. At that time, it also recommended that the Board meet more often on a trial basis in the following biennium to better follow up, monitor and prepare decisions, to better involve non-Members of the Board and to improve working relations with the Secretariat. Also, within the framework of the Board's celebration of UNESCO's 70th anniversary, the Board decided, during its 194th session, to make full use of its role as an intellectual and cultural hub to organize a series of events and debates under the banner "UNESCO: Future Prospects". The objective of these debates was to promote the Organization's mandate and enrich UNESCO's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. High-level personalities and experts from all disciplines and regions addressed the Board during numerous meetings, providing insight and perspectives on subjects relevant to UNESCO's fields of competence, and thus enabling Members to make more informed programmatic decisions. Further information pertaining to the Board's methods of work is outlined in Part I of document 38 C/9.

22.19 Finally, with a view to celebrating our 70th anniversary, an extensive renovation of Room X was undertaken. This renovation project was welcomed and approved by the Headquarters Committee in 2014, with the work taking just under three months during the 2015 summer period. The renovation was aimed at modernizing the equipment used and improving ergonomics. This work would not have been possible without the generous support of Member States and private partners, combined with the efforts of the Director-General and the Secretariat to bring this proposal to fruition and complete the project within a very short timeframe.

22.20 Dear delegates of the General Conference, before concluding my introduction to the general policy debate, I would like to point out that during the 2014-2015 biennium, UNESCO completed its transition to the four-year programming cycle, aligning its strategic planning and management framework with the United Nations system at large. The Organization is continuing its push for reform in line with the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) in order to strengthen its results and impact for Member States.

22.21 The Executive Board repeatedly expressed concern about the possible continued non-payment of assessed contributions by Member States. It also recognized the negative impact that such a cash-flow shortfall had on UNESCO's ability to deliver effectively in its areas of competence, especially at a time when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was being approved at the United Nations. The Board continued to insist that all critical reforms be implemented to ensure a careful balance between our long-term needs and the immediate need to continue adjusting programme implementation within the current and future financial reality, to strengthen our capacity to fulfil the obligations set out in our Constitution, within the vision and mission statements outlined in the Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4), and to fully participate in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am hereby pleased to announce that the Executive Board recommends to the General Conference that it endorse our report, as outlined in document 38 C/9. Thank you very much.

Introduction by the Director-General to the general policy debate

Introduction de la Directrice générale au débat de politique générale

Introducción por la Directora General del debate de política general

Вступительное слово Генерального директора к обсуждению вопросов общей политики

تقديم المدير العام لمناقشات السياسة العامة

总干事对总政策辩论的介绍

23. The President:

Thank you very much, Mr Chair, for your presentation. Allow me to congratulate you for the work accomplished by the Executive Board and your leadership over the past biennium. Ladies and gentlemen, I now invite the Director-General to take the floor and present her introduction to the general policy debate. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

24.1 The Director-General:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on 25 September, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, Member States agreed on a new vision for humanity, the planet and peace for the next 15 years, This has happened in the year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marks the culmination of years of efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to chart a new course and to tackle remaining and new challenges.

24.2 UNESCO stands at the heart of this turning point, reflecting the leadership of Member States and the will that exists across the world to join forces, to make the most of all opportunities. And the opportunities are rich: opportunities for dialogue and cooperation, opportunities for social inclusion, opportunities for sustainable growth and peace.

24.3 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a call for deeper solidarity, for stronger collective leadership, and for ownership. This has never been more important. The new Agenda comes at a time of turbulence, when the flow of refugees has become a crisis, when poverty is rife and inequalities are deepening, when the planet faces increasing pressure. Across the world, conflicts are tearing societies apart. We are seeing an unprecedented rise in violent extremism. We are seeing the violation of human rights and dignity. We are seeing education under attack and children,

especially girls, being forced out of learning. We are seeing women excluded and raped as targets of warfare. We are seeing freedom of expression being challenged and journalists killed.

24.4 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO was created in 1945 in a world being rebuilt after a devastating war. UNESCO was founded on the idea of humanity as a single community, sharing values, a past and a future, and the ideas that lasting peace must start with human rights and human dignity, that ingenuity is humans' greatest strength for tackling complexity and building peace. These ideas resonate deeply today.

24.5 On 30 August, the Temple of Ba'al in Palmyra, a UNESCO world heritage site, was destroyed by explosives. The temple was a symbol of millennial dialogue between cultures. That is why it was destroyed. That is what I call cultural cleansing. This war crime is part of a strategy of spreading hatred and undermining peace by attacking cultural heritage, diversity, and women and men, by infringing human rights and breaking up communities.

24.6 Extremists are in fact terrified of history, which is why they attack it, because of the messages it carries of diversity and dialogue. Mosul Museum has been vandalised. Parts of ancient Hatra have been bulldozed. Nimrud has been blown up. The Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo has become a battlefield. In Iraq, two of four UNESCO world heritage sites, Hatra and Ashur, have been destroyed, along with at least nine other historic sites. In the Syrian Arab Republic, all six UNESCO world heritage sites have been damaged by fighting. Across the region, illicit excavations have taken on industrial scale, financing further violent extremism.

24.7 Ladies and gentlemen, we know from history that culture has always been a victim of war. But what we are seeing today is unprecedented. We are seeing attacks against people on the basis of ethnicity and religion. These are attacks against human rights and human dignity, against the humanity we all share.

24.8 The world may have changed since 1945, but the spirit that gave birth to UNESCO has never been more urgent. Seventy years later, we must not tire of repeating the Preamble of our Constitution: "[S]ince wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." This, I believe, expresses the essential humanism at the heart of UNESCO.

24.9 Human rights, human dignity and human ingenuity: these are our greatest renewable energies for eradicating poverty, advancing sustainable development and building peace. The UNESCO Constitution remains a wellspring of hope. I see this hope expressed in the poem "To UNESCO", written by the great poet Ko Un, from the Republic of Korea, whom this Organization welcomed just two days ago:

*How true and good can this world be?
How beautiful can this world be, after all?
To such painful questions
You reply by past and future.*

24.10 Ladies and gentlemen, the challenges are steep – they always are – but so much greater is our resolve, so much greater is the power we express through solidarity. For 70 years, UNESCO has made a promise to be the House of all humanity, the House of dialogue and diversity on the basis of rights, the House of ideas and action to set the agenda, craft solutions and deliver.

24.11 UNESCO is fulfilling this promise. UNESCO is leading the fight against cultural cleansing. UNESCO is bringing all its expertise to bear in strategies to prevent violent extremism. Violent extremism has many faces but a single goal: to spread violence, to deepen fragmentation, to attack human rights and dignity, and in fact to attack peace. It destroys heritage, it persecutes people and it violates rights, especially women's rights.

24.12 In 2012, violent extremists destroyed the mausoleums in Timbuktu, a world heritage site, in an attempt to erase the millennial history of Islam in this region. A year later, I was invited by French President François Hollande to visit Mali, and more specifically Timbuktu, and I promised that UNESCO would rebuild the mausoleums. In July 2015, I returned to Timbuktu to celebrate the rebuilding of all 14 mausoleums by UNESCO with local communities, the Minister of Culture of Mali and local builders. I saw then the power of culture to restore dignity and pride. I saw the joy of women and men retrieving their heritage and traditions. I saw the confidence this brings in building a better future. This is UNESCO's response to extremism, our response to cultural cleansing. We are mobilizing the world to stop the trafficking of cultural objects. We are acting with INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support implementation of the ground-breaking United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, prohibiting the cross-border trade of cultural goods from Syria and Iraq.

24.13 UNESCO is working with governments to strengthen legislation, build capacity and block this channel of financing for terrorism. This is our response to turbulence. UNESCO is putting forward education as a force for human rights, jobs and peace. Young women and men need skills for thinking critically. They need competences for dialogue across cultures. They need support for their aspirations to become global citizens. This is the new frontline for hearts and minds across the world. This is where UNESCO is leading the way.

24.14 In June, UNESCO organized the high-level conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism, with the support of China, Egypt and Bulgaria. In March, at the University of Baghdad with Iraqi students, I launched "#Unite4Heritage", a social media campaign that has taken off across the world. On 6 November, UNESCO is organising the first-ever High-Level Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism through Education, with the United States and others partners. To accompany educators across the world, UNESCO is developing *A Teachers' Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism*. This is our response to hate propaganda.

24.15 UNESCO is advancing education for internally displaced persons and refugees, in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, with the backing of the European Union and Kuwait. UNESCO is spearheading global citizenship education, pushing forward the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI). We are crafting education for the twenty-first century to teach new values and new ways of behaving for peace and sustainability. This is why UNESCO led the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which closed with a successful World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in 2014, and why we will lead these efforts further.

24.16 No one should be excluded. All voices must be nurtured, especially those of young people, whose ideas resonated powerfully last week at the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum. UNESCO is nurturing youth initiatives in 10 countries across the Mediterranean, through the Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth) project, backed by the European Union. UNESCO is supporting States to sharpen public policies for social inclusion, led by the flagship intergovernmental Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme. We are sharpening our foresight to shape a better future for everyone. This is our response to social exclusion. Young women and men are leading change across the world. They are also shouldering its heaviest burdens, both online and offline.

24.17 The Internet must be a force for exchange, for creativity. It must be a platform for human rights, for peace. People speak of a new generation of digital natives. I believe we need a new generation of digital citizens. This spirit underpins UNESCO's comprehensive Internet study, *Keystones to foster inclusive knowledge societies: Access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy, and ethics on a Global Internet*, requested by the General Conference at its 37th session. We need new forms of media and information literacy, we must advance global citizenship online, and we must stand up for freedom of expression.

24.18 Over the past decade, more than 700 journalists have been killed for bringing news and information to the public. As Director-General, I stand up every time and call for justice. Here again, UNESCO is leading the way. UNESCO is championing the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. We are supporting legislation, working with the police, judiciary and armed forces, building capacity and training journalists across the world in Nepal, South Sudan, Tunisia, Pakistan, Somalia, Mexico and Myanmar. We have created the Global Alliance on Media and Gender, to empower women in and through the media.

24.19 Ladies and gentlemen, all cultures are different, and this diversity is a wellspring of strength. But no society stands alone. We stand together. Humanity is one, united by aspirations, human rights and dignity. This is what UNESCO defends. This is why UNESCO is teaching the most tragic chapters of history, from the slave trade to the Holocaust, to fight against discrimination today and to prevent genocides. UNESCO is leading the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) all across the world. This spirit guided the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, in Baku, Azerbaijan, last May and the major conference on interreligious dialogue in Astana, Kazakhstan.

(The Director-General continues in Spanish)

24.20 Señoras y señores: no podemos permitir que la humanidad se divida en "nosotros" y "ellos". La historia ha demostrado dónde puede llevarnos tal división. Nadie se quedará atrás. Esta es la convicción que impulsa la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Como se afirma en la declaración que precede a los Objetivos, se trata de "una Agenda del pueblo, por el pueblo y para el pueblo". En todo el mundo, las sociedades están exigiendo un cambio. Los gobiernos han respondido. El Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Sr. Ban Ki-moon, calificó a la nueva agenda de "cambio de paradigma". Según las palabras del Secretario General, y me gustaría rendir homenaje a su liderazgo, estas metas son un modelo para un futuro mejor. Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio catalizaron grandes avances, en las sociedades de todo el mundo. En el año 2000 había cientos de millones de niños fuera de la escuela primaria; actualmente son 29 millones. Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio sacaron a millones de personas de la pobreza. Todo esto ha ayudado a los gobiernos a entender y aprovechar mejor el poder de la educación, especialmente la educación de las niñas, para el desarrollo sostenible. Estos progresos deben ser aplaudidos, y el papel de la UNESCO debe ser reconocido: por liderar el movimiento en favor de la Educación para Todos, por apoyar a los países en el aprovechamiento de las ciencias, por fomentar la cultura para la inclusión y el desarrollo, por promover la libertad de expresión y el desarrollo de los medios de comunicación, por catalizar el empoderamiento de las niñas y mujeres, por acompañar el renacimiento de África. Pero esto no es suficiente: debemos seguir adelante. La Agenda 2030 llevará a término asuntos pendientes y abordará nuevos desafíos.

24.21 Señoras y señores: estos objetivos universales y transformadores son claros: erradicar la pobreza; promover la prosperidad para todos; fortalecer la paz universal; proteger el planeta. La Agenda 2030 es ambiciosa: esto es lo que hay que hacer. La Agenda 2030 es universal: este es el único camino. El gran maestro y filósofo brasileño Paulo Freire dijo: "La gran tarea humanista e histórica de los oprimidos es liberarse a sí mismos". El nuevo programa es un programa para la liberación, liberación de la pobreza, de la exclusión. Los 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible se fundan en la visión y las competencias de la UNESCO. La visión de la UNESCO enmarca el Objetivo 4: "Garantizar una educación inclusiva y equitativa de calidad y promover oportunidades de aprendizaje permanente para todos", fruto de las consultas dirigidas por la UNESCO, el Acuerdo de Mascate y los resultados del innovador Foro Mundial sobre la Educación de 2015 celebrado en Incheon (República de Corea). Una vez más quisiera expresar mi agradecimiento a la Presidenta y al Gobierno de la República de Corea. Este objetivo refleja el amplio enfoque holístico de la UNESCO de la educación, y su visión sobre la fuerza transformadora del empoderamiento de las niñas y de las mujeres es objeto de un objetivo específico, el 5, que afecta a todos los demás.

24.22 La visión de la UNESCO en relación con el agua está incorporada en el Objetivo 6: "Garantizar la disponibilidad y la gestión sostenible del agua y el saneamiento para todos". Esto se basa en las contribuciones del Programa

Hidrologico Internacional de la UNESCO y nuestra "familia del agua": institutos, centros y cátedras. Y, señoras y señores: por primera vez, la cultura, el patrimonio cultural y la diversidad son reconocidos como facilitadores del desarrollo inclusivo y sostenible, lo que está incluido en el Objetivo 11 y en la declaración política de la Agenda 2030. Esta fue la promesa de la UNESCO, y mi compromiso personal. Gracias a todos ustedes, a nuestros asociados, a la promesa se cumple. La visión de la UNESCO ayudó a dar forma al Objetivo 14, "Conservar y utilizar sosteniblemente los océanos, los mares y los recursos marinos para el desarrollo sostenible", reflejo de la contribución de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental de la UNESCO, y de todo el trabajo de la UNESCO en la esfera de las ciencias oceánicas y la sostenibilidad. La visión de la UNESCO de la protección de los ecosistemas y de la biodiversidad se refleja en el Objetivo 15 y en el Objetivo 13, "Adoptar medidas urgentes para combatir el cambio climático y sus efectos".

24.23 La visión de la UNESCO de la importancia de la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación es reconocida en toda la nueva agenda, al igual que está integrada en ella. La visión de la UNESCO del aprovechamiento de las nuevas tecnologías de información y comunicación como multiplicadores de desarrollo. La visión de la UNESCO de la libertad de expresión y el acceso a la información como un derecho humano, para promover la transparencia, la buena gobernanza, el estado de derecho, fue tomada en cuenta. La UNESCO aporta esta misma voluntad para apoyar a los gobiernos en la preparación de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático de 2015, la COP 21. Estamos contribuyendo a ella con nuestro mandato y en todos nuestros ámbitos de competencia. Esta conferencia debe ser el éxito que el mundo necesita, y me gustaría dar las gracias al Gobierno del Perú, donde la COP tuvo lugar el año pasado, y muy particularmente al Gobierno de Francia por su liderazgo, por dirigir esta Conferencia hacia el éxito. ¿En qué mundo queremos vivir? Señoras y señores: la Agenda 2030 es nuestra respuesta. El gran escritor y diplomático mexicano Octavio Paz dijo una vez: "Merece lo que sueñas". Ahora, tenemos que ponernos a trabajar para merecer lo que soñamos, tenemos que movilizar a todas las fuentes de energía, y a todas las fuerzas. La UNESCO está lista.

(24.20) *(traduit de l'espagnol)* Mesdames et Messieurs, nous ne pouvons laisser l'humanité se scinder entre « eux » et « nous ». L'histoire nous a montré où cela pouvait mener. Personne ne sera laissé de côté. Cette conviction est l'élément moteur du *Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030*. Aux termes de la Déclaration incluse dans le Programme, il s'agit d'un « *Programme du peuple, par le peuple et pour le peuple* ». Partout dans le monde, les sociétés exigent un changement. Les gouvernements ont répondu. Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Ban Ki-moon, a décrit le nouveau programme comme un « *changement de paradigme* ». Selon le Secrétaire général, et j'aimerais lui rendre hommage pour ses qualités de chef de file : « *Ces objectifs doivent servir d'esquisse pour un avenir meilleur* ». Les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement ont produit de grandes avancées dans les sociétés du monde entier. En l'an 2000, on comptait 100 millions d'enfants non scolarisés dans l'enseignement primaire, aujourd'hui ils ne sont plus que 59 millions. Les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement ont permis à des millions de gens de sortir de la pauvreté. Tout cela a aidé les gouvernements à mieux comprendre le pouvoir de l'éducation, en particulier de l'éducation des filles, et à mieux en tirer parti aux fins du développement durable. Ce progrès doit être salué, et il convient de reconnaître le rôle de l'UNESCO, laquelle dirige le mouvement de l'Éducation pour tous, aide les pays à mettre à profit les sciences, favorise la culture pour l'inclusion et le développement, promeut la liberté d'expression et le développement des médias, accélère l'autonomisation des filles et des femmes et accompagne la renaissance de l'Afrique. Toutefois, cela ne suffit pas, nous devons continuer dans cette voie. Le *Programme 2030* permettra de finir le travail inachevé et d'aborder de nouveaux défis.

(24.21) Mesdames et Messieurs, ces objectifs, universels et porteurs de changement, sont clairs : éliminer la pauvreté, favoriser la prospérité pour tous, renforcer la paix universelle, protéger la planète. Le Programme 2030 est ambitieux – il nous montre la bonne direction. Le Programme 2030 est universel – c'est la seule façon d'avancer. Le grand enseignant et philosophe brésilien Paulo Freire a dit : « *Voilà la grande tâche humaniste et historique des opprimés : se libérer eux-mêmes* ». Le nouveau Programme est un programme de libération, libération de la pauvreté et libération de l'exclusion. Les 17 objectifs de développement durable s'appuient sur la philosophie et les compétences de l'UNESCO. La philosophie de l'UNESCO détermine l'objectif 4 : « *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* ». Cet objectif s'inspire des consultations menées par l'UNESCO, de la *Déclaration de Mascate*, et des résultats du *Forum mondial sur l'éducation 2015*, forum novateur tenu à Incheon (République de Corée). J'aimerais, à cet égard, réitérer mes remerciements au Gouvernement de la République de Corée. Cet objectif reflète l'approche exhaustive et holistique de l'éducation adoptée par l'UNESCO. La conception par l'UNESCO du pouvoir transformateur de l'autonomisation des filles et des femmes fait l'objet de l'objectif 5 mais influe sur tous les autres objectifs.

(24.22) La conception de l'eau par l'UNESCO est intégrée dans l'objectif 6 : « *Garantir l'accès de tous à l'eau et à l'assainissement et assurer une gestion durable des ressources en eau* ». Cet objectif s'appuie sur les contributions du Programme hydrologique international de l'UNESCO et de notre réseau hydrologique constitué d'instituts, de centres et de chaires. Mesdames et Messieurs, pour la première fois, la culture, le patrimoine culturel et la diversité culturelle sont pris en compte en tant que catalyseurs d'un développement inclusif et durable, ce qui figure dans l'objectif 11 et dans la déclaration politique du Programme 2030. C'était la promesse de l'UNESCO, et c'était un engagement personnel. Grâce aux États membres, la promesse est tenue. La vision de l'UNESCO a aidé à formuler l'objectif 14 : « *Conservar et exploiter de manière durable les océans, les mers et les ressources marines aux fins du développement durable* ». Cela reflète la contribution de la Commission océanique intergouvernementale de l'UNESCO, et tout le travail effectué par l'Organisation pour les sciences océaniques et la durabilité. La vision qu'a l'UNESCO de la protection des écosystèmes et de la biodiversité est reflétée dans l'objectif 15, ainsi que dans l'objectif 13 « *prendre d'urgence des mesures pour lutter contre les changements climatiques et leurs répercussions* ».

(24.23) La vision qu'a l'UNESCO de l'importance de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation est prise en considération dans l'ensemble du nouveau programme. La vision qu'a l'UNESCO de la mise à profit des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication en tant que facteurs multiplicateurs du développement est intégrée. La vision qu'a l'UNESCO de la liberté d'expression et de l'accès à l'information en tant que droit humain pour promouvoir la transparence, la bonne gouvernance et le respect du droit est prise en considération. L'UNESCO a la même volonté d'aider les gouvernements à préparer la *Conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques 2015 (COP-21)*. Nous y contribuons dans le cadre de notre mandat et de l'ensemble de nos domaines de compétence. Cette conférence doit être la réussite dont le monde a besoin, et j'aimerais remercier le Gouvernement du Pérou, qui a accueilli la COP l'année dernière, ainsi que le Gouvernement de la France, qui accueillera la COP-21, pour leur rôle de chef de file. *Dans quel monde voulons-nous vivre ?* Le Programme 2030 est notre réponse. Le grand écrivain et diplomate mexicain Octavio Paz a déclaré un jour : « *Mérite ce que tu rêves* ». Nous devons

maintenant nous atteler à mériter ce que nous rêvons, nous devons mobiliser toutes les sources d'énergie, toutes les forces. L'UNESCO est prête.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en russe)

24.24 Дамы и господа, наша общая задача - обновить фундаментальный пакт, лежащий в основе нашей Организации.

24.25 ЮНЕСКО убедительно доказала на протяжении своей долгой истории способность предлагать проекты, которые нас возвышают, которые объединяют народы вокруг высшего идеала. Почти 60 лет назад подъемные краны ЮНЕСКО переместили каменные блоки храма Абу Симбел в Египте, и вот тогда родилась идея международной солидарности, идея нашего общего культурного наследия. За последние годы ЮНЕСКО создала системы предупреждения о цунами на всех морях земного шара, вписала культурные достопримечательности, разделенные между несколькими странами на протяжении целых континентов, вдоль Шелкового пути или Дороги инков... ЮНЕСКО воссоздала мавзолеи Тимбукту... ЮНЕСКО должна постоянно держать этот уровень. Всего за одно десятилетие пройден большой путь.

24.26 Взглянем, как обстоят дела в мире с креативными индустриями, с новой ролью культуры как рычага развития экономики знаний, инноваций и новых технологий и как государства инвестируют в культуру, чтобы упрочить социальную включенность, чтобы бороться против бедности, чтобы сделать развитие прочным. Это принципиальные перемены, и это ЮНЕСКО обеспечила большинство инструментов, чтобы раскрыть этот потенциал – от Конвенции 2005 года до исторического признания роли культуры в повестке дня нового тысячелетия.

24.27 Взглянем на радикальную эволюцию всемирных дебатов о роли образования в течение последних 20 лет, которые сначала были сконцентрированы на проблемах доступа к обучению, а сегодня уже на качестве и приобретаемых знаниях...это значительное изменение, и опять же, именно ЮНЕСКО разработала инструментарий, который и определил эти подходы.

24.28 Взглянем на деятельность ЮНЕСКО в Африке, направленную на развитие научной и технологической политики: через 2 года после первого исторического форума, организованного ЮНЕСКО в Найроби, в прошлом году в Рабате была принята Министерская декларация, которая свидетельствует о небывалых политических обязательствах, принятых на этом направлении. Мы должны держать этот курс, приспосабливая постоянно наши ответы для того, чтобы лучше соответствовать эволюции современного мира.

24.29 Во все более усложняющемся мире, зачастую непредсказуемом, государства не хотят быть простыми потребителями программ. Они хотят сами их разрабатывать и сами хотят претворять их в жизнь. Это видение заложено в самом сердце ЮНЕСКО и специализированных учреждений системы ООН. Идет ли речь о нормативно-правовой поддержке государств, о советах по стратегическому развитию, об усилении возможностей – ЮНЕСКО всегда должна быть рядом с государствами, с правительствами.

24.30 ЮНЕСКО – это всемирное агентство по поддержке талантов и творчества, которые являются нашими неиссякаемыми и непревзойденными ресурсами и ключом к устойчивости. В час, когда человечество сталкивается с ограниченностью своих возможностей, с ограниченностью возможностей планеты, мы должны вкладывать еще больше и определить новые пути защиты общественного всемирного достояния: образования, обмена знаниями, культурного многообразия.

24.31 Великий Лев Толстой говорил об этом, напоминая, что каждый из нас не может знать всего, и что единственная наша надежда – обладать общим знанием, которое объединит человечество. Это отличительный знак ЮНЕСКО, который мы должны пустить в дело. И мы должны верить в наши силы, потому что мы смогли, все вместе, превратить исторический кризис в исторический рычаг реформ.

(24.24) (traduit du russe) Mesdames et messieurs, nous sommes appelés, dans cette enceinte, à renouveler le pacte fondateur de notre Organisation.

(24.25) L'UNESCO a démontré, dans sa longue histoire, sa capacité à proposer des projets qui nous élèvent, qui rassemblent les peuples autour d'un idéal supérieur. Il y a près de 60 ans, les grues de l'UNESCO ont déplacé les blocs de pierre des temples d'Abou Simbel, et c'est alors qu'est née une certaine idée de la solidarité internationale. Au cours des dernières années, l'UNESCO a fait naître des systèmes d'alerte aux tsunamis sur toutes les mers du globe... inscrit des sites culturels partagés entre plusieurs pays, à l'échelle de continents entiers, le long des Routes de la soie, ou sur la Route des Incas...l'UNESCO a reconstruit les mausolées de Tombouctou. L'UNESCO doit constamment s'élever à ce niveau. En l'espace d'une décennie, le chemin parcouru est considérable.

(24.26) Regardons le paysage mondial des industries créatives et le nouveau rôle du secteur culturel comme levier de l'économie du savoir, de l'innovation et des nouvelles technologies... et comment les États investissent dans la culture pour consolider l'inclusion sociale, lutter contre la pauvreté, inscrire le développement dans la durée. C'est un changement majeur et c'est l'UNESCO qui a donné la plupart des outils pour tirer parti de ce potentiel – de la Convention de 2005 jusqu'à la reconnaissance historique du rôle de la culture dans le Programme 2030.

(24.27) Regardons l'évolution radicale du débat mondial sur l'éducation, au cours des 20 dernières années, d'abord essentiellement centré sur l'accès, et aujourd'hui sur la qualité, les compétences... c'est un changement considérable, et là encore, l'UNESCO a conçu les outils qui structurent ce débat.

(24.28) Regardons l'engagement de l'UNESCO en Afrique, pour le développement des politiques scientifiques et technologiques : deux ans après le premier forum historique de Nairobi, la déclaration ministérielle de Rabat, l'an dernier, témoigne d'un engagement politique sans précédent sur ce sujet. C'est ce cap que nous conservons, en adaptant constamment nos réponses aux évolutions du monde actuel.

(24.29) Dans un monde plus complexe, souvent imprévisible, les États ne veulent pas simplement être les bénéficiaires de programmes. Ils veulent être capables de les concevoir et de les mettre en œuvre eux-mêmes. Cette vision est dans l'ADN de l'UNESCO et des institutions spécialisées. Qu'il s'agisse d'appui normatif aux pays, de conseil stratégique intégré, de renforcement des capacités, l'UNESCO doit être plus présente auprès des États.

(24.30) L'UNESCO est une institution mondiale pour le talent, la créativité – ce sont nos ressources renouvelables par excellence. À l'heure où l'humanité se confronte à ses limites – limites de ses moyens, limites de la planète – nous devons investir davantage et définir de nouvelles voies pour protéger les biens publics mondiaux : l'éducation, le partage des connaissances, la diversité culturelle.

(24.31) Léon Tolstoï ne disait pas autre chose, en rappelant que « Nous ne savons rien. Le seul espoir de savoir, c'est de savoir tous ensemble, c'est de fondre toutes les classes dans le savoir et la science. » C'est notre marque distinctive que nous devons mettre en œuvre. Et nous devons être confiants, car nous avons réussi, ensemble, à faire d'une crise historique un levier de réforme.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en français)

24.32 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO a été la première institution spécialisée à voir le jour après la création de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et notre anniversaire coïncide avec les 70 ans de l'ONU. Dès ma prise de fonction, j'ai pris l'engagement de rapprocher l'UNESCO des autres institutions du système, pour mieux travailler ensemble. Le contrat est rempli mais nous allons continuer sur les mêmes rails. Que ce soit avec l'ONU-Femmes et le Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population, aux fins de l'éducation des adolescentes, avec le soutien de la Banque mondiale, ou bien au sein de l'ONU-SIDA, où nous venons d'adopter une stratégie commune à 10 agences pour lutter contre le VIH/SIDA.

24.33 Dès demain, nous lancerons le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, commun à toutes les agences, qui marque aussi le leadership de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine. Je pense également au Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes, que j'ai lancé en 2011 et qui fédère aussi des partenariats privés, notamment Procter et Gamble, Packard Foundation, la compagnie aérienne chinoise Hainan, la société coréenne CJ, parmi bien d'autres.

24.34 Dans tous les domaines de son mandat, au-delà de l'éducation, l'UNESCO a resserré ses liens avec le système des Nations Unies, que soit avec l'Union internationale des télécommunications, au sein de la Commission sur le haut débit, avec l'Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime, dans la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels, avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, pour la gestion de l'eau et la protection de la biodiversité, avec l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme et le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, avec l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, pour les résolutions sur la culture et le développement ou la sécurité des journalistes, ou encore avec le Conseil de sécurité, pour traiter du lien entre la culture, l'éducation et la prévention de l'extrémisme violent.

24.35 L'UNESCO a montré sa capacité à conduire des initiatives globales au nom des Nations Unies – le Conseil consultatif scientifique auprès du Secrétaire général de l'ONU, hébergé par l'UNESCO, et l'Initiative de M. Ban Ki-moon l'Éducation avant tout.

24.36 L'UNESCO participe à la mise en œuvre du mécanisme mondial de transfert des technologies (MTT), qui peut révolutionner le partage des savoir-faire entre pays et le paysage de la formation et des compétences, et elle doit être à l'avant-poste dans ce domaine. L'UNESCO s'est servie de cette logique de partenariat pour élargir sa base de donateurs, et surtout repenser ses moyens de financement avec le développement de fonds au bénéfice du donateur, des partenariats de long terme, plus prévisibles, et de nouveaux schémas de coopération Sud-Sud. Voilà concrètement, Mesdames et Messieurs, comment l'UNESCO se transforme. Il faut aller plus loin : l'Agenda 2030 suppose des adaptations à tous les niveaux.

24.37 Le message que je veux faire passer aujourd'hui est que l'UNESCO est prête et récolte les fruits de la réforme, et que nous allons poursuivre dans cette voie. L'UNESCO participe déjà aux projets pilotes de partage des ressources entre institutions, pour gagner en synergie. Elle a investi dans de nouveaux outils de gestion de l'information, connectés entre les services et sur le terrain. Grâce au nouveau portail de transparence, chacun peut voir, d'un simple clic, où va l'argent des donateurs et pour quel impact. C'est un changement radical. Nous avons remis à plat la plupart de nos outils d'évaluation, d'une manière qui a été saluée par le Corps commun d'inspection du système des Nations Unies. L'UNESCO est l'une des toutes premières institutions du système à avoir adopté les Normes comptables internationales pour le secteur public (IPSAS), qui sont opérationnelles depuis 2010.

24.38 L'UNESCO a accueilli cette année le Conseil des chefs de secrétariat, et nous sommes pleinement engagés dans la réforme de tout le système des Nations Unies au sein du Comité de haut niveau sur la gestion (HLCM) que je préside depuis un an.

24.39 La Conférence générale examine à cette session un programme et budget conçu à partir d'une gestion axée sur les résultats, ce qui nous place parmi les institutions leaders dans ce domaine. Lors de la dernière session de la Conférence générale, vous aviez adopté plusieurs mesures pour repenser les relations avec nos partenaires, les ONG, les ambassadeurs de bonne volonté, le secteur privé. Nous avons scrupuleusement mis en œuvre ces orientations. Le réseau des chaires UNESCO a été réformé, de même que le réseau des centres de catégorie 2. La coopération avec les commissions nationales connaît un renouveau dont vous êtes nombreux à témoigner, et je vous en suis reconnaissante. Surtout, malgré la crise et le manque de financements, nous avons poursuivi la réforme du dispositif hors Siège en Afrique. Il aurait été plus facile de suspendre ces efforts en attendant des jours meilleurs. Nous avons préféré anticiper. Nous avons absorbé les coûts de la réforme, simplifié le dispositif, renforcé l'autonomie des bureaux et renouvelé leurs directeurs, en mettant l'accent sur l'égalité des genres. Les progrès de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine viennent d'ailleurs

d'être salués par l'ONU-Femmes 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.

24.40 Bien sûr, l'UNESCO a souffert de la crise. Les programmes ont souffert, et souffrent encore. J'ai supprimé près de 500 postes sur 2 800 et redéployé le personnel d'une manière qui a été saluée par la Fédération des associations de fonctionnaires internationaux (FICSA). L'UNESCO est aujourd'hui plus transparente, plus active dans ses deux priorités globales, l'Afrique et l'Égalité des genres, et transformée dans ses méthodes de travail. J'appelle néanmoins à investir dans l'UNESCO, dans la qualité de son réseau et de ses équipes, pour construire cette organisation plus forte dont vous avez besoin.

24.41 Mesdames et Messieurs, le 1^{er} novembre 1945, Archibald MacLeish ouvrait la première session de la Conférence générale par ces mots: « L'UNESCO doit aider les peuples à mieux se connaître les uns et les autres, pour qu'ils se reconnaissent comme les membres d'une seule humanité ». Se reconnaître comme une seule humanité : 70 ans plus tard, dans un monde traversé de fractures et doté de nouveaux outils de dialogue, cette ambition reste intacte, même si les moyens d'y répondre doivent être modernisés.

24.42 Le poète Édouard Glissant disait qu'« après avoir découvert le monde entier, nous devons découvrir le monde ensemble ». Vivre ensemble, et pas seulement côte à côte. Vivre ensemble dans des sociétés diversifiées, où les discours abstraits sur le « dialogue des cultures » ne suffisent plus. Il faut trouver des moyens concrets de vivre ensemble au quotidien – défaire les préjugés, construire les défenses contre le racisme, l'antisémitisme, l'intolérance, dans les médias ou dans la rue, fortifier les droits humains qui nous rassemblent, au contact permanent de la diversité. C'est la nouvelle frontière de la diversité culturelle, et ce défi s'inscrit dans un processus historique de longue durée.

24.43 Depuis les grandes découvertes du 16^e siècle jusqu'aux nouvelles technologies d'aujourd'hui, l'humanité a montré sa capacité à créer des contacts et abolir les distances. Il n'y a pas un endroit isolé du globe qui n'ait été intégré au reste de l'humanité, sans distinction de race, d'origine ou de religion. L'enjeu n'est plus d'abolir les distances physiques, mais les distances morales – passer de la « mise en contact » à la « mise en commun ». C'est la proposition que j'ai faite d'un nouvel humanisme. L'enjeu, c'est de construire une nouvelle relation avec les autres et aussi avec l'environnement, qui n'est pas seulement un espace à exploiter dont nous serions « maîtres et possesseurs », mais un lieu où vivre en harmonie, y compris avec les êtres vivants non humains, la biodiversité. La diversité culturelle est inséparable de la biodiversité : l'UNESCO affirmait déjà ce principe il y a 15 ans. Aujourd'hui, alors que les scientifiques nous alertent sur une nouvelle « extinction massive des espèces » et que nous voyons en même temps les extrémistes se livrer au nettoyage culturel, l'UNESCO doit sonner l'alarme.

24.44 Devant ce défi colossal, tous les États mesurent la profonde pertinence et la cohérence de notre mandat, et le besoin de traiter ensemble l'éducation, le dialogue des cultures, la liberté de la presse, qui sont des armes de résistance et de résilience, le besoin d'investir dans la recherche, la prévention des risques, l'éducation au développement durable. Nous voyons tous les jours que cela est possible. Je pense au projet scientifique Sésame, en Jordanie, qui rassemble des scientifiques de tous les horizons et qui reprend, 60 ans après, le projet du CERN créé à l'initiative de l'UNESCO. Je pense aux sites du patrimoine transfrontaliers, aux réserves naturelles partagées entre plusieurs pays, notamment à celles de notre Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère. Je pense aux cultures ancestrales qui nous alertent sur les dangers des tsunamis, que ce soit dans des stèles de pierre au Japon, qui marquent l'emplacement de la montée des eaux, ou dans l'architecture traditionnelle des Maldives, qui sauve des vies. Ce savoir relie entre elles les générations successives. Je pense aux élans de solidarité qui dépassent les frontières, aux foules immenses de Londres et Bagdad, de Rio et de Mumbai, qui ont exprimé leur volonté d'être debout face à l'extrémisme, après les attentats de Paris, de Copenhague, de Bamako et de Tunis.

24.45 Le philosophe Emmanuel Kant disait que l'enthousiasme qui nous anime lorsque nous voyons d'autres hommes et femmes se lever pour des valeurs universelles, à l'autre bout du monde, crée en nous le sentiment d'appartenir à une même humanité, engagée vers le progrès, vers une exigence morale. Ce sont ces valeurs que l'UNESCO a le devoir de propager. Et c'est pourquoi, dans ce monde aux multiples fractures, les États membres de l'UNESCO doivent utiliser le patrimoine, matériel, immatériel, documentaire, comme une force de rapprochement et non de division. Notre responsabilité est de faire vivre des projets qui nous rassemblent, dans tous les domaines : consolider le Système mondial d'observation de l'océan, accessible à tous en temps réel, 50 ans après le lancement du Système d'alerte aux tsunamis ; assurer l'accès à une éducation de qualité pour tous, en utilisant le potentiel des nouvelles technologies ; constituer des archives de notre mémoire commune et des manuels d'histoires en commun ; protéger des sites du patrimoine partagés, au carrefour de plusieurs cultures, confessions, ou États ; changer de regard, par exemple, sur les petits États insulaires, qui sont en réalité de vastes États océaniques en première ligne du changement climatique et dont l'expertise est vitale pour le monde – dans l'esprit de l'Agenda de Samoa.

24.46 Partout dans le monde, des initiatives suscitent l'espoir et nous montrent les infinies ressources du talent humain, sa capacité à créer de nouvelles formes de solidarité. Voilà, Mesdames et Messieurs, ce qu'est le nouvel humanisme. Si l'humanité a réussi, par la science et la technologie, à poser un petit robot sur une comète à 500 millions de kilomètres de la Terre, après 10 ans de voyage dans l'espace, elle peut réussir, par l'éducation et la culture, à construire une citoyenneté mondiale, ouverte sur les autres, ouverte sur le monde. La culture, j'en suis convaincue, nous indique la voie : elle enseigne la tolérance et montre qu'il n'y a pas de « culture pure », car nos destins sont liés et s'enrichissent mutuellement, constamment.

24.47 L'extrémisme aura toujours peur de la culture parce que celle-ci incarne l'unité du genre humain dans sa diversité. C'est le message des bustes funéraires de Palmyre, qui nous parlent de la rencontre des peuples de l'Europe et de l'Asie, le long des routes caravanières du Moyen-Orient. C'est le message des voyageurs des routes de la Soie, qui ont porté jusqu'en Chine les préceptes du bouddhisme, de l'islam et du christianisme, et jusqu'en Europe le papier, la

boussole et le thé. C'est le message de la sagesse Ubuntu, que l'on retrouve sous diverses formes dans toutes les cultures du monde : nous avons besoin des autres pour être pleinement nous-mêmes.

24.48 À notre tour de transmettre ce message et de dire, par exemple, que si la Renaissance européenne s'est nourrie de savoirs grecs transmis par les Arabes, aujourd'hui les manuscrits de Tombouctou font rêver d'une autre renaissance, née des sables du Sahel, aux sources d'une sagesse islamique millénaire. C'est ce pacte fondamental, pour l'humanisme et pour la diversité culturelle, que nous sommes appelés à renouer. C'était le vœu des fondateurs de l'UNESCO. Il leur a fallu de l'audace, en 1945, pour oser parler de solidarité intellectuelle dans les décombres de la guerre. Devant les urgences du monde actuel, nous devons retrouver la même audace visionnaire : elle est l'âme de l'UNESCO, et résiste au passage du temps.

24.49 Je terminerai, Mesdames et Messieurs, en citant le grand Naguib Mahfouz, qui disait que « la vérité et la justice demeureront aussi longtemps que l'humanité aura un esprit réfléchi et une conscience en éveil ». C'est bien là notre mission première : maintenir en éveil cette « conscience de l'humanité » dont parlait Jawaharlal Nerhu. Nous y sommes plus déterminés que jamais et, à 70 ans, l'UNESCO n'a jamais été aussi jeune, aussi profondément actuelle et pertinente. Elle va continuer à se renouveler et à innover, pour le développement durable et pour la paix. Je vous remercie.

25.1 The President:

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General, and congratulations on this most comprehensive introduction to the general policy debate, which lays a solid foundation for our forthcoming work. Ladies and gentlemen, we have another very special guest paying us a visit this afternoon, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance of the United Arab Emirates. I will now suspend the meeting for five minutes in order to welcome our distinguished visitor. I kindly ask you all to remain in your seats.

The meeting is suspended briefly to allow the President of the General Conference to welcome Sheikh Hamdan to Room I and escort him to his place

25.2 Your Highness, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to welcome to UNESCO His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum is one of the UAE's longest serving ministers who has overseen the country's process of modernization and development over the past decades. As a benefactor and patron of several awards and scholarship programmes, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum supports distinguished young scholars, researchers, scientists and medical institutions. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum is a great benefactor and we are honoured to count him among the true friends of our Organization. Your Highness, we are eager to hear your address to the General Conference, and I now have the distinguished honour and privilege of inviting you to take the floor.

٢٦,١ الشيخ حمدان بن راشد آل مكتوم (الإمارات العربية المتحدة):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، سعادة السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا المدير العام لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة (اليونسكو)، سعادة رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، السيدات والسادة الحضور الكرام، يسعدني تلبية دعوتكم الكريمة لحضور أعمال الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين لمؤتمركم العام. وأقدر هذه الفرصة التي أتاحت لي التحدث إليكم مباشرة ضمن شراكة تهدف إلى سعادة البشرية. ويطيب لي في بداية كلمتي أن أنقل إليكم تحيات حكومة وشعب دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وعلى رأسها صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان رئيس الدولة "حفظه الله"، وصاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم، نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي "رعاه الله"، وأصحاب السمو أعضاء المجلس الأعلى للاتحاد، حكام الإمارات.

٢٦,٢ الحضور الكرام، بكل فخر واعتزاز، أبلغكم بأن الإمارات تُسخر مكوناتها البشرية والمادية والثقافية لترسيخ القيم النبيلة، وتتفاعل مع القضايا الإنسانية لوضع الحلول المستدامة لمشكلات العصر، لاسيما الفقر والجهل والمرض والكوارث الطبيعية والأزمات، فحرصت على أن تكون آلة بناء مساندة للجهود الدولية في مساعدة النازحين وإغاثة المنكوبين وإيواء المشردين وعلاج المرضى ودعم التعليم وتوفير المياه والغذاء وبناء المدارس والمستوصفات والبنى التحتية. وبفضل نواياها الصادقة وإسهاماتها تلك، تبوأَت دولة الإمارات مركزاً متقدماً في ترتيب الدول الأكثر منحةً للمساعدات الإنمائية في عام ٢٠١٣ بقيمة إجمالية بلغت أكثر من ٥ مليارات دولار أمريكي، وجهت إلى أكثر من ١٣٧ دولة ومنطقة جغرافية حول العالم من خلال ٤٣ مؤسسة إنسانية وخيرية تعمل في دولة الإمارات، هذا إضافةً إلى المبادرات الشخصية المتعددة من أبناء الإمارات، ومنها على سبيل المثال: مبادرة صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة من خلال مؤسسة خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان للأعمال الإنسانية التي وصلت مساعداتها إلى ٨٧ دولة. كما أطلق صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم، نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي، مؤسسة مبادرات محمد بن راشد العالمية التي تُعد إحدى أكبر المؤسسات الداعمة للتنمية الإنسانية وتستهدف حتى عام ٢٠٢٥ تقديم خدمات تنموية لأكثر من مائة وثلاثين مليون إنسان، من خلال استثمار خمسة مليارات ونصف المليار درهم في حاضنة الابتكار، وثلاثة مليارات في إنشاء مراكز الأبحاث والمستشفيات، ومليار ونصف المليار درهم في مبادرات تعليمية ومعرفية، و٦٠٠ مليون درهم في نشر ثقافة التسامح وغيرها في ١١٦ دولة حول العالم.

٢٦,٣ السيدات والسادة، أود أن أعرب عن خالص تقديري لجهودكم الطيبة في مجال التعليم بما فيها دعم المبادرات المحلية لبناء مجتمع علمي للمعرفة تسوده القيم النبيلة. إن التعليم في دولة الإمارات يشهد تحولاً نوعياً وفق رؤية متكاملة نحو الانتقال إلى التعلم الذكي بفضل الدعم الحكومي والمبادرات المجتمعية المساندة. وقد كان لتبنيكم مبادراتنا للأداء التعليمي المتميز وشراكتنا في جائزة اليونسكو - حمدان بن راشد آل مكتوم لمكافحة الممارسات والجهود المتميزة لتحسين أداء المعلمين، نموذجاً ناجحاً من التعاون حيث تقيّد التقارير المحايدة ازدياد عدد المتميزين من عناصر المنظومة التعليمية والاستعداد التام لتحقيق الجودة في التعليم

بفضل ثقافة المعرفة التي بدأت بها الجائزة واستمرت على مدى ١٧ عاماً وحتى الآن. وإن الرغبة تدفعنا نحو المزيد من العمل وبذل الجهود بالتعاون مع اليونسكو لإتاحة مزيد من الفرص لمكافأة الممارسات المتميزة للمعلمين في الدول النامية. إن اهتمامنا في دولة الإمارات بالتعليم يسير متناغماً مع ترسيخ ثقافة الحضارة الإنسانية في الوعي التربوي، حيث أن التراث الإنساني يستحوذ على انتباهنا باستمرار نظراً لقيمتها العلمية والتاريخية. ومن هذا المنطلق، ندين أي مساس أو تدمير لآثار الحضارات الإنسانية أينما وجدت. وإنا ندرك تماماً حجم التحديات التي تواجهنا، ونشهد بكل أسف صور الصراعات الدولية والإرهاب والدمار، لذا وجب توحيد الجهود من أجل مستقبل أكثر إشراقاً وازدهاراً للبشرية. أشكركم جميعاً، وفقكم الله وبارك جهودكم، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(26.1) **Cheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum** (Émirats arabes unis) (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Madame Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO), Monsieur le Président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie de votre généreuse invitation à participer aux travaux de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale, et j'apprécie à sa juste valeur l'occasion qui m'est donnée de m'adresser à vous directement dans le cadre d'un partenariat visant à assurer le bonheur de l'humanité. Je voudrais tout d'abord vous transmettre les salutations du Gouvernement et du peuple des Émirats arabes unis, avec à leur tête le Président de l'État, Son Altesse le Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (que Dieu le protège), le Vice-Président de l'État, Premier Ministre et Gouverneur de Doubaï, Son Altesse le Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum (que Dieu le préserve), et leurs Altesse les membres du Conseil fédéral suprême et gouverneurs des Émirats.

(26.2) Mesdames et Messieurs, je peux affirmer, non sans fierté, que les Émirats utilisent leurs ressources humaines, matérielles et culturelles pour promouvoir de nobles valeurs, et se penchent sur les questions humaines pour trouver des solutions durables aux problèmes du moment, notamment la pauvreté, l'ignorance, la maladie, les catastrophes naturelles et les crises. Les Émirats tiennent à appuyer efficacement les efforts internationaux visant à aider les déplacés, à secourir les sinistrés, à accueillir les sans-abris, à soigner les malades, à soutenir l'éducation, à assurer l'approvisionnement en eau et en nourriture et à construire des écoles, des dispensaires et des infrastructures. Grâce à leurs nobles intentions et à leurs contributions, les Émirats occupaient en 2013 un rang élevé dans le classement des principaux pays donateurs en matière d'aide au développement, avec un montant total de plus de 5 milliards de dollars versés à plus de 137 pays et régions géographiques dans le monde par l'intermédiaire de 43 organismes humanitaires et de bienfaisance opérant aux Émirats. S'ajoutent à cela les nombreuses initiatives individuelles des habitants des Émirats, notamment celle prise par le Président des Émirats arabes unis, Son Altesse le Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, à travers la Fondation Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan pour les œuvres humanitaires, qui est venue en aide à 87 pays. Le Vice-Président de l'État, Premier Ministre et Gouverneur de Doubaï, Son Altesse le Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, a pour sa part créé la Fondation *Global Initiatives*. Il s'agit d'une des plus grandes fondations d'aide au développement humain et son objectif, d'ici 2025, est d'appuyer le développement de plus de 130 millions de personnes en consacrant, entre autres, 5,5 milliards de dirhams à l'innovation, 3 milliards de dirhams à la construction de centres de recherche et d'hôpitaux, 1,5 milliard de dirhams à des initiatives dans le domaine de l'éducation et du savoir, et 600 millions de dirhams à la promotion d'une culture de la tolérance dans 116 pays à travers le monde.

(26.3) Mesdames et Messieurs, je tiens à vous dire combien j'apprécie les efforts louables que vous déployez dans le domaine de l'éducation, notamment l'appui que vous apportez aux initiatives locales visant à édifier une société mondiale du savoir fondée sur des valeurs élevées. L'éducation aux Émirats connaît une mutation qualitative axée sur une vision intégrée et une transition vers un apprentissage intelligent s'appuyant sur l'aide du Gouvernement et des initiatives sociétales. L'accueil favorable que vous avez réservé à notre initiative en faveur des pratiques éducatives exemplaires, ainsi qu'à notre partenariat dans le Prix UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum récompensant des pratiques et des performances exemplaires pour améliorer l'efficacité des enseignants, est un parfait exemple de coopération. Des rapports impartiaux relèvent d'ailleurs une augmentation du nombre d'enseignants ayant des performances exemplaires ainsi que leur volonté d'offrir un enseignement de qualité grâce à la culture du savoir instaurée par ce prix il y a 17 ans. Nous aspirons à poursuivre notre action et à intensifier nos efforts, en coopération avec l'UNESCO, afin de multiplier les possibilités de récompenser les pratiques exemplaires d'enseignants dans les pays en développement. L'intérêt porté à l'enseignement aux Émirats va de pair avec la promotion de la culture de la civilisation humaine dans la démarche éducative, car le patrimoine humain fixe constamment l'attention en raison de sa valeur éducative et historique. C'est pourquoi nous condamnons toute atteinte aux vestiges des civilisations humaines, et tout acte de destruction visant ces derniers, partout dans le monde. Nous sommes parfaitement conscients de l'ampleur des défis et suivons avec regret les conflits internationaux et les actes de terrorisme et de destruction, d'où la nécessité d'unir les efforts en vue d'un avenir plus prospère et plus radieux pour l'humanité. Merci à vous tous. Que Dieu vous bénisse et récompense vos efforts. Que la paix et la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your inspiring words, Your Highness. Ladies and gentlemen, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum is so humble that he did not even mention in his speech that he has made an important donation to UNESCO. Part of this very generous donation will benefit UNESCO's educational programmes, while the remainder will be dedicated to renovating this conference room where we are. Your Highness, on behalf of all Member States, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous endowment you have made to UNESCO, an endowment which will ensure a long-lasting legacy. I believe we can safely say that Room I will never be the same after your visit. Ladies and gentlemen, before I adjourn this meeting, can I kindly ask you to remain seated while Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum and his entourage leave the room.

Sheikh Hamdan is escorted from Room I.

28. **The President:**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have now come to the end of our second plenary meeting of this General Conference. Our work will resume tomorrow at 10 a.m. sharp. I would like to kindly ask all delegates to be in their seats by 9.45 a.m. to enable us to start our work on time. I also wish to remind the Members of the Bureau that we will hold our first meeting tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in Room X. Before adjourning the meeting, I wish to give the floor to the Secretary for a brief announcement. Mr Rao, you have the floor.

29.1 **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Deux annonces. D'une part, tout de suite après la clôture de cette séance aura lieu dans le hall Ségur l'inauguration de l'exposition « Mosaïque du changement » organisée à l'occasion du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO et de la 38^e Conférence générale.

29.2 Ensuite, à 19 heures ce soir, le Président de la Conférence générale et la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO donneront une réception à l'occasion de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale en l'honneur des chefs de délégation et des ambassadeurs auprès de l'UNESCO, au 7^e étage du bâtiment. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

30. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Rao, for those announcements and thank you all for your attention. *The meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.
La séance est levée à 17 h 50
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50
Заседание закрывается в 17.50
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٥,٥٠ بعد الظهر
会议于 17 时 50 分结束*

Third plenary meeting

Wednesday 4 November 2015 at 10.15 a.m.

President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Troisième séance plénière

Mercredi 4 novembre 2015 à 10 h 15

Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Tercera sesión plenaria

Miércoles 4 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.15

Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Третье пленарное заседание

среда 4 ноября 2015 г. в 10.15

Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الثالثة

الأربعاء ٤ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً
الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第三次全体会议

2015年11月4日星期三 10时15分

主席：Simataa 先生 (纳米比亚)

Report on the work of the Bureau
Rapport sur les travaux du Bureau
Informe sobre las labores de la Mesa
Доклад Президиума о проделанной работе
تقرير عن عمل المكتب
主席团的工作报告

1. **The President:**

Good morning. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, now we have a quorum, and we can start with today's meeting. I declare open the third plenary meeting of the General Conference, which will be devoted to the general policy debate. Before we start with the national statements, I wish to inform the delegates that the Bureau held its first meeting this morning and I wish to call on the Secretary of the General Conference to report on this meeting. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

2. **The Secretary:**

Thank you Mr President. This morning the Bureau examined item 1.6, the organization of the work of the session, and decided to recommend to the General Conference that the work of this 38th session be organized along the lines and timetable contained in document 38 C/2 Prov. Rev. Thank you, Mr President.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Rao. Dear colleagues, the Bureau also discussed this morning the moment for the discussion by this plenary on item 8.3, which is the request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO. The Bureau fixed the discussion on this item for Monday, 9 November at 8.15 p.m., after the end of the reply of the Director-General to the general policy debate, subject, however, to the information provided to the Bureau at its next meeting on Friday, 6 November by the Credentials Committee and by the Chairperson of the APX Commission concerning the establishment of voting rights for this session. May I take it that the General Conference agrees to take note of this report? I see no objections. *It is so **decided**.*

General policy debate (continued)

Débat de politique générale (suite)

Debate de política general (continuación)

Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (продолжение)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)

总政策辩论 (续)

4. **The President:**

And now, ladies and gentlemen, let us start with the general policy debate. Yesterday afternoon, the Chair of the Executive Board reported on the work of the Board over the past two years. The Director-General assessed the achievements made by UNESCO and eloquently outlined her vision for the Organization in the following years. It was indeed a pleasure, Madam Director-General, to listen to your report delivered, unlike me, in four official languages of the General Conference. And now, it is time for each Member State representative to present your country's vision for UNESCO. The national statements will start today, and continue all day tomorrow and Friday before finishing on Saturday morning. The Director-General and her senior management team seated here on the podium will follow closely all your remarks and deliberations. The Director-General will deliver her reply to the general policy debate on Monday morning. Before we start with our first speaker, please allow me to remind you that each head of delegation will have six minutes to address the plenary. Now, I understand – and I am doing this from experience too in the Executive Board – that it is difficult to address complex issues in such a short intervention. I am also fully aware that many of you distinguished ministers and heads of delegations have travelled from afar to share your wisdom and concerns. However, it is in the interests of all of us to keep within the six-minute timeframe in order to have an efficient, productive and balanced debate. If you have already prepared a longer speech, you may request authorization to publish the extended version of your text. To help you time your interventions, we have again placed at your disposal a visual and also a sound system; a brief musical signal will indicate that you have one minute left to finish your speech. Once you have reached the end of the allocated time, different pieces of world music will start playing. They will rise in crescendo if the speech continues. In addition to that, as President of the General Conference, I am empowered to interrupt any speaker exceeding the limit, although I am sure this will not be necessary. I thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this regard. I now have the pleasure to call on our first speaker this morning, His Excellency the Honourable Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Malaysia. Sir, you have the floor.

5.1 **Mr Khalid (Malaysia):**

Mr President of the 38th session of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honoured to be here today at the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO to embrace the significance of humankind's efforts towards sustaining world peace. It is also a momentous occasion as we mark the 70th year of UNESCO's establishment in creating a better world based on compassion, tolerance and goodwill. We have come a long way since the end of the Second World War and have worked hard to sustain this harmony. However, recent events have shown a decline in this and it is therefore imperative that we reflect on the original purpose of our existence.

5.2 The recently launched Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations have highlighted 17 global goals to achieve sustainable growth, development, and prosperity for both people and planet Earth. The introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals is most appropriate considering the various insurgencies, civil war, terrorism and armed conflicts that are currently taking place in many parts of the world. Malaysia has consistently been steadfast in its stance against violent extremism and this was recently reiterated during the Leaders' Summit on Countering Violent Extremism held at the United Nations General Assembly, where Malaysia announced its decision to join a coalition of 60 countries to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Ruthlessness during times of war and desperation has brought destruction of world heritage sites and cities in front of our own eyes with irreversible consequences. To Malaysia, preservation of heritage and culture is of utmost importance, and this can be reflected through its involvement as a member of the World Heritage Committee (WHC).

5.3 In the last few months, our attention has been focused on the migrant crisis faced by some of our Member States, which have witnessed marginalized civilians fleeing their countries in massive numbers. In support of building a new life, UNESCO advocates for education to be made a priority and that refugee children should be accorded the basic education they deserve.

5.4 Malaysia has also pledged to promote green growth, which includes the use of renewable energy. Solar power has been identified as an important source of energy and Malaysia has set a target of 10% of its total energy generation from solar technology by the year 2020. I myself had the opportunity to conduct learning lessons on climate change with a group of Malaysian students as part of the World's Largest Lesson (WLL) project initiated by the United Nations.

5.5 All in all, quality education is a vital foundation to empower youth worldwide towards sustainable development of people and our planet. The nurturing of positive values and advancement in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) can be powerful tools to problem-solve many of the issues described earlier. While huge progress has been achieved to provide equitable education worldwide through education for all (EFA), there is still much to be done. The recent adoption of the Incheon Declaration will continue to provide guidelines on how to accomplish these goals. Malaysia has embarked on various initiatives targeted at disadvantaged community segments such as the "Schools in Hospitals" programme for children who are medically impaired and the Sekolah Bimbingan Jalinan Kasih (SBJK) programme for homeless and street children.

5.6 Since 2013, Malaysia has embarked on a transformational journey of its relatively complex education system to create a culture of lifelong learning. We have introduced the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) course which aims to develop human capital and skilled labour, preparing graduates for the job market, and ultimately contribute to boosting the economy. In support of this development, UNESCO, together with the Malaysian Government, held the Asia-Pacific Conference on Education and Training (ACET) recently in Kuala Lumpur, focusing on the theme of nurturing skills development and coming up with future commitments through the Kuala Lumpur Declaration. In upholding accountability throughout this transformational journey, we have produced annual reports describing key successes and challenges and we will be more than happy to share further details with interested Member States. Thank you, Mr President.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Lundeg Purevsuren, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

7.1 **Mr Purevsuren (Mongolia):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of my delegation and in my own name, I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election to this high office and express my full confidence that under your wise and able leadership our deliberations will produce fruitful results. You can count on my delegation's full support. We warmly welcome the delegation of Montserrat in joining UNESCO as its tenth Associate Member, and wish it fruitful cooperation with the UNESCO family.

7.2 Mr President, I am delighted to address, for this first time in my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and Chairman of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the 38th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture, well known as the "intellectual arm" of the United Nations. As this session coincides with the anniversary of UNESCO, it is indeed my great honour to deliver to this august body the Government of Mongolia's views on the Organization's past tremendous achievements and future ambitious goals in promoting the noble cause of lasting peace.

7.3 Just two months ago, 193 United Nations members unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, to take the bold and transformative steps urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. By successfully implementing SDG 4, "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" and its corresponding targets, we can complete the "unfinished business" of the worldwide movement for education for all (EFA) initiated in Jomtien in 1990 and reiterated in Dakar in 2000. In this regard, let me stress the importance of the historic World Education Forum (WEF), which took place in May 2014 in Incheon, in the Republic of Korea, for taking stock of progress made towards the EFA goals since 2000 and the education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), examining the remaining challenges, and defining a new vision for education.

7.4 I am pleased to note that Mongolia was one of the co-sponsors of the United Nations resolution on the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) designed to provide an impetus for achieving the six EFA goals and developing literate environments. Literacy is the precondition not only for exercising fundamental human rights, but also for acquiring

essential life skills and basic education, which are indispensable means for effective participation in the societies of the twenty-first century.

7.5 Nowadays, basic literacy skills are not perceived as reading and writing only. They also comprise computing skills enabling people to function effectively in information technology-based or Internet-based societies and make informed life choices. Hence, I am pleased to note that, in order to make its contribution to promoting online freedom, Mongolia successfully held the fifth ministerial conference of the Freedom Online Coalition in May 2015 in Ulaanbaatar. Online freedom as one of the “global commons” is essential for human and sustainable development as well as for the realization of human rights.

7.6 Furthermore, integrating education for democracy, along with civic education, into national education standards and programmes is crucial for the consolidation of democratic values and democratic governance and human rights. In this regard, I wish to underline that Mongolia’s endeavours aimed at developing a culture of democracy and fostering global citizenship, by initiating the resolution on education for democracy, adopted at the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly in November 2012, and the resolution on supporting the global citizenship agenda through education for democracy, adopted at the 37th session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2013 respectively.

7.7 Mr President, science, technology and innovation are the key solutions to today’s tough economic, social and environmental challenges and to achieving sustainable development and building greener economies. Hence, Mongolia fully supports, and seeks to benefit from, the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, launched as part of UNESCO’s endeavours in the Social and Human Sciences Sector and with the purpose of producing reliable and relevant knowledge for policy-makers. Since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is about social transformation, the MOST programme is very relevant to successfully achieving its all-ambitious goals and targets. As culture in its various manifestations is an enabler of social and economic progress and a driving force of sustainable development, its potential should be extensively exploited.

8. **The President:**

Your Excellency, my sincere apologies. Sorry, time is up. Your speech will be available online. Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your cooperation. The next speaker is His Excellency the Honourable Dr Mahendra Reddy, Minister of Education, Heritage and Arts of Fiji. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

9.1 **Mr Reddy (Fiji):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen, *bula vinaka* to you all. Allow me to extend my profound congratulations to UNESCO on behalf of Fiji’s Government for having reached its 70th anniversary this month. Fiji celebrates with the rest of the world in acknowledging the immense contributions of UNESCO to education, culture, sciences, communication and information. I pay tribute to those visionary leaders who helped steer the Organization successfully and strategically through very unstable and challenging periods since its inception in November, 1945, to achieve long-lasting peace throughout the world. I reaffirm with deep conviction that we all must embrace UNESCO’s vision, that it is in the minds of men and women that wars begin and it is in the minds of women and men that peace shall be built.

9.2 Mr President, in my maiden speech this morning in this august body of UNESCO, I would like to reflect on Fiji’s achievements. You are well aware that Fiji successfully completed its general elections in September last year, giving a clear mandate to the Fiji First Party to govern Fiji for the next four years. With its new 50-member Parliament, I am proud to say that Fiji has assumed and will continue to assume its global role amongst the democracies of the world.

9.3 Fiji has continued to leap forward in its economic growth, reaching more than 4% since 2012 and 5.3% in 2014, and domestic and foreign investors continue to grow their businesses in Fiji, bringing much relief to the people in terms of employment opportunities, better living standards, healthier lifestyles and much more robust and dynamic communities.

9.4 We are indeed grateful for UNESCO’s immense contribution to education, culture, natural and human sciences and communication and information in Fiji. This has been in the areas of numerous capacity-building programmes, assistance to international and regional conferences, technical support, funding and undertaking research work, to name but a few. Equally, we are privileged to have been assisted by UNESCO in support of the continuous development of the historical port town of Levuka, which was inscribed as a UNESCO world heritage site in June 2013.

9.5 Mr President, on gender equality, as this is a global priority of UNESCO, and reflecting on the Education 2030 Framework for Action, Fiji will continue to strengthen its gender policy by ensuring that women and men have equal opportunities for recruitment and promotion, in schools, for capacity building, for selection of in-service and pre-service training of teachers, the eradication of gender violence towards women and girls and strengthen the programmes and initiatives to reduce and prevent school-related gender-based violence.

9.6 Fiji has made great strides in the education sector. The Government allocated for the first time the highest budget, 16.7% of the total government budget, towards education. Currently it is proud to show that Fiji’s adult literacy rate stands at 93%. Mr President, we have early childhood education (ECE) centres, primary and secondary schools and three universities throughout Fiji. We have strategized for reforms in education that we have embarked on from late last year, continuing on from the reforms undertaken prior to elections last year by the reigning Bainimarama Government, basically to ensure that everyone is given free education from pre-school right up to first degree at university. Mr President, like any other country, we have our share of challenges, and these are the poor and missing infrastructure and the geographical spatial distribution across 150 islands in Fiji.

9.7 Mr President, in culture, these are the activities that we have embarked upon: ratification of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; national consultation on the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; and signing of a bilateral cultural cooperation agreement between Fiji and China, to name but a few.

9.8 Mr President, the following are some of the challenges that we are confronted with: embracing contemporary culture as part of the collective culture, the heritage sector to be covered in national policy, and intellectual property and privacy issues.

9.9 Mr President, I will now provide some brief background on our national archives. The national archives of Fiji have moved in leaps and bounds over the last four years. We have started on a reform programme to modernize operations and increase our impact on society. Firstly, we have secured a staffing increase that has enabled us to implement quality assurance programmes to deal with numerous unplanned deposits that were taking up vital space and jeopardizing the proper management of our holdings. Outreach activities have also increased dramatically to seek to put the public in touch with their heritage.

9.10 Mr President, in the communication and information sector, we have also distributed one learning device per primary school student, especially in rural and remote areas. The Government has also established information and communication technology telecentres to bridge the digital divide in rural remote areas. We also launched a digital literacy programme in schools earlier this year in our bid to develop the digital exposure of our children so they can establish themselves as natives of this digital era that we live in. We have also secured assistance from developed countries to help us in our quest to bridge the digital divide.

9.11 Mr President, regarding climate change, I would like to reiterate the words of our Honourable Prime Minister when he delivered his statement at the United Nations General Assembly in September this year. He said, "Like our neighbours in the South Pacific and other small island developing States (SIDS) we see the bright future we have charted for ourselves dimmed by the prospect of climate change and sea-level rise. Fiji has been outspoken in insisting that all nations do their duty with regard to reducing carbon emissions and controlling the production of greenhouse gases". Fiji is doing its part, but our part in creating these crises is very small, practically negligible, and the more developed nations as well must do their part.

9.12 Mr President, the Education 2030 Framework for Action as adopted by the World Education Forum in the Republic of Korea in May this year sets a clear pathway for Fiji to reassess its commitment and to map the way forward. Fiji being a developing country cannot do this alone, as we rely on UNESCO and the more developed countries for further assistance. Finally, Mr President, I convey my best wishes for a successful conference. Thank you.

10. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Dr Mahmood Mohammed Iqbal Omar, the Minister of Education of Iraq. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

١١,١ السيد إقبال عمر (العراق):

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام المحترم، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي المحترم، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو المحترمة، أصحاب الفخامة والمعالي والسعادة رؤساء الوفود وأعضاؤها المحترمون، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. يسعدني بمناسبة افتتاح أعمال المؤتمر العام لمنظمة اليونسكو في دورته الثامنة والثلاثين لعام ٢٠١٥ في باريس أن أرحب بكم وأبلغكم تحيات فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الدكتور فؤاد معصوم، ودولة رئيس الوزراء الدكتور حيدر العبيدي، وتمنياً بنجاح مؤتمركم هذا. واسمحوا لي في البداية أن أتوجه بالشكر الجزيل للسيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، لدورها الإيجابي والدعم اللوجستي في عملية تقدير احتياجات العراق الفورية والملحة، وتلبيتها لطلبات المساعدة الإنسانية وإعادة البناء والإصلاح العاجل في العراق في مجال التعليم الابتدائي والثانوي والمهني والتقني والتعليم العالي، وكذلك الحال في مجال صون وحفظ الثقافة والعلوم والتراث والاتصال. والشكر موصول لكافة العاملين في المنظمة لما يبذلون من جهود لإنجاح مختلف فعاليات التحضير لهذا المحفل العالمي.

١١,٢ السادة الحضور الكرام، تسعى وزارة التربية في جمهورية العراق، بالتعاون مع منظمة اليونسكو، إلى تحقيق أهداف التعليم للجميع من خلال بذل جهود إضافية لمواجهة المشاكل التي تراكمت في العراق عبر عقود من الزمن لأسباب لم تعد خافية على أحد، والتي أصبحت تشكل أكبر التحديات التي تعيق تنفيذ البرامج التربوية الحديثة وإعادة البنى التحتية وغيرها. فلا يزال نظام التعليم في العراق يعمل على إعادة تأهيل المدارس، وتعيين معلمين جدد، ويركز على تعليم الفتيات وإصلاح المناهج وزيادة المكتبات المدرسية والمختبرات في المدارس وتوفير مصادر التعلم وإصلاح الهيكل التنظيمي وزيادة التعاون مع الشركاء الخارجيين والمنظمات والوكالات الدولية. ومن أهم المعوقات التي واجهت القطاع التربوي في ظل ما يمر به العراق من تحديات وحالة طوارئ إنسانية غير مسبوقة، تصاعد أعمال العنف في الأشهر الأخيرة جراء تواجد الجماعات الإرهابية المسلحة الذي أدى إلى نزوح العديد من العوائل إلى أماكن متفرقة من البلاد. ويقدر عدد النازحين في سن الذهاب إلى المدرسة بأكثر من نصف مليون نازح. ولقد بدأ العام الدراسي الجديد في أيلول/سبتمبر وعلى التلاميذ العودة إلى المدارس. وتقدر نسبة التلاميذ في سن الذهاب إلى المدرسة بـ ٤٥٪ من عدد النازحين بسبب الأزمة الحالية. وقد سعت وزارتنا جاهدة، بدعم منظمكم العريقة وبالتعاون معها، إلى مناقشة السبل الكفيلة بالتحاق الطلبة النازحين بالمدارس من خلال توفير المخيمات والكتب المدرسية والملاكات التعليمية والقرطاسية والأثاث وتنفيذ الامتحانات رغم صعوبتها البالغة وفق الأنظمة المعمول بها في وزارتنا.

١١,٣ وفي الجانب الثقافي، نسعى وممثلتنا الدائمة لدى اليونسكو جاهدين بالتعاون مع منظمكم إلى حماية وصون التراث الثقافي والمتاحف والمواقع الأثرية وتسجيلها على لائحة التراث العالمي ومنع الاتجار غير المشروع بالممتلكات الثقافية العراقية وبخاصة التي تعرضت للنهب والسلب في الآونة الأخيرة. ولليونسكو

دور إيجابي كبير تمثل في زيارة المديرية العامة، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، إلى بغداد خلال هذا العام وإصدارها عدة نداءات واتخاذها إجراءات عاجلة أدت إلى عقد جلسة طارئة لمجلس الأمن لحماية المواقع الأثرية التي تعرضت للنهب والتدمير من قبل الإرهابيين والمسلحين، واعتبار هذه الأعمال بمثابة جريمة حرب تدخل ضمن التدمير المتعمد للتراث الثقافي، فضلاً عن زيارة السيد مدير متحف اللوفر إلى بغداد بغية توفير بعض الاحتياجات للعراق في مجال حماية الآثار.

١١،٤ السادة الحضور الكرام، نحرص على تعزيز حرية التعبير على الرغم مما نمر به من ظروف استثنائية، ونعطي حرية تعبير كاملة لوسائل الإعلام، ونؤكد على تلبية احتياجات الشباب وتطلعاتهم، لأن الشباب يواجهون تحديات متعددة ومتزايدة التعقيد. واستجابت الحكومة في العراق للاحتجاجات الواسعة النطاق ضد الفساد وعدم المساواة الاجتماعية التي تركزت في السنوات الماضية، واعتمدت حزمة من الإصلاحات هدفت إلى الدفع قدماً لتعزيز سيادة القانون وتحسين نظام الإدارة العامة واحترام حقوق الإنسان، فالتعليم أمر حاسم لتعافي المجتمع، إنه يعطي الأمل للمستقبل ويوفر الإحساس بالحياة الطبيعية. وندعو من هذا المنبر كافة دول العالم إلى الوقوف مع العراق ودعمه للتخلص من المشاكل والمعوقات التي تجابه مسيرته العلمية والتربوية والثقافية. وختاماً أتمنى لمؤتمركم كل النجاح والتوفيق والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(11.1) **Mr Iqbal Omar (Iraq) (translation from the Arabic):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellencies, heads and members of delegations, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I am pleased, at the opening of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015, in Paris, to welcome you and to convey to you the greetings of His Excellency the President, Fuad Masum and His Excellency the Prime Minister, Dr Haidar al-Abadi, along with their wishes for the success of the General Conference. Allow me, at the outset, to address sincere thanks to Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, for her positive role and logistical support in appraising the immediate and urgent needs of Iraq, and in responding to the requests for humanitarian assistance, urgent reconstruction and reform in Iraq in the field of primary, secondary, vocational, technical and higher education, as well as in the field of maintaining and preserving culture, science, heritage and communications. Thanks also go to all those working in UNESCO for the efforts they have exerted to ensure the success of various activities in preparation for this global forum.

(11.2) Distinguished delegates, the Iraqi Ministry of Education, in cooperation with UNESCO, is striving to achieve the education for all (EFA) goals by exerting additional efforts to address the issues that have accumulated in Iraq over the decades, and for reasons which are no longer hidden to anyone, and which have begun to constitute the greatest challenges hampering the implementation of modern educational programmes and the renewal of infrastructure, etc. The education system in Iraq is still endeavouring to rehabilitate schools, appoint new teachers, focus on girls' education, reform curricula, increase the number of school libraries and laboratories, provide learning resources, reform organizational structures, and increase cooperation with external partners and international organizations and agencies. One of the greatest obstacles facing the education sector in the light of the unprecedented challenges and humanitarian emergencies confronting Iraq is the escalation in the number of acts of violence in recent months as a result of the presence of armed terrorist groups, which has led to the migration of numerous families to various localities in the country. We estimate the number of migrants of school-going age at more than half a million. The new school year began in September, and the pupils are supposed to go back to school. We estimate the number of pupils of school-going age at 45% of the migrants engendered by the current crisis. Our ministry has endeavoured strenuously, with the support of and in cooperation with your venerable Organization, to discuss ways of ensuring the school attendance of migrants by providing school camps, textbooks, teaching materials, notebooks, and school furniture, and by holding exams, despite the extreme difficulty of doing so according to the standards applicable in our ministry.

(11.3) With respect to culture, we in our Permanent Delegation to UNESCO are striving, in cooperation with your Organization, to protect and maintain the cultural heritage, museums and archaeological sites and to have them inscribed on the World Heritage List and prevent trafficking in Iraqi cultural property, especially that which has been subject to looting and plunder in recent times. UNESCO has a great and positive role to play, and the Director-General, Irina Bokova, has visited Baghdad in the past year, and issued a number of appeals and taken urgent measures which have led to the holding of emergency Security Council meetings in order to protect the archaeological sites that have been prey to plunder and destruction by armed terrorists, and to consider such acts as war crimes of deliberate destruction of cultural heritage. In addition, the Director of the Louvre Museum has visited Baghdad in order to provide some of Iraq's requirements for the protection of antiquities.

(11.4) Distinguished delegates, we wish to strengthen freedom of expression despite the exceptional circumstances the country is experiencing. We give complete freedom of expression to the information media, and we lay stress on meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, because young people are facing numerous and increasingly complex challenges. The Iraqi Government has responded to the wide-ranging protests against corruption and social inequality that have become ingrained in recent years, and has adopted a package of reforms aimed at promoting the rule of law, enhancing the system of public administration, and ensuring respect for human rights. Education is essential to the recovery of society; it provides hope for the future, and gives a feeling of natural life. From this rostrum, we call on all States of the world to stand together with Iraq and support it in its efforts to rid itself of the problems and obstacles thwarting its march to science, education and culture. In conclusion, I wish your Conference every success. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

12. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Mohammed Abdul Wahid Al-Hammadi, the Minister of Education and Higher Education of Qatar. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

١٣،١ السيد الحمادي (قطر):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، سعادة السيد رئيس المؤتمر، سعادة السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، سعادة السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب السعادة، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. اسمحوا لي وأنا أتحدث إلى مؤتمركم هذا أن أتقدم بالأصالة عن نفسي ونيابة عن وفد دولة قطر بالتهنئة للسيد ستانلي سيماتا، رئيس المؤتمر العام، بمناسبة انتخابه رئيساً لهذه الدورة متمنياً له التوفيق والنجاح في إدارة أعمال هذا المؤتمر. كما أعرب عن

خالص شكري وتقديري للسيد رئيس المؤتمر السابق، والمجلس التنفيذي وأعضائه، على جهودهم في الدورة السابقة. وأعتنم هذه المناسبة للإشادة بجهود السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المدير العام لليونسكو، في إدارتها للمنظمة، بالرغم من التحديات الكبيرة التي تواجه المنظمة والمتربة على انخفاض الميزانية وقلة الإيرادات.

١٣،٢ حضرات السيدات والسادة، بالأمس القريب كان اجتماع القمة للدورة السبعين للأمم المتحدة الذي شارك فيه رؤساء معظم دول العالم وتم خلاله اعتماد خطة التنمية المستدامة لما بعد عام ٢٠١٥، والتي تعد خطوة إيجابية نحو تحقيق تنمية تشاركية على المستوى الدولي. إلا أننا لا نتوقع أن نجني ثمارها المأمولة، خاصة في منطقتنا العربية، إذا ما استمرت الصراعات والحروب التي نعاشها، فإذا لم يكن هناك سلام واستقرار - كما قال حضرة صاحب السمو الشيخ تميم بن حمد آل ثاني أمير البلاد المفدى في كلمته أمام الجمعية العامة - فلن تكون هناك تنمية وعدالة. وإن اعتماد رؤساء الدول لخطة التنمية المستدامة يتطلب منا كمسؤولين، ومن منظمة اليونسكو، المزيد من العمل على المستوى الوطني، والتكاتف والتعاون على المستوى الدولي، لتحقيق الهدف الرابع من أهدافها والمتعلق بالتعليم الذي تم مناقشته وإبداء الملاحظات حوله خلال اجتماع إنشيوين بكوريا. و أشدد هنا على ضرورة ضمان توفير التعليم الأساسي لجميع الأطفال، وأن يتم سد الفجوات الكبيرة التي لمسناها في تحقيق هذا الهدف خلال العقد السابق.

١٣،٢ وإنا في دولة قطر بقيادة وتوجيهات صاحب السمو أمير البلاد المفدى، نولي التعليم بكافة مستوياته ومراحلها اهتماماً كبيراً، كما أننا ندرك دائماً واجبا إنسانياً تجاه شعوب العالم وأهمية التعاون الدولي في مجال دعم التعليم والغايات والأهداف التربوية العالمية، إيماناً منا بأن التعليم يسهم بدور إيجابي في تحقيق التقارب والتواصل والتفاعل بين الحضارات، ويعزز القيم الإنسانية المشتركة وحقوق الإنسان ومبادئ الحق والعدل والسلام والاحترام المتبادل. ومن هنا، بادرت الدولة بتقديم الدعم التنموي للدول النامية والمنكوبة في مختلف أرجاء العالم من خلال مساهمتها الإيجابية في المنظمات الدولية ذات العلاقة مثل منظمة اليونسكو أو منظمات المجتمع المدني.

١٣،٣ حضرات السيدات والسادة، إن التعليم من أجل التنمية المستدامة هو السبيل الوحيد لبناء قدرات وكفاءات وقيم الأفراد والمجتمعات لمواجهة المخاطر البيئية بحلول مبتكرة، لذلك سعت دولة قطر إلى إدماج التنمية المستدامة وقيمها وممارستها في مناهج التعليم تحقيقاً لرؤيتها الوطنية ٢٠٣٠. كما تم تطوير نظامنا التعليمي وفقاً للمعطيات العالمية للوصول به إلى تعليم جيد ذي مخرجات نوعية وجودة عالية. ففي مجال تحسين مخرجات التعليم، قمنا بتحديث الإطار العام لسياسات تقييم الطلبة، وإنجاز وثيقة الإطار العام للمنهج التعليمي الوطني لدولة قطر، وتنفيذ مبادرة تعزيز مهارات القراءة والكتابة والحساب في مرحلة التعليم المبكر، وتطوير نظام تعليم الكبار، وإنشاء مركز متخصص في دعم صعوبات التعلم، وتحديث وتطوير نظام الرخص المهنية للمعلمين وقادة المدارس. ومن منطلق إيماننا بأن البحث العلمي هو الطريق الواضح لبناء قاعدة علمية تقود البلاد للوصول إلى اقتصاد قائم على المعرفة، أنشأت جامعة قطر عشرة مراكز للبحوث التطبيقية المتعددة التخصصات، ونفذت بالتعاون مع اليونسكو عدة مشاريع تهدف إلى تنمية المهارات والقدرات البحثية والعلمية لدى طلبة المرحلة الثانوية.

١٣،٤ حضرات السيدات والسادة، إنا نحكي اليونسكو لمجهودها المتواصلة في دعم برامج حماية التراث الثقافي والمادي في جميع أرجاء العالم، وتعزيز بناء قدرات الأفراد من أجل المحافظة على هذا التراث تجسيداً للفكر الإنساني وحفاظاً على الهوية الوطنية. وفي إطار مشاركتنا في هذه الجهود، بادرت دولة قطر أثناء انعقاد الدورة السابقة للجنة التراث العالمي بالمساهمة بمبلغ عشرة ملايين دولار أمريكي لدعم صندوق حماية التراث في حالات الطوارئ.

١٣،٥ حضرات السيدات والسادة، لا يفوتني في ختام كلمتي أن أؤكد أن قضية القدس وحمايته من أعمال الحفريات التي تقوم بها الحكومة الإسرائيلية لتغيير الطبيعة التاريخية للمسجد الأقصى وأعمال التنديس والإساءة للحرم القدسي، قضية جوهرية لجميع الدول العربية والإسلامية. ورغم أنها عرضت في جلسات متعددة للمجلس التنفيذي ومعظم جلسات المؤتمر العام لليونسكو، فإننا إلى الآن لم نرَ على أرض الواقع من الإجراءات ما يجد من هذه التجاوزات ويمنعها، بل إنا في الآونة الأخيرة نشاهد تجاوزاً خطيراً من السلطة الإسرائيلية ومن المتطرفين الدينيين في التعدي على بيت المقدس. وإنا من هذا المنبر ندعو منظمنا إلى اتخاذ كافة الإجراءات العاجلة والحاسمة التي تدعم حماية المقدسات الدينية والمحافظة عليها. وأشكركم جميعاً على حسن الاستماع متمنياً لكم ومؤتمركم كل التوفيق والنجاح، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(13.1) **Mr Al-Hammadi (Qatar) (translation from the Arabic):**

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Your Excellency the President of the General Conference, Your Excellency the Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellency Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. Allow me, as I address you at this General Conference, in my personal capacity and on behalf of the Qatari delegation, to congratulate Mr Stanley Simataa on his election as President of this session of the General Conference and to wish him every success in guiding its work. I also convey sincere thanks to the President of the General Conference at its previous session and to the Chair and Members of the Executive Board for their efforts. I take this opportunity to commend the efforts of Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, in managing the Organization despite the great challenges that have faced it owing to the reduction in the budget and the shortfall in income.

(13.2) Ladies and gentlemen, only recently there was a summit at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in which the leaders of most of the countries of the world participated. The summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a positive step on the way to achieving partnership-based development at the international level. However, we do not expect to reap the desired fruit, especially in our Arab region, as long as the conflicts and wars we are experiencing continue, and as long as there is no peace and stability - as His Excellency Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, beloved Prince of our country, said in his statement to the General Assembly, there will be no development or justice, and the adoption by the leaders of States of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires us as officials, and UNESCO, to exert greater efforts at the national level and to strive for mutual support and cooperation at the international level in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, concerning education, which was discussed and commented on at the Incheon meeting in the Republic of Korea. I stress here the need to ensure the provision of basic education for all children, and to fill the great gaps that we have seen regarding the achievement of this goal during the coming decade.

(13.2) We in Qatar, under the leadership and guidance of His Highness the beloved Prince of our country, attach great importance to all levels and cycles of education, and we are constantly aware of our humanitarian duty towards the peoples of the world and the importance of international cooperation to support education and global education goals and objectives, confident that education may make a positive contribution to achieving rapprochement, communication and interaction among civilizations, and may strengthen shared humanitarian values, human rights, and the principles of right, justice, peace and mutual respect. On this basis, our country has taken the initiative of offering development assistance to developing countries and countries affected by disasters in various parts of the world by making positive contributions to relevant international organizations such as UNESCO and civil society organizations.

(13.3) Ladies and gentlemen, education for sustainable development is the only way to build the capacities, qualifications and values of individuals and societies in order to respond to environmental hazards with innovative solutions. Qatar has therefore included sustainable development and related values and practices in its educational curricula in order to achieve its National Vision 2030. Similarly, our education system has been developed in accordance with international criteria in order to attain good-quality education with substantive outputs of high quality. With regard to enhancing education outputs, we have updated the general framework for pupil assessment policies, developed a general framework document for the national education curriculum of Qatar, implemented an initiative to strengthen reading, writing and arithmetical skills at the early education stage, developed an adult education system, established a specialized centre for pupils with educational difficulties, and renewed and developed the system of vocational certifications for teachers and school heads. Confident as we are that scientific research is the right way to develop a scientific base to lead the country towards a knowledge-based economy, Qatar University has established 10 applied research centres with multiple specializations, and has implemented, in cooperation with UNESCO, a number of projects aimed at building research and scientific skills and capacities among secondary-level pupils.

(13.4) Ladies and gentlemen, we salute UNESCO for its continued efforts to support the tangible and intangible cultural heritage protection programmes all over the world, and to strengthen capacity building for individuals in order to preserve that heritage, with a view to embodying the humanitarian ideal and preserving the national identity. Within the framework of our participation in these efforts, Qatar took the initiative, at the most recent session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC), of contributing an amount of \$10 million to support the Heritage Emergency Fund.

(13.5) Ladies and gentlemen, at the close of my statement, I am bound to stress that the issue of Jerusalem and protecting it from the digging works being undertaken by the Israeli Government with a view to changing the historic nature of the al-Aqşa Mosque, and the works desecrating and insulting al-Haram ash-Sharīf is crucial for all Arab and Islamic States. Despite the fact that they have been addressed at numerous Executive Board sessions and most sessions of the General Conference of UNESCO, we have not, thus far, seen in practice any measures designed to curb or prevent these excesses. Rather, in recent times, we have witnessed a dangerous escalation by the Israeli authorities and religious hardliners in their attacks against Jerusalem. From this rostrum, we call upon our Organization to take all possible urgent and decisive measures for the protection and preservation of the sacred religious sites. I thank you all for your attention, and wish you and your General Conference every success. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

14. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of National Education of Senegal. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

15.1 **M. Thiam (Sénégal) :**

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale coïncide avec le 70^e anniversaire de l'Organisation mais également avec le 55^e anniversaire de l'adhésion de mon pays à l'UNESCO. En effet, juste après son accession à l'indépendance, la jeune nation sénégalaise a rejoint la grande famille de l'UNESCO, en novembre 1960, pour faire siennes les valeurs de l'Organisation. Depuis, que de chemin parcouru, que de défis relevés ! Ainsi, dans le secteur de l'éducation, au moment de faire le bilan de la réalisation des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) et à quelques heures de l'adoption de l'agenda mondial Éducation 2030, mon pays, grâce notamment à l'accompagnement de l'UNESCO, peut se prévaloir de progrès très importants dans les domaines de l'accès et de l'équité.

15.2 En ce qui concerne la gouvernance, l'Organisation a également marqué de son empreinte toutes les réformes du secteur éducatif sénégalais relatives aux curricula, à la gestion des ressources humaines, au financement et à bien d'autres aspects. En réalité, la politique éducative du Sénégal, comme d'ailleurs l'ensemble des secteurs de développement du pays, a pris, sous l'impulsion du Plan Sénégal émergent, un nouveau tournant grâce au leadership engagé du Président Macky Sall. Les Assises de l'éducation et de la formation et le Conseil présidentiel tenu en août 2015 sur les conclusions de ces assises sont la dernière preuve de la volonté politique du Sénégal de continuer à bâtir une école pour tous, une école de qualité et de la réussite, une école viable, stable et pacifiée, plus centrée sur l'apprenant et accordant la priorité aux filières scientifiques, technologiques et professionnelles.

15.3 Le nouveau plan sectoriel pour l'éducation en vigueur au Sénégal, le PAQUET (Programme d'amélioration de la qualité, de l'équité et de la transparence), après avoir bien identifié les défis majeurs auxquels doit faire face le système éducatif, a mis au point des stratégies parfaitement alignées sur les recommandations du Rapport mondial de suivi sur l'EPT 2000-2015 et sur les orientations fondamentales de l'agenda Éducation 2030.

15.4 S'agissant de la culture, le Gouvernement du Sénégal, tout en réaffirmant son soutien aux priorités de l'UNESCO, s'investit pour l'ouverture prochaine, en 2016, des portes du Musée des civilisations noires, réalisant ainsi un vœu cher au Président poète Léopold Sédar Senghor. À cet effet, je voudrais, du haut de cette tribune, lancer un appel à l'Afrique et à sa diaspora, aux intellectuels du monde entier, aux décideurs politiques et aux artistes, mais également à l'UNESCO, pour que nous fassions de ce musée un espace de célébration des civilisations noires dans leurs aspirations communes à la rencontre de l'autre, et pour que prospèrent la diversité et le dialogue des cultures en vue d'une paix et d'un développement durables. Avec une telle ambition, le Musée des civilisations noires est tout naturellement notre affaire à tous. Il transcende le monde noir et s'inscrit dans un espace planétaire devenu global et métis.

15.5 Dans le domaine des sciences exactes et naturelles, mon pays est plus que préoccupé par la problématique du changement climatique, tant les périls environnementaux sont présents dans notre vécu de tous les jours. Nous encourageons l'UNESCO à poursuivre ses initiatives dans ce domaine, tout comme dans les domaines de l'eau et de la biodiversité, et souhaitons le renforcement des moyens alloués aux programmes de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale et du MAB, ainsi que ceux destinés à la culture de la résilience face aux inondations et aux autres catastrophes.

15.6 Dans le domaine des sciences humaines et sociales, ma délégation soutient les initiatives de la Directrice générale relatives à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à l'inclusion sociale, initiatives qui sont en phase avec la loi d'orientation sociale du Sénégal. Le programme des Bourses de sécurité familiale et la Carte de l'égalité des chances, initiés par le Président Macky Sall et visant à soutenir les familles démunies et les personnes en situation de vulnérabilité et de handicap, participent de cette lutte contre la pauvreté et de cette promotion de l'inclusion sociale.

15.7 Le Sénégal, qui exerce actuellement la présidence de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), encourage également l'UNESCO à renforcer son programme d'éducation à la paix et à la citoyenneté mondiale.

15.8 Pour conclure, ma délégation appuie fortement la priorité accordée au Grand programme V et s'honore de l'inscription au Registre Mémoire du monde de deux nouveaux fonds documentaires, les « Cahiers de l'École William Ponty » et la « Collection de cartes postales anciennes de l'Afrique Occidentale Française ». Mesdames, Messieurs, Excellences, je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

16. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Shiferaw Shigute, Minister of Education of Ethiopia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

17.1 Mr Shigute (Ethiopia):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr President of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, on behalf of the Ministry of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and myself, let me first congratulate you upon your election as President of the General Conference. My delegation is confident that under your leadership we will have successful deliberations. I would also like to assure you and members of the Bureau of the full support of my delegation.

17.2 As you may know, Ethiopia is one of the fast-growing economies in the world, which is politically stable and determined to become a middle-income economy by 2025. To this effect, we set ambitious but achievable targets. As stipulated in the second Ethiopian growth and transformation plan (GTP II), the major pillars of our strategies are: sustaining faster and equitable economic growth; maintaining agriculture as a major source of economic growth; creating favourable conditions for the industry to play a key role in the economy; enhancing the expansion and quality of infrastructure development; enhancing the expansion and quality of social development; building capacity and deepening good governance; and promoting women's and youth empowerment and equitable benefit-sharing.

17.3 As clearly stated at the high-level Oslo Summit on Education for Development and endorsed under Education 2030, "investing in teachers is investing in learning". We also believe in the crucial role of teachers in peace-building and societal development. As stipulated in its teachers' development strategy, Ethiopia is strongly committed to ensuring the availability of qualified teachers in adequate numbers. However, one can argue that investing in education and investing in teachers alone cannot make a difference without children and young people in school. To this effect, early childhood care and education up to tertiary level, including lifelong learning, are inescapable.

17.4 The inclusion of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a huge milestone, correcting its absence from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Migration and human mobility are included in four SDGs. UNESCO's mandate to place humanity at the centre of our concern should be reflected more than ever. UNESCO's mandate to achieve sustainable development and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels should be met.

17.5 Together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, we have a global vision and framework up to 2030 that enables us to move from commitment to action to deliver our development promises.

17.6 Empowering women and girls, ensuring their sexual and reproductive health and human rights is essential to an inclusive society where they are able to complete their education and pursue jobs. Many programmes targeting girls have been sensitizing more people, including education and community leaders, about the benefits of girls' education, delayed marriage, family planning and elimination of harmful traditional practices. This is a pledge and shared repetition of our government, which has huge public support.

17.7 Ethiopia is a culturally diverse country which has a federal government that strongly believes in diversity, tolerance and humanity. This was witnessed when we hosted International Day for Tolerance with the motto "Through our tolerance culture, we will be a model to the world". In Ethiopia, 83 indigenous languages are spoken with some 200 dialects. This variety of languages and dialects provides a rich cultural mosaic of various nations and nationalities.

17.8 This is why our delegation has been proactively working with the World Heritage Centre and the Culture Sector to enforce our legal framework by building capacity in site management and all conservation issues. Notwithstanding the achievements of having registered several heritage sites, intangible heritage and biosphere reserves, Ethiopia urges UNESCO to encourage African countries to file more qualified quality nominations.

17.9 Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, Ethiopia's contribution to global warming is almost nothing. However, in Africa, Ethiopia is advocating for the environmental issues per the Copenhagen agreement on climate change. Ethiopia is implementing a Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy that engages our country on sustainable land management, prevention of land degradation as well as desertification and deforestation, expanding the use of renewable energy and utilizing modern energy-efficient technologies. Minimizing the negative consequences of climate change such as drought and flood is our priority, and we are very much confident that the international community will seize the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to implementing SDG 13 at the twenty-first session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) meeting in Paris in a few weeks. Finally, on behalf of our Government and myself, I would like to express our sincere thanks to those partners who contributed to the rapid development of Ethiopia in all its forms. Thank you for your attention.

18. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Eric Jover Comas, Minister of Education and Higher Education of Andorra. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

19.1 **M. Comas (Andorre) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, ministres et délégués, le Gouvernement d'Andorre est convaincu que l'éducation est le principal outil de transformation de la société. C'est pour cela que bien qu'une importante crise économique ait touché notre pays comme bien d'autres, l'une des priorités de notre Gouvernement a été de maintenir et même d'augmenter le budget dédié à l'éducation.

19.2 L'Andorre est en train de mettre en œuvre un important processus d'ouverture et de diversification de son modèle économique. Cette transformation nécessite un capital humain polyvalent qui sache s'adapter à des conditions changeantes. Il est donc logique que notre Gouvernement considère le budget de l'éducation comme un investissement et en aucun cas comme une dépense. En ce sens, nous défendons des structures éducatives plus dynamiques, plus adaptées à ce monde en constant changement, tout particulièrement pour les formations plus professionnalisantes où tant les programmes théoriques et pratiques que les compétences des enseignants doivent évoluer en coordination avec les entreprises locales. Je me permets d'insister sur la nécessité que ces formations se déclinent non seulement en formation initiale mais aussi et surtout comme des formations tout au long de la vie. La crise économique a touché profondément différents secteurs d'activité traditionnels en Andorre et il est de notre devoir de donner les outils nécessaires à la reconversion des travailleurs affectés.

19.3 Le Gouvernement d'Andorre est convaincu que l'éducation est le principal outil de transformation de la société. Les crises économiques affectent surtout les secteurs les plus démunis de notre société. Conscient de ce fait, le Gouvernement fait des efforts tout particulièrement dans l'accompagnement des plus vulnérables et des handicapés tout au long de leur vie et plus spécifiquement à l'école. L'inclusivité n'est pas une valeur en soi mais elle permet d'améliorer la qualité de vie des handicapés, en repoussant les limites imposées par leurs handicaps et en développant leur socialisation. L'inclusivité permet aussi au reste des scolaires de prendre conscience de la diversité inhérente à toute société.

19.4 Cette diversité est aussi culturelle. L'Andorre est un pays de frontière qui, grâce à sa neutralité, est devenu terre d'accueil. Les Andorrans ne représentent que la moitié de la population totale du territoire, qui compte actuellement 70 000 habitants, une centaine d'autres nationalités venant compléter cette société plurielle. C'est seulement à travers le respect de la différence et la construction d'un futur en commun qu'une telle diversité peut devenir un atout.

19.5 L'une des particularités de l'Andorre est sa structure éducative construite autour de trois systèmes éducatifs de libre choix, publics et gratuits : un système andorran, un système espagnol et un système français. Cette diversité de choix permet de former une citoyenneté plurielle, ouverte au monde. L'atout de ce modèle ne tient pas seulement à la superposition des trois systèmes mais au fait que, par la promotion d'activités communes, des synergies se créent qui permettent d'en maximiser les bénéfices en partageant leurs particularités. Permettez-moi ici de remercier les États français et espagnol qui ont permis l'existence historique de ce modèle auquel ils qui ont récemment renouvelé leur soutien.

19.6 Il existe donc un brassage de nationalités et une diversité de systèmes éducatifs mais nous considérons que notre culture propre doit être un important élément d'identité et de cohésion sociale. Cette culture s'articule tant autour de la langue qu'autour d'un patrimoine matériel et immatériel et d'une histoire dont la paix et la neutralité sont les principales clefs de voûte. En ce sens, la devise inscrite sur notre drapeau « Virtus Unita Fortior » nous rappelle que l'union fait la force.

19.7 L'Andorre, en tant que champion de l'Initiative mondiale pour l'éducation avant tout promue par l'Organisation des Nations Unies, a participé au développement de l'éducation à la citoyenneté globale et démocratique qui a été, ce dont je me félicite, reprise dans le cadre des objectifs de l'Agenda 2030. Aussi, la présidence andorrane du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe, entre novembre 2012 et mai 2013, a-t-elle fait de la promotion de l'éducation à la citoyenneté démocratique et aux droits de l'homme sa principale priorité. Il en est résulté un mandat du Comité pour l'élaboration de descripteurs de compétences dans ce domaine. Nous espérons que l'UNESCO, qui cite déjà cet instrument technique dans ses documents de travail, pourra travailler conjointement avec le Conseil de l'Europe pour arriver à des indicateurs objectifs.

19.8 Il est important de croire en l'éducation, mais plus encore de croire en sa qualité. Il est indispensable que chaque système éducatif mesure objectivement ses résultats et puisse mettre en place des processus d'amélioration continus. C'est seulement ainsi que nous pourrions accroître le niveau de compétence de nos jeunes. Et l'on ne peut parler de qualité dans le domaine de l'éducation sans parler de la qualité et de la formation des enseignants. Il est

nécessaire de revaloriser cette profession – élément-clé de l’enseignement - et de la centrer sur la qualité, par exemple en mettant l’accent sur les plans de formation continue des professeurs. En ce sens, nous allons réformer notre loi relative au corps enseignant.

19.9 Le Gouvernement d’Andorre est convaincu que l’éducation est le principal outil de transformation de la société. En mai 2015, l’UNESCO a approuvé la Déclaration d’Incheon qui définit les objectifs 2030 pour l’éducation et qui s’intègre naturellement à l’Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable approuvé en septembre dernier par l’Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. L’Andorre tient à souligner sa pleine adhésion à cette déclaration et sa détermination à lutter pour la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable. Même si les problématiques qui se posent sont souvent globales, nous sommes convaincus que c’est surtout à travers des actions locales, à l’échelle de nos pays, que nous pouvons participer à l’accomplissement de ces objectifs. Par exemple, dans le cas du changement climatique, nous savons que les zones de montagne – et l’Andorre en fait partie – sont particulièrement vulnérables.

19.10 Nous tenons à saluer le Gouvernement de la France pour l’organisation et la promotion de la COP21 qui aura lieu à Paris à la fin de ce mois de novembre. Je vous informe d’ores et déjà que l’Andorre y participera activement car, pour reprendre les paroles prononcées par le Président de la République française devant l’Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, face au changement climatique, plus tard serait certainement trop tard. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

20. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Maker Famba Mwangu, Minister of Education for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education and Initiative to the New Citizenship of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. You have the floor, Sir.

21.1 **M. Mwangu** (République démocratique du Congo) :

Monsieur le Président, au nom de la République démocratique du Congo, nous vous félicitons ainsi que tous les membres du Bureau, et vous souhaitons plein succès dans la conduite des travaux.

21.2 Le 70^e anniversaire de l’UNESCO témoigne de la maturité, de la valeur ajoutée et de l’expérience de notre Organisation. Face aux nouveaux défis de la pauvreté, de l’extrémisme et des changements climatiques, les motivations à l’origine de la création de l’UNESCO demeurent. Consciente du rôle de l’éducation dans le développement durable, la République démocratique du Congo remercie l’UNESCO de l’avoir associée aux réunions de Mascate, d’Incheon et de Qingdao.

21.3 Nous remercions la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, de s’être rendue dans notre pays en décembre 2014 afin d’encourager et de féliciter les autorités pour l’amélioration du système éducatif congolais, notamment. Le Président de la République, S. E. Joseph Kabila Kabenge, a placé l’éducation au cœur de sa vision pour l’émergence de la République démocratique du Congo à l’horizon 2030. Le Gouvernement s’attelle ainsi à construire un système éducatif inclusif et de qualité pour tous, à travers une stratégie sectorielle de l’éducation et de la formation sur une période de 10 ans. C’est l’occasion de saluer l’augmentation, prévue dans le 38 C/5, du budget consacré à l’éducation, ainsi que la détermination renouvelée de l’UNESCO à accompagner les États membres dans la reconstruction de leur système éducatif.

21.4 Le développement de la recherche et la promotion de la culture sont aussi un volet de la vision pour l’émergence de la République démocratique du Congo. Nous nous investissons dans la préservation de notre patrimoine culturel, avec deux initiatives phares, à savoir l’inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, avec l’appui de l’UNESCO, du site d’Ishango ainsi que de la rumba, danse emblématique que nous partageons avec nos voisins africains – dont le Congo – et des pays d’Amérique latine et des Caraïbes. Ishango est une localité de l’Est de la République démocratique du Congo où fut découvert en 1950, par un géologue belge, l’os ou le bâton dit « d’Ishango », datant de plus de 20 000 ans avant J.-C. et considéré à ce jour comme la première expression de la pensée mathématique au monde. Par ailleurs, la rumba, rythme musical qui se danse merveilleusement à deux, est née en République démocratique du Congo et s’est exportée en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes avec la traite des Noirs. Le Congo exprime ainsi sa réprobation face aux destructions malveillantes perpétrées contre les biens culturels à travers le monde et assure de son soutien la Directrice générale pour les initiatives courageuses qu’elle entreprend en mobilisant la communauté internationale contre ce fléau.

21.5 Monsieur le Président, les bassins forestiers de la République démocratique du Congo, deuxième poumon au monde après l’Amazonie, jouent un rôle déterminant dans la lutte contre le changement climatique. C’est pourquoi, conformément à notre contribution déterminée au niveau national pour la période 2021-2030, nous espérons que la COP21 qui s’ouvre à la fin de ce mois, ici même à Paris, débouchera sur un accord ambitieux équitable tenant compte des principes et des dispositions de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique, en particulier des principes de la responsabilité commune mais différenciée, des capacités respectives et de l’équité. D’où la nécessité d’accorder à la République démocratique du Congo des appuis compensatoires conséquents pour les énormes sacrifices qu’elle consent en vue de préserver ses forêts au bénéfice de sa population et de l’humanité toute entière. Cela nous permettra de dire à nos populations qu’elles peuvent vivre et se développer sans penser nécessairement à détruire la forêt.

21.6 L’École régionale pour l’aménagement et la gestion intégrée des forêts et territoires tropicaux (ERAIFT) est un des outils opérationnels pour cette préservation. Nous remercions l’UNESCO, à travers le Conseil exécutif, ainsi que les dix États parties à l’ERAIFT, d’avoir demandé à la Conférence générale d’approuver la transformation de l’ERAIFT en un centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l’égide de l’UNESCO afin de la doter d’un statut digne d’un institut d’enseignement et de recherche. Nous invitons ainsi les distinguées délégations présentes dans cette salle à se joindre à nous pour appuyer la recommandation du Conseil exécutif.

21.7 La République démocratique du Congo est très sensible au drame que constitue l'afflux de réfugiés. Nous avons vécu un tel drame en 1994, lorsque nous avons ouvert nos frontières de l'Est pour accueillir plus de deux millions de réfugiés, à la demande de la communauté internationale. Notre pays a payé et continue, 19 ans après, à payer un prix fort pour ce geste de générosité. Malgré des contextes différents, aucun pays d'accueil n'est à l'abri des conséquences d'un afflux de réfugiés. Nous soutenons l'élan de générosité de la communauté internationale en faveur des déplacés, pendant leurs mouvements et lors de leur accueil, mais nous n'oublions pas que le plus important est de combattre les causes de migration. C'est pourquoi nous soutenons le programme MOST de l'UNESCO dans le secteur des Sciences sociales et humaines.

21.8 Monsieur le Président, nous ne saurions clore notre propos sans renouveler la foi de la République démocratique du Congo dans les missions et les actions menées par l'UNESCO pour anticiper sur les événements et permettre ainsi à notre monde de faire face à ses défis présents et futurs. Je vous remercie.

22. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Fleming-Artsen, Minister Plenipotentiary of Sint Maarten. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

23.1 Ms Fleming-Artsen (Sint Maarten):

Honourable President, Honourable Director-General, your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, it is an honour and distinct pleasure for me to stand here at this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and on its 70th anniversary, to share the vision and accomplishments of Sint Maarten. Firstly, I wish to extend congratulations to you, Mr President, on your election as President of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference. I would also like to extend congratulations to the country of Montserrat, on its admittance as the tenth Associate Member of UNESCO.

23.2 Mr President, in keeping with the goals of UNESCO, Sint Maarten has met several objectives through focused initiatives comprising educational, cultural and technological efforts. It is important to note that Sint Maarten as a new country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands is investing and contributing to the visibility and importance of UNESCO as a world organization that upholds peace, intercultural understanding, cultural diversity, gender equity, scientific cooperation and quality education. A number of initiatives such as consultations, trainings and conferences, which were funded by the Government of Sint Maarten, the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and UNESCO, have contributed largely to the development of Sint Maarten's cultural heritage.

23.3 On the issue of cultural heritage, Sint Maarten can sound the drums of its contribution to preparing, building, restoring and preserving its cultural heritage: numerous goals achieved and to be achieved. Since 2013, much has transpired on an island that had allowed culture to be taken for granted. Sint Maarten hereby announces proudly that, regarding its cultural heritage, a national consultation and a joint training programme for the implementation of the strengthening of capacities of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Suriname, for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has led to the drafting of Sint Maarten's first intangible cultural heritage inventory list.

23.4 On the topic of disseminating and implementing the core principles of the world heritage and strengthening institutions, Sint Maarten is creating a local network of heritage experts. In May 2014, the Government of Sint Maarten acceded to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and looks forward to submitting its first nomination of the intangible cultural heritage element, the Ponum Dance, which is Sint Maarten's dance of emancipation.

23.5 Mr President, building young people's knowledge and their understanding of cultural heritage is important for the sustainability, safeguarding and inventory taking of the Sint Maarten cultural heritage. The results of the 2013 Youth Round Table Conference provided a Youth Desk for Sint Maarten which serves today as a mechanism for youth empowerment.

23.6 Sint Maarten also reconfirms its continuous support of the sponsorship of the resolution to enforce and reinforce UNESCO's strategy in the small island developing States (SIDS). As to communication and information, Sint Maarten established its ICT policy in 2014, and it is ready to host its first Caribbean Technology and Education Conference (C-TEC), in November 2015, funded by UNESCO, the Government and private sectors of Sint Maarten.

23.7 Various communication tools were developed in partnership with the Korean and Jamaican National Commissions for UNESCO, which enhance the visibility of the Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO, and these partnerships should be fostered to enhance the capacity of the National Commissions in the Caribbean region.

23.9 UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme, introduced in Sint Maarten by the UNESCO Cluster Office in Kingston and the Secretariat of UNESCO, has inspired the submission of a nomination to the international registry. In closing, Mr President, the call for the safeguarding of Sint Maarten's cultural heritage is urgent and critical. Sint Maarten is moving forward to support and invest in its cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and will invest in its documentary and digital heritage, enabling sustainability of our culture with a focus on quality education and science, youth empowerment, cultural safeguarding and communicative and technological investments. Mr President, Sint Maarten continues to maintain its full support to UNESCO for the advancement of its people. I thank you.

24. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Majid bin Ali Alnoaimi, the Minister of Education of Bahrain. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٢٥،١ السيد النعيمي (البحرين):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، أصحاب السعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام ورئيس المجلس التنفيذي، المديرية العامة، الأخوة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. يسعدني ويشرفني أن أحيتكم باسم بلدي مملكة البحرين، وأن أنقل إلى مؤتمركم الموقر تحيات حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة عاهل البلاد المفدى، وتحيات صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير سلمان بن حمد آل خليفة ولي العهد، نائب القائد الأعلى والنائب الأول لرئيس مجلس الوزراء، حفظهم الله ورعاهم، مهنتاً سعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام على الثقة التي نالها من الدول الأعضاء. ويسعدني أيضاً أن أكرر شكري وتقديري للمديرية العامة ولرئيس المجلس التنفيذي وأعضاء الأمانة على جهودهم وللحضور لهذا المؤتمر.

٢٥،٢ نلتقي اليوم والعالم من حولنا يعجّ بالتحديات الجسام التي تحدّد السلم العالمي في أجزاء عديدة من العالم، وبصورة تجعل لزاماً على الدول الأعضاء أن تُعين منظمة اليونسكو على القيام بدورها الفاعل في كل مجالات اختصاصها، وعلى رأسها التعليم الجيد والمتكافئ للجميع وبناء مجتمع المعرفة. وإن مملكة البحرين تؤكد على أهمية بذل الجهود لتطوير المناهج في جميع المراحل الدراسية، بما في ذلك تعزيز قيم التسامح والتعايش وكل ما من شأنه تعزيز حقوق الإنسان، وهي مستمرة في تطوير مناهجها وتعزيز جهودها على هذا الصعيد. وقد بدأنا هذا العام بتنفيذ مشروع المدارس المعززة لحقوق الإنسان. وفي الوقت نفسه، نحن ندين بشدة استهداف المؤسسات التعليمية من خلال الأعمال الإرهابية والتخريبية التي تتعرض لها، مما يحرم الطلبة من حقهم الأصيل في الانتفاع ببيئة تعليمية آمنة، حيث تعاني المدارس في مملكة البحرين من أعمال التخريب والإرهاب. فقد بلغ عدد المدارس المعتدى عليها أكثر من أربع مائة وخمسة وثلاثين (٤٥٣) مدرسة، مما يشكل خرقاً واضحاً لمبادئ ومواثيق حقوق الإنسان، التي أكد عليها أيضاً بيان إنشيون.

٢٥،٣ وفي الواقع، ونحن إذ ندين هذه الأعمال، نؤكد أن مملكة البحرين مستمرة في توفير التعليم الإلزامي للجميع، وفي الحرص على توفير البيئة الآمنة لهؤلاء الطلبة لكي يمارسوا حقهم ويجدوا الفرصة المناسبة لمزيد من التعليم. وفي الواقع إن الشراكة بين منظمة اليونسكو والبحرين تعبر عن قصة نجاح بين هاتين الجهتين، ومن مظاهر هذا النجاح إنشاء المركز الإقليمي لتكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال الذي يعمل بالتنسيق مع منظمة اليونسكو والذي نظم أكثر من ٣٦ فعالية وتدريب فيه أكثر من ٨٤٤٧ شخصاً من داخل مملكة البحرين وخارجها باعتباره مركزاً إقليمياً.

٢٥،٤ ومن مجالات الاهتمام بالتعليم في مملكة البحرين أيضاً، التوسع في التمكين الرقمي وبالتالي الانتقال إلى صفوف أكثر تطوراً وأكثر حداثة. وإذ نعد هذه الإنجازات العديدة جزءاً من التعاون الوثيق مع هذه المنظمة، لنكرر الشكر والتقدير للمجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة اليونسكو الذي جدد للمرة الثانية جائزة اليونسكو - الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة لاستخدام تكنولوجيات المعلومات والاتصال في مجال التعليم. وهذه الجائزة أصبحت اليوم نموذجاً لتطوير وتشجيع الطاقات الشبابية والعلمية على المزيد من العطاء. ونحن نكرر شكرنا وتقديرنا لجميع الدول التي ساندت هذه الجائزة والتجديد لها لست سنوات أخرى، ونؤكد حرصنا الدائم على تعزيز كل ما من شأنه تحقيق أهداف اليونسكو العالمية في عالم أصبح اليوم يعج بالتطورات المتزايدة. وإذ تنتهي عضويتنا في مكتب التربية الدولي بعد سنوات من العطاء شغلت فيه بلادي منصب نائب رئيس مكتب التربية الدولي، نؤكد استمرارنا في دعم جهود اليونسكو الرامية إلى تطوير المناهج الدراسية في كل موقع.

٢٥،٥ إن عالمنا المعاصر، أيها الحضور الكرام، بحاجة إلى أن تكون اليونسكو قادرة وفاعلة ومنتجة على العالم بأسره بكل أشكاله وألوانه، سعياً لترسيخ أسس السلام والتعاون بين البشر جميعاً. وأكرر شكري لمنظمة اليونسكو، وتأكيد بلادي دعمها في كافة برامجها وخططها الاستراتيجية. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، ومزيداً من التوفيق لإنشاء الله.

(25.1) **Mr Alnoaimi (Bahrain) (translation from the Arabic):**

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Your Excellencies Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, heads and members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I am pleased and honoured to greet you on behalf of my country, Bahrain, and to convey to your esteemed Conference greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, our beloved monarch, from His Royal Highness, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, our esteemed Prime Minister, from His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince, and from the Deputy Commander-in-Chief and First Deputy Prime Minister, may God preserve and protect him, congratulating His Excellency the President of the General Conference on the confidence he has won from the Member States. I am also pleased to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to the Director-General, the Chair of the Executive Board, and members of the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing for this Conference.

(25.2) We meet today as the world around us is brimming with enormous challenges which threaten world peace in numerous parts of the world, such that it is incumbent upon the Member States to urge UNESCO to play its effective role in all its fields of competence, in particular, for good-quality, equal-access education for all and the building of a knowledge society. Bahrain stresses the importance of exerting efforts to develop curricula for all stages of education, including the strengthening of the values of tolerance and coexistence and everything that is conducive to strengthening human rights. Bahrain continues to develop its curricula and is stepping up its efforts in this regard. This year, we began to implement a programme for schools with strengthened human rights teaching. At the same time, we strongly condemn the targeting of educational institutions by means of acts of terrorism and sabotage, which deprives pupils of their basic right to access to a safe educational environment; schools in Bahrain suffer from acts of intimidation and terrorism. The number of schools that have been attacked is more than 453, which constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights principles and texts, which was also stressed in the Incheon Declaration.

(25.3) Indeed, while we condemn such acts, Bahrain continues to provide obligatory education for all, and endeavours to ensure a safe environment to pupils so that they may exercise their rights and find an appropriate opportunity to receive more education. In fact, the partnership between UNESCO and Bahrain is a success story in these two regards. One aspect of this success is the establishment of the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology, which works in

coordination with UNESCO and which has held more than 36 activities and trained more than 8,447 individuals from Bahrain and further afield, given that it is a regional centre.

(25.4) Among the centres of interest in education in Bahrain is expanded digital empowerment and a move to the ranks of the more highly developed and modernized. We deem these numerous achievements to be part of the close collaboration with this Organization. Allow us to reiterate our thanks and appreciation to the Executive Board and to UNESCO, which has awarded for the second time the UNESCO-King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education. This prize has now become a model for developing and encouraging youth and science energies to make greater contributions. We reiterate our thanks and appreciation to all the States that have supported this prize and enabled it to be prolonged for a further six years. We reiterate our constant determination to strengthen everything that is conducive to achieving the global goals of UNESCO in a world full of accelerating developments. As our term on the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) Council comes to an end, after years of active contribution during which my country held the office of Vice-President of the IBE Council, we affirm our support for UNESCO's efforts to develop educational curricula everywhere.

(25.5) Our contemporary world, ladies and gentlemen, needs UNESCO to be able, active and open to the whole world in all its shapes and colours in order to inculcate the foundations of peace and cooperation among humankind as a whole. I reiterate my thanks to UNESCO, and my country's support for all UNESCO programmes and strategic plans. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. May you have ever more success!

26. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Nouria Benghabrit-Remaoun, Minister of National Education of Algeria. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٢٧،١ السيدة بن غبريت رمعون (الجزائر):

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب السعادة، السيدات والسادة الحضور، صباح الخير، أزول فلأون، إن انشغالنا اليوم كهية أومية هو، بطبيعة الحال، أن نتأكد من أن كافة أطفال العالم يذهبون إلى المدرسة ويستفيدون من الشروط الضرورية لتحقيق تعليمهم في ظروف لائقة. وإن هذا الأمر يعتبر انشغالياً حقيقياً بالنسبة إلى بلادي، وهو ما جاء في التقرير عن الحق في التعليم في الجزائر الذي قُدم في الدورة التاسعة والعشرين لمجلس حقوق الإنسان للأمم المتحدة، المنعقدة بجنيف في ٢٠١٥، والذي يبرز صراحةً الجهود التي تبذلها الجزائر، ويصف تطبيق الحق في التعليم بأنه "جدير بالتنويه" من خلال تحقيق أهداف التربية للجميع لليونسكو وأهداف الألفية للتنمية. وإن التفكير المععمق في انشغالات المجتمعات يفرض نفسه كضرورة مطلقة حتى تتمكن عن طريق التشاور من إيجاد حلول للمآسي التي يعيشها أطفال العالم مثل أطفال سورية والصحراويين. وهذا يعني أن السلم والأمن، في كافة البلدان، يمثل الشرط الأساسي الذي من شأنه ضمان تربية الأطفال وازدهارهم.

٢٧،٢ سيدي الرئيس، إننا نتكلم في هذا الشأن اليوم عن دراية، إذ دفعنا ثمناً غالياً من أجل حريتنا وضمنا مواصلة التنمية، فقد واجهنا في سنوات التسعينيات الإجماع الإرهابي الذي حاربناه وقضينا عليه. والجدير بالذكر، أنه بفضل ميثاق السلم والمصالحة الوطنية الذي نخلد ذكره السنوية العاشرة هذه السنة والذي بادر به فخامة السيد رئيس الجمهورية، نستطيع اليوم أن نعلن من على هذا المنبر أن التمدد الذي يمثل أحد الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية لعام ٢٠١٥، قد تحقق في بلادنا قبل الأجل الذي حدده بيان الألفية. وأنه قد تم فعلاً تحقيق المساواة بين الذكور والإناث.

٢٧،٣ وإننا نشاطر أيضاً السيدة المديرية العامة انشغالها إزاء تصاعد العنف الذي مس المواقع الثقافية والدينية بالشرق الأوسط، لاسيما الأعمال التي استهدفت المواقع المصنفة في قائمة التراث العالمي. وبهذا الصدد، إننا نشكر ونعني السيدة المديرية العامة على الجهود الثابتة التي بذلتها لنقل هذه القضية إلى أعلى مستوى في منظمة الأمم المتحدة.

٢٧،٤ السيد الرئيس، تواجهنا اليوم تحديات كبرى في المجال التربوي وهي: أولاً، تنمية الحس المدني وروح التسامح لدى المتعلمين حيث يتعين علينا اليوم أن نعلم الأطفال كيفية التمييز بين المعلومة الصحيحة والمعلومة الخاطئة. وثانياً، تكوين روح النقد، فاليوم أكثر من أي وقت مضى، إذا لم يقدم نظامنا التربوي الكفاءات الضرورية للشباب حتى يكون قادراً على الاختيار والمعالجة والنقد، فسيشكل تربة خصبة تنزع فيها بذور الكراهية وإقصاء الآخر والتشدد. وثالثاً، ضمان التعليم النوعي، حيث لا يكفي اليوم فتح مدرسة للطفل، بل يجب علينا أن نضمن له تعليماً يتميز بمضامين ومعارف سلوكية ومهارية أساسية قادرة على إعداده للتحديات التي سيواجهها في المستقبل. ورابعاً، رد الاعتبار للتعليم التقني والمهني والتحكم في اللغات التي تعتبر أساسية في مجال التربية، وتحديد طرق التدريس. وخامساً، التغيرات المناخية التي يجب الاستعداد لها بتطوير برامج الأنظمة التربوية.

٢٧،٥ سيدي الرئيس، إذ نعني منظمة اليونسكو بمناسبة الذكرى السنوية السبعين، تبقى المنظمة تشكل في نظرنا ضمناً أساسياً لترقية السلم والحوار والانفتاح، كما تظل بإرادة الجميع وعملاً مشتركاً أملاً لأجيال المستقبل وحصناً ضد كل أشكال العنف والتطرف. وأشكركم سيدي الرئيس، السيدات والسادة الأفاضل على حسن المتابعة.

(27.1) Ms Benghabrit-Remaoun (Algeria) translation from the Arabic:

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, *azzul fallau* "good morning". Our concern today as a United Nations organization is naturally to ensure that all the children of the world go to school and enjoy what is necessary to receive an education under optimal conditions. This is a true priority for my country, as expressed in the report on the right to education in Algeria that was submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council at its 37th session in Geneva in 2015, and which clearly highlighted the efforts being exerted by Algeria, and described the application of the right to education as "commendable", by implementing UNESCO's education for all (EFA) goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The need to reflect in depth on the concerns of societies imposes itself as an absolute necessity so that we may, by means of consultation, find solutions to the tragedies experienced by the children of the world, such as the children of the Syrian Arab Republic and Sahraoui children. This means that peace and security, in all countries, constitute the basic prerequisite needed to ensure the education and welfare of children.

(27.2) Mr President, we speak on this topic today out of experience: we have paid a heavy price for our freedoms and the guarantee of continued development. In the 1990s, we faced a criminal campaign of terrorism, which we combated and managed to liquidate. It should be noted that thanks to the National Peace and Reconciliation Charter, whose 10th anniversary we are celebrating this year, which was launched by His Excellency the President of the Republic, we can today announce from this rostrum that school attendance, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015, was achieved in our country ahead of the deadline set in the Millennium Declaration. We have genuinely achieved gender equality.

(27.3) We share our concern with the Director-General regarding the rise of violence that has affected cultural and religious sites in the Middle East, especially acts which have targeted sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. In this connection, we thank and congratulate the Director-General for her persistent efforts to bring this issue to the attention of the highest levels of the United Nations.

(27.4) Mr President, we are today facing great challenges in the educational field: first, the development of a civic sense and spirit of tolerance among pupils: we need today to teach children how to distinguish between correct and erroneous information. Secondly, to develop a critical spirit, because now more than ever, if our educational system does not provide the necessary qualifications to young people so that they are able to select, process and criticize, they will become fertile ground in which the seeds of hatred, exclusion of the Other and extremism may be sown. Thirdly, to ensure quality education: it is not sufficient today to open a school for children; rather, we need to guarantee them an education of sound contents and basic behavioural skills and knowledge which may prepare them for the challenges that will confront them in the future. Fourthly, to restore consideration to technical and vocational education (TVE) and to master languages, which are basic in the field of education, and to devise innovative teaching methods. Fifthly, climate change needs to be prepared for by developing corresponding curricula.

(27.5) Mr President, we congratulate UNESCO on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of its founding. The Organization, in our view, continues to be a fundamental guarantee for the promotion of peace, dialogue and openness, as it continues, pursuant to the will of all and our joint action, to provide hope to the coming generations and a bulwark against all forms of violence and extremism. I thank you, Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, for your kind attention.

28. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research of Mauritius. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

29.1 Ms Dookun-Luchoomun (Mauritius):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, greetings from the people and Government of the Republic of Mauritius. Let me start by congratulating you, Mr President, on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. I have no doubt that you will successfully guide the proceedings of our assembly despite the vast complexity of the issues to be tackled.

29.2 Mr President, I believe recent milestones make for some legitimate congratulations as our Organization has very efficaciously positioned our cherished priorities – quality education, women's empowerment and climate change – in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNESCO's actions, during the different regional consultations, the World Education Forum and elsewhere on different international platforms, have resulted in the world today unanimously saluting the emergence of the global goals. Indeed, building peace in the minds of men can only effectively take place when people do not suffer from hunger, when their self-worth is not trampled upon and when they feel empowered to fight against the indignity of extreme poverty.

29.3 The post-2015 development agenda universally endorsed by the global community – including organizations like the African Union, the Commonwealth, the Conference of Ministers of Education of French speaking countries (CONFEMEN) – takes the world in the right direction. Mauritius commits itself to supporting the implementation of the global goals. But we should also learn from the telling lessons resulting from the unfinished business of the implementation in many countries of the now defunct education for all (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We today have a new opportunity for redress. We should give ourselves the means, financial, technical, and technological, to help all countries attain the new goals set. The Preamble to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does in fact emphasize the need for genuine global partnership as well as exchange of experiences and improved coordination.

29.4 Mr President, my delegation notes with satisfaction that, in keeping with the enunciation to ascribe priority status to small island developing States (SIDS) in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4), efforts will be made for the coming biennium to expand the coverage of the SIDS-related actions in line with both the global goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

29.5 Mr President, SIDS cannot be made to pay the price for the excesses of highly developed countries. Rather, they have to be equipped and supported to fully implement the necessary mitigation measures. Highly developed countries have to pitch in both financially and technologically, keeping in view the SIDS' varied pace of development. We also realize that small island developing States cannot be left on their own, with each individually fighting a common threat; the future lies in regional and collective action for improved resilience. In this context, I would wish to put on record our appreciation for the support of UNESCO in facilitating the setting up of a category 2 centre for ocean studies and innovation in Mauritius.

(The speaker continues in French)

29.6 Monsieur le Président, il est évident que la région de l'océan Indien montre une capacité certaine à mettre en exergue les possibilités qu'offre l'économie bleue. Le potentiel des ressources marines, avec la riche biodiversité qui le

caractérise, pourrait nous mener vers un développement durable basé sur la sécurité alimentaire à travers la mer, l'accroissement du commerce, l'investissement, ainsi que la connectivité maritime.

29.7 La coopération régionale et sous-régionale reste de mise dans ce contexte et les bureaux régionaux de l'UNESCO se doivent d'être des facilitateurs et des catalyseurs efficaces.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

29.8 Mr President, there is universal recognition today of the centrality of education to national growth and development. We must go beyond words and move to action and make sure our youth have the skills, competencies, aptitudes and attitudes to cope with the demands of a fast-changing world. We have today several far-reaching reforms that are being spearheaded right from the pre-primary through to the tertiary and the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sectors in Mauritius. The ground has been cleared for the introduction of nine years of continuous basic education as from 2017. Curriculum and assessment frameworks are being reviewed as are teacher education and capacity-building programmes. New polytechnics are also being set up for the promotion of technical education. As for higher education, we are already attracting brand institutions that will help build our intellectual capital and help towards the development of Mauritius as a regional knowledge hub.

29.9 The setting up of a national school of arts is also one of our major projects. In a modest manner, we are contributing to the African renaissance as well, by hosting and driving the inter-country quality node for early childhood education and development at the behest of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). Mr President, let me end by extending sincere words of appreciation to UNESCO and the United Nations system for always being by our side as we upscale our move towards fostering a more just, equitable and inclusive society. Thank you very much.

30. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo y Montojo, Minister for Education, Culture and Sports of Spain. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

31.1 **Sr. Méndez de Vigo y Montojo (España):**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, estimados colegas: como Ministro de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, es para mí un honor participar en nombre de España en esta reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO, para subrayar desde la primera línea de mi intervención el compromiso de España con los valores del multilateralismo activo. Nuestra presencia en el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas y el decidido apoyo expresado recientemente por Su Majestad el Rey Felipe VI a la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas manifiestan la solidez de este compromiso. Con este espíritu, España desea continuar su participación como miembro del Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO: hemos presentado nuestra candidatura a este órgano y esperamos contar con su beneplácito. Señor Presidente, queridos colegas, el Objetivo 4 de la Agenda 2030 consiste en "Garantizar una educación inclusiva y equitativa de calidad, y promover oportunidades de aprendizaje permanente para todos". Esta misma aspiración guía nuestra política educativa y de cooperación.

31.2 España ha dejado atrás la mayor crisis sufrida desde hace décadas gracias al desarrollo de una agenda de reformas emprendida por el Gobierno que ha sentado las bases de una estabilidad económica y social y ha generado una expectativa fundamentada de crecimiento sostenible sin inflación, algo nuevo en mi país. Hoy España crece al 3,4% del PIB y crea uno de cada dos empleos de la eurozona. En la agenda de reformas del Gobierno español, la reforma educativa ha tenido un papel fundamental, porque nuestras tasas de desempleo juvenil y de abandono educativo temprano eran muy altas en comparación con las de nuestros vecinos europeos. En el año 2013 pusimos en marcha una nueva ley de educación para impulsar la mejora de la calidad del sistema educativo, y ello porque partíamos del convencimiento de que la educación es la herramienta de más y mejores oportunidades de futuro que tienen a su alcance las nuevas generaciones, y porque la educación es la clave en la lucha contra la exclusión social. Ya hemos alcanzado resultados con esa estrategia educativa: según los datos del último trimestre de este año 2015, hemos reducido en 6 puntos la tasa de abandono educativo temprano, y en un 10% el desempleo juvenil en comparación con el año 2011.

31.3 En este punto, no quiero dejar de decir que ante la actual crisis migratoria que afecta a Europa, el Gobierno español ha puesto en marcha una estrategia de integración de los refugiados a través de diferentes programas educativos. Para España, la formación de calidad de nuestros jóvenes es la garantía de su desarrollo personal y profesional, y de la igualdad de oportunidades. Y por todo ello, es imprescindible, como ha dicho también el Ministro de Andorra, incrementar la calidad del profesorado y reforzar la labor de docentes y educadores. No hay mejora posible del sistema educativo sin la participación activa y el protagonismo de los docentes. Se puede, queridos colegas, decir más alto pero no se puede decir más claro.

31.4 En el ámbito de la cultura la UNESCO es un instrumento esencial en la preservación del patrimonio universal material e inmaterial. España cuenta con 44 bienes inscritos en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial, 14 en la Lista Representativa del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial de la Humanidad y 5 inscripciones de patrimonio documental en el Registro Memoria del Mundo. Llevamos 30 años colaborando con nuestros socios iberoamericanos en la preservación del patrimonio histórico y, además, hemos prestado un decidido apoyo al Fondo del Patrimonio Mundial Africano, de cuyos 10 años de trayectoria nos felicitamos. Pero la tarea de preservación del patrimonio es ingente y más ante los ataques premeditados y los actos de terrorismo y violencia contra las personas y su identidad cultural. Por ello España, junto con Italia, ha impulsado una decisión para que se refuerce el papel de la UNESCO en la protección de los bienes culturales en caso de conflicto; en este sentido quiero agradecer a la Directora General y a su equipo los estudios que hacen para una nueva estrategia global.

31.5 El compromiso de España también se extiende a la Convención sobre la Protección del Patrimonio Cultural Subacuático y, en el ámbito de la ciencia, a la necesidad de dar respuesta a los retos globales con grandes programas científicos para el desarrollo sostenible, a los que se incorporan los geoparques, red a la que España contribuye con diez exponentes. Asimismo, mi país secunda la propuesta presentada por Francia, Marruecos y el Perú, a la COP 21 que tendrá lugar en París. Es en momentos de incertidumbre y de conflicto cuando cobra un mayor sentido garantizar la libertad de expresión, el acceso a la información y la labor de los profesionales de la comunicación y la información, y eso hará España. Y aunque me encanta la música clásica, señor Presidente, comprendo que la que ahora oímos anuncia el final de mi intervención y voy a hacerlo recordando, cuando se acerca el cuarto centenario del fallecimiento de Miguel de Cervantes, que conmemoraremos el año que viene coincidiendo también con el de William Shakespeare, unas palabras del autor del Quijote: “La pluma es lengua del alma: cuales fueren los conceptos que en ella se engendraren, tales serán sus escritos”. “La lengua del alma”, eso es la UNESCO, un bello concepto; en esas ideas, en esos valores, siguen basados los principios fundamentales que desde hace 70 años persigue esta Organización, y que España perseguirá con ustedes los próximos 70 años, al menos. Muchas gracias por su atención.

(31.1) **Mr Méndez de Vigo y Montojo** (Spain) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, as Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, it is an honour for me to take part on behalf of Spain in this session of the General Conference of UNESCO, to emphasize from the beginning of my statement my Government's commitment to the values of active multilateralism. Our presence on the United Nations Security Council and the strong support expressed recently by His Majesty King Felipe VI before the General Assembly of the United Nations for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demonstrate the strength of that commitment. In this spirit, Spain wishes to continue to participate as a Member of the Executive Board of UNESCO: we are a candidate for election to this body and we look forward to your support. Mr President, dear colleagues, Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda is “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. This same aspiration guides our education and cooperation policies.

(31.2) Spain has now left behind the greatest crisis it has seen for decades, thanks to the development of a reform agenda undertaken by the Government, which has laid the foundations for economic and social stability and led to well-founded expectations of inflation-free sustainable growth, which would be something new for Spain. The country has grown to 3.4% of the GDP of the Eurozone and is creating one out of every two new jobs in the area. Education reform has had a central role in the Government's reform agenda, because the country's statistics for youth unemployment and early school dropout were very high in comparison with those in neighbouring European countries. A new law on education was launched in 2013 to promote improved quality in the education system, based on the conviction that education is the tool for more and better opportunities for the future available to new generations, and because education is the key to combating social exclusion. We have already achieved results through this education strategy: data for the fourth quarter of 2015 show falls of six percentage points in the rate of early school dropout and of 10% in youth unemployment in comparison with 2011.

(31.3) In this regard, it should be noted that my Government, faced with the current migration crisis in Europe, has implemented a strategy for the integration of refugees through a number of education programmes. As we see it, quality education for our young people is the guarantee of their personal and professional development and of equal opportunities. As the Minister representing Andorra has also mentioned, we must improve quality in the teaching profession and support the work of instructors and educators. No improvement can be achieved in the education system unless teachers play an active, leading role. Dear colleagues, this may be said more loudly but not more clearly.

(31.4) In the area of culture, UNESCO is a vital tool for the preservation of the world's tangible and intangible heritage. Spain has 44 properties included in the World Heritage list, 14 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and five documentary heritage inscriptions on the Memory of the World Register. For 30 years, we have been cooperating with our Ibero-American partners on the preservation of historical heritage; we have also strongly supported the African World Heritage Fund, and we welcome its tenth anniversary. The task of heritage preservation, however, is huge, particularly in the face of premeditated attacks and acts of terrorism and violence against persons and their cultural identity. Spain, together with Italy, has therefore promoted a decision for a strengthening of UNESCO's role in the protection of cultural goods in case of conflict; in that context I wish to thank the Director-General and her team for the studies they are conducting towards a new global strategy.

(31.5) My Government's commitment also extends to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and, in the area of science, to the need to respond to global challenges through major scientific programmes for sustainable development, including the Global Geoparks Network, to which Spain contributes through 10 exponents. Spain also supports the proposal submitted by France, Morocco and Peru to the twenty-first session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), to be held in Paris. It is at times of uncertainty and conflict that it is particularly important to ensure freedom of expression, access to information and the work of communication and information professionals, and Spain will endeavour to do so. Although I love classical music, Mr President, I understand that the music we are now hearing announces the end of my statement. The 400th anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes, the author of Don Quixote, is approaching and we will mark it next year, together with the anniversary of Shakespeare's death. I shall conclude by recalling some words by Cervantes: “The pen is the language of the soul; as the concepts that in it are generated, such will be its writings”. “The language of the soul”, that is UNESCO, a fine concept; those ideas and values remain the basis of the fundamental principles which this Organization has pursued for 70 years, and which Spain will pursue with you over the coming 70 years, at the least. Thank you for your attention.

32. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Šarūnas Birutis, Minister of Culture of Lithuania. Your Excellency you have the floor.

33.1 **Mr Birutis** (Lithuania):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to represent Lithuania at this session of the General Conference, when we celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. For decades, this Organization has defended an inclusive vision for humanity, safeguarded a place for culture, education and science within a wider political agenda. This year we celebrate yet another UNESCO achievement: the

role of culture, education, human rights, and women empowerment was clearly highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

33.2 Today, though, we face tough realities: millions of people are displaced, entire countries and regions destabilized. These are the consequences of human rights and the rule of law being violated, violence being escalated on religious grounds, and cultural heritage targeted as a symbol of "otherness". UNESCO has done a great deal of work in promoting the right to practise one's culture as a fundamental right. Culture is not just a civilized embellishment of life; it binds societies and helps to overcome divisions, it develops solidarity, empathy and innovation. It is the lifeblood of communities, no less important than health or wealth. And if maintained and developed with care, it may become a real resource for the wellbeing of individuals. The role of culture in Lithuania has been constantly strengthened. We recognize the cultural sector as standing at the crossroads of social advancement and innovation.

33.3 Ladies and gentlemen, the digital age changes the media landscape. Together with our partners, including UNESCO, we are constantly looking for ways to renew our commitment in promoting freedom of speech, freedom of access and a multi-stakeholder approach to the Internet. Recently, Lithuania has become an official member of the Freedom Online Coalition. We welcome UNESCO's active engagement in the field of freedom of speech and safety of journalists. As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Lithuania has been strongly committed to promoting international norms regarding the safety of journalists and impunity.

33.4 Distinguished guests, Lithuania sees a significant role of UNESCO in yet another regard. We express our deep concern about the situation in the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in Ukraine, where human rights are being violated by the *de facto* authorities, where dissenting voices, including those of Crimean Tatars, are being silenced. We would welcome a more active involvement of UNESCO in Crimea and trust the Organization will step up its efforts to provide information on the developments in the region. Lithuania stands ready to support UNESCO in this and every other future endeavour. I thank you for your attention.

34. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Azzam bin Mohammed Al-Dakhil, Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٣٥،١ السيد الدخيلي (المملكة العربية السعودية):

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيسة المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرة العامة، أيها السيدات والسادة رؤساء الوفود، أيها الإخوة والأخوات، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، يطيب لي أن أعبر عن سعادتي بالمشاركة في هذا المؤتمر الثقافي الكبير الذي نرسم فيه كل عامين مستقبل منظمتنا العريقة اليونسكو. إن المملكة العربية السعودية تثنى الدور المهم الذي تقوم به اليونسكو على الساحة الدولية، وهذا نتج متأصل لدى المملكة منذ مساهمتها قبل سبعين عاماً في إنشاء المنظمة، بتوجيه واضح وواع لرسالتها من مؤسس المملكة العربية السعودية، الملك عبد العزيز آل سعود رحمه الله. وإننا نتطلع جميعاً إلى أن تبقى منظمة اليونسكو قادرة على استكمال رسالتها الإنسانية، لاسيما في هذه الظروف الساخنة التي يعيشها العالم اليوم. وإذا كانت المنظمة قد مرت بظروف مالية صعبة خلال المدة الماضية، فإننا نأمل أن تنتهي هذه الظروف قريباً من أجل تمكين المنظمة من تحقيق أهدافها وبرامجها. وستواصل المملكة دعمها المعنوي والمالي لتقوم المنظمة بأداء مهامها على أكمل وجه. وقد كان من أهم خطوات هذا الدعم، الزيارة التي تفضل بها خادم الحرمين الشريفين الملك سلمان بن عبد العزيز إلى المنظمة، في مطلع شهر أيلول/سبتمبر من العام المنصرم، التي هدفت لتأكيد العلاقة الوطيدة بين المملكة واليونسكو. وإن المملكة، بوصفها قلب العالم الإسلامي، ترحب بكل المساعي لتحقيق الأهداف المعرفية والثقافية والإنسانية للمنظمة. وقد عبّرت قيادة بلادنا عن ذلك في المحافل الدولية كافة، وترجمت ذلك عملياً بتقديم ما يزيد عن تسعين مليار دولار خلال العقود الثلاثة الماضية، استفادت منها ست وثمانون دولةً ناميةً، وهي نسبة أعلى بكثير من النسبة المستهدفة بحساب الأمم المتحدة.

٣٥،٢ أيها السيدات والسادة، لقد ظلت مدينة القدس وستظل بؤرةً مركزيةً في هذا العالم لا يمكن إهمالها أو الانشغال بمآسي العالم عن مأساتها المتمثلة في مساعي قوة احتلال لتغيير وجهها المتنوع، وطمس هويتها المتعددة. لذا، تستنكر بلادنا ما يجري فيها كل يوم، في العلن والخفاء، لتغيير معالم المدينة المقدسة. وإنه من المؤسف حقاً أن قرار المجلس التنفيذي ١٩١ ت/٩ الذي ينص على إرسال بعثة خبراء إلى مدينة القدس لم ينفذ حتى الآن بسبب الماطلة الإسرائيلية وعدم الضغط الفاعل من الدول المؤثرة. وإن وفد المملكة ليؤكد ويحث رؤساء الهيئات الثلاث للمنظمة على أهمية الضغط باتجاه تنفيذ هذا القرار فوراً.

٣٥،٣ أيها السيدات والسادة، من منطلق اهتمام بلادنا بالتعليم، عملت المملكة مع اليونسكو لإنشاء مركز إقليمي للحدوة والتميز في التعليم العام. ونؤكد في هذا الإطار أهمية تطوير التعليم من أجل تعزيز فرص التعلم الجيد مدى الحياة. فالتعليم هو الحل الأمثل لمشكلات الفقر والجهل والمرض، وما يترتب عليها من صراعات تعوق تحقيق السلام والتعايش العالمي. واستشعاراً من المملكة العربية السعودية لواجبها الإنساني والأخوي، وبتوجيه من القيادة الرشيدة لسيدنا خادم الحرمين الشريفين الملك سلمان بن عبدالعزيز حفظه الله، ولسمو ولي عهدنا الأمير محمد بن نايف، ولسمو ولي ولي العهد الأمير محمد بن سلمان، حفظهما الله، للوقوف مع الشعبين السوري واليمن، في ظل الأزمتهما اللتين يمر بهما الشعبان الشقيقان، استضافت المملكة مئات الآلاف منهم مع عائلاتهم، وخصصت لهم عشرات الآلاف من المنح الدراسية، وتم قبولهم في جميع مراحل التعليم، دعماً لمستقبل تعليمي وحياة آمنة، يعدهم عن مصادر الضرر والخطر والانحراف، وإعداد علماء ومتخصصين منهم لبناء بلديهما، بعد انتهاء هذه الأزمة بإذن الله تعالى.

٣٥،٤ معالي الرئيس، ختاماً يسرني التنويه بالمتديات الشبابية التي نظمتها اليونسكو قبيل المؤتمر لقادة المستقبل بالشراكة مع مركز الملك سلمان للشباب، ومؤسسة الأمير محمد بن سلمان الخيرية "مسك"، وبمشاركة فاعلة من شباب بلادنا، من الفتيات والفتيات، منطلعين إلى عالم أكثر تنوعاً وتسامحاً وتفهماً لمتطلبات المرحلة التي يعيشونها. وأود في ختام كلمتي أن أهنيء جمهورية كوسوفو، لحصولها على التأييد الإيجابي من قبل المجلس التنفيذي، لمنحها العضوية الكاملة بمنظمة اليونسكو، وأرجو أن يعتمد المؤتمر العام هذا القرار، كي نرحب معاً بهذه الجمهورية التي عانت آلاماً كبيرةً في أثناء حروب البلقان. وختاماً، إننا ندعو إلى أن يبقى ملف

الحوار بين الثقافات نشطاً ومفتوحاً، فهو من أهم العلاقات المضيق في مسيرة عمل المنظمة، وفي سعيها إلى ترسيخ ثقافة التسامح والتعايش والاحترام المتبادل بين مختلف الثقافات والحضارات، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(35.1) **Mr Al-Dakhil** (Saudi Arabia) (*translation from the Arabic*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, heads of delegations, brothers and sisters, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I am pleased to convey to you how happy I am to be taking part in this great cultural conference, at which, every two years, we chart the future of our venerable Organization, UNESCO. Saudi Arabia appreciates the important role UNESCO plays on the international stage. This has been our unwavering approach ever since we participated, 70 years ago, in the establishment of the Organization, with clear and conscious guidance from the founder of Saudi Arabia, King Abdulaziz Al Saud, may God have mercy upon him. We all hope that the Organization will remain able to pursue its humanitarian mission, especially under the trying circumstances currently being experienced by the world. If the Organization has gone through difficult financial circumstances in recent times, we hope that these circumstances will soon come to an end and that the Organization may once again be able to realize its goals and carry out its programmes. Saudi Arabia will continue its moral and financial support to enable the Organization to perform its tasks in optimum fashion. One of the most important forms of such support was the visit paid by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, to the Organization in early September last year, in which he stressed the strong relationship between Saudi Arabia and UNESCO. Saudi Arabia, as the heart of the Islamic world, welcomes all efforts aimed at achieving the humanitarian knowledge-related and cultural goals of the Organization. The leadership of my country has spoken on that topic in all international fora, and has put its views into practice by contributing more than \$90 million over the past three decades, from which 86 developing countries have benefited, a rate that is much higher than the rate of those targeted by the United Nations.

(35.2) Ladies and gentlemen, Jerusalem has been and remains a central focal point in this world which must not be disregarded; nor should we be concerned by the tragedies of the world without being concerned by the tragedy of Jerusalem, namely the attempts by the occupation force to modify its diverse physiognomy and to obliterate its multiple identities. My country therefore rejects what is taking place there on a daily basis both in broad daylight and behind the scenes in order to change the landmarks of the holy city. It is truly regrettable that 191 EX/Decision 9, which calls for the dispatch of a monitoring mission to Jerusalem, has not yet been implemented owing to Israeli procrastination and a lack of effective pressure from influential countries. The delegation of Saudi Arabia stresses to the heads of the Organization's three organs the importance of bringing pressure to bear for the immediate implementation of this decision.

(35.3) Ladies and gentlemen, owing to the importance my country attaches to education, Saudi Arabia and UNESCO cooperated on establishing the Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence in Education. In this connection, we reiterate the importance of developing education in order to strengthen lifelong learning opportunities. Education is the optimum solution to the problems of poverty, ignorance and disease, and the ensuing conflicts which hamper the achievement of peace and global coexistence. Keenly aware of our humanitarian and fraternal duty, and with guidance from the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, may God preserve him, and of His Highness the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef and His Highness the Heir Apparent to the Crown Prince, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, may God preserve them both, in order to stand together with the Syrian and Yemeni peoples against the backdrop of the twin crises affecting those two fraternal peoples, Saudi Arabia has hosted hundreds of thousands of them, together with their families, and awarded them tens of thousands of study grants; they have been accepted into all levels of education, in support of a future of education and a life of security, which will keep them safe from sources of harm, danger and deviation, and likewise help to train specialized scientists from among them in order, God willing, to rebuild their countries once the present crises have ended.

(35.4) Mr President, in conclusion, I am pleased to commend the Youth Forum held by UNESCO just before the General Conference for the leaders of the future, in partnership with the King Salman Youth Center and the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Foundation "Misk" and the effective partnership of the youth, both boys and girls, of my country, who look forward to a world which is more diverse, tolerant and understanding of the requirements of the age in which they live. I should like, at the end of my statement, to congratulate the Republic of Kosovo on having garnered positive support from the Executive Board for accession to full membership of UNESCO. I hope that the General Conference will approve this recommendation, so that we may together welcome this republic which has suffered greatly during the Balkan wars. In conclusion, we urge that the dialogue among civilizations file remain active and open, for this is one of the most important and enlightening aspects in the work of the Organization in its endeavour to inculcate a culture of tolerance, coexistence and mutual respect among various cultures and civilizations. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

36. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister for Education of Bangladesh. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

37.1 **Mr Nahid** (Bangladesh):

Mr. President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I feel honoured to address this august gathering at this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Congratulations, Mr President, on your election. We assure you of our support.

37.2 Over the last 70 years, UNESCO has been working as the conscience of the United Nations. As we all know, UNESCO is an idea-generating entity. What generates ideas in a human body? It is the brain. If we consider the United Nations system a human body, UNESCO is obviously its brain. So what has this brain been doing during the last 70 years? From education for sustainable development to intercultural dialogue, from promoting gender equality or human rights to protecting underwater heritage, from biosphere reserves network to a declaration on bioethics, from protecting endangered languages to developing tsunami early-warning systems, UNESCO is always there to address the most pressing needs of humanity of our planet. And almost everywhere, UNESCO's involvement makes a difference.

37.3 But have we done enough to make this world a peaceful one? A world free from hunger and diseases, free from inequality, conflicts, chaos and calamities, both natural and man-made? We have certainly achieved some successes in all these areas, but much more needs to be done. The year 2015 is indeed a landmark year. It is the final year for the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the education for all (EFA) goals and also the year of adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Secretary-General of the United Nations has rightly said that "the global mobilization behind the Millennium Development Goals has produced the most successful anti-poverty movement in history". Since 1990, the number of people living in extreme poverty and the under-five mortality rate, have declined by more than half, and the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45% worldwide.

37.4 As regards EFA goals, there has been remarkable progress across the globe. The number of out-of-school children and adolescents has declined by almost half since 2000. Great progress has been achieved in gender parity, particularly in primary education. Governments' efforts to improve quality of education have also increased. However, the progress is uneven and substantial inequalities exist between countries and within countries. Almost all of the 800 million people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger live in developing countries. About 16,000 children die each day before celebrating their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable diseases. The maternal mortality ratio in developing regions is still 14 times higher than in the developed regions. In spite of progress, EFA goals remain unachieved. There are still 58 million children out of school worldwide and around 100 million children who do not complete primary education. Gender disparity persists in a third of the countries.

37.5 Within our countries, big gaps still exist between the poorest and richest households. Millions of people are lagging behind because of their sex, age, disability, ethnicity or geographic location. Inequality in education has increased, putting the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized in a challenging situation. Given this backdrop of MDGs and education for all, a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators, Sustainable Development Goals, have been adopted. The SDGs incorporate the unfinished agenda of MDGs and EFA and expand those further. Achieving SDGs would be challenging indeed if we are unable to boost research to tackle climate change impacts on small island developing States and other vulnerable countries such as Bangladesh. Already the world has been introduced with a relatively new term – climate-change refugees. If we are not sufficiently serious about reducing carbon emissions and stopping the rise of global temperature, the developed world might have to face a huge influx of climate-change refugees in the near future and that will certainly hamper achieving SDGs in the stipulated time. We are hopeful that the twenty-first session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) will address all these issues and will reach a consensus to tackle climate change impact.

37.6 Mr. President, the world is ever changing and the new world is facing complex and transnational new challenges. Building on our experience and lessons, we must respond to the demands of new situations, while remaining true to our long-term commitments. Thank you, Mr President.

38. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Hindou Mint Ainina, Minister of Culture and Crafts of Mauritania. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٣٩،١ السيدة إينينا (موريتانيا):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم و صلى الله على نبيه الكريم، السيد الرئيس، معالي المديرية العامة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة، أصحاب المعالي الوزراء ورؤساء الوفود، أصحاب السعادة سفراء الدول الأعضاء، وأصحاب الفضيلة الخبراء، أيها الجمع الكريم، اسمحو لي ابتداءً أن أعبر لكم عن غبطتي بوجودي بينكم، تحت قبة منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة التي ترمز إلى حكمتنا الجماعية وتعد أكبر وأنبى تجسيد لرسالة الإنسان على الأرض، منظمة اليونسكو صاحبة الرسالة العالمية الخالدة. كما أعبر هنا عن تهنيتي للمنظمة، مديرة وطاقم عمل، على حسن الأداء في نشر رسالة السلم والإخاء عبر المعمورة حيث كانت منظمنا العتيبة هي المدافعة الأولى، خلال سبعين عاماً، عن القيم التي تجمع وتبث الثقة والاعتزاز في النفوس المهزوزة، والأمل بين أصحاب الهويات الثقافية المهتدة، وتحافظ على التنوع الفائق في طرائق الحياة ولدى الشعوب. وإنها لرسالة تستحق العناء الذي تبدلونه، خاصة في وقتنا الحالي، حيث تعاني ثقافات وشعوب كثيرة من ويلات الحرب والنزاع والقهر ورفض الآخر. وانطلاقاً من هذا المبدأ واعتماداً له، أطلقت بلادنا هذه السنة سياسة عامة تهدف إلى الرفع من شأن الإنسان من خلال برامج متكاملة تضمن التكفل بالحرث العامة الفردية والجماعية، وتعمل على تشجيع النمو ومحاربة الفقر بتوسيع القاعدة الإنتاجية الوطنية في الحقل الثقافي والشبابي، مما سيسهم حتماً في توطيد ثقافة السلم والحوار المستمر بين كل مكونات مجتمعنا للإسهام في مجهود التنمية.

٣٩،٢ السيد الرئيس، معالي المديرية العامة، أيها الحضور المجل، إن موريتانيا كما كانت دائماً بموقعها المميز بين المجموعتين الكبيرتين لشمال إفريقيا وغرب إفريقيا، ظلت قنطرةً تعبر عليها الحضارات بين مجالي شمال وجنوب الصحراء، يشيع أبنائها ثقافة السلم والتسامح بين شعوب المنطقة. وفي السياق المتوتر الذي نشهده اليوم، تواصل بلادنا السعي إلى تعزيز دورها كحلقة وصل في فضاء انتمائها العربي والأفريقي، والإسلامي والدولي، انطلاقاً من واجب نصرته القضايا العادلة، وقناعةً بأن الحوار هو الوسيلة الأمثل لفض النزاعات ومعالجة الأزمات وتشجيع الوسطية لإيجاد مخرج منصف من الهزات التي يعرفها عالمنا.

٣٩،٣ سيدي الرئيس، معالي المديرية العامة، في المجال الثقافي واقتناعاً منا بالدور الذي يجب أن تضطلع به الثقافة في التنمية المستدامة، وكما ذكرت آنفاً، تبنت موريتانيا هذه السنة إصلاحاً ثقافياً طموحاً سيسمح بحماية الهوية الثقافية الوطنية، ليس بوصفها أساساً للتلاحم بين جميع مكونات شعبنا فحسب، بل سيجعل من الثقافة مساهماً فعالاً في التنمية من خلال ما ستوفره من ثروة ومن مواطن للشغل. وإن المخطط الوطني للتنمية الثقافية يتضمن إعلاناً لسياسة عامة في مجال الثقافة سيفضي إلى مراجعة شاملة للمنظومة القانونية والإطار المؤسسي للثقافة بشكل يضمن التأطير اللازم لمختلف الأنشطة الثقافية والتكوين الفعال للأطر والفنيين العاملين في هذا المجال، وإشراك التجمعات المحلية ومنظمات المجتمع المدني في تنفيذ هذه السياسة، وإنجاز مشاريع ثقافية كبيرة تهدف إلى حماية مختلف مكونات تراثنا الثقافي وتحقيق تطوراً ملموساً في مستوى أداء الأنشطة الثقافية محلياً، ووضع أسس لصناعات ثقافية قادرة على خلق عدد معتبر من فرص العمل ودعم الإنتاج الثقافي الخصوصي من خلال إنشاء نظام فعال للقروض الميسرة، وتطوير فعاليات وبرامج قادرة على إحداث ديناميكية جديدة في مجال العمل الثقافي. ومن بين مكونات المخطط الوطني للتنمية الثقافية يحظى البرنامج الوطني لإحياء التراث القيمي بأهمية خاصة بالنسبة إلينا. فإنه يشكل، يا سيدي الرئيس

ومعالي المديرة العامة والحضور المميز، مبادرة تضعها موريتانيا تحت تصرف المجتمع الدولي حتى نتمكن كلنا، من خلال ترمين تراث البشرية الأخلاقي، من المساهمة في الحد من التفاوت في الحقوق والفرص، ومن ثم مواجهة كل أشكال التمييز والإقصاء والتطرف والعلو والصراعات المحلية وتلك العابرة للحدود.

٣٩،٤ فعندما نتبنى القيم الكونية التي هي قيمنا أيضاً، فإننا نسهم في المجهود الرامي لشمولية الحقوق والواجبات الذي تعتر به منظمنا من جهة، ومساواة الجميع في إنسانيتهم من جهة أخرى، مما سيمكن الشعوب والحضارات من أن تتحدث فيما بينها، وتنصت لبعضها وتتسامح فيما تختلف فيه وتتلاقى ضمن ما هو مشترك بينها، عكس ما يدعو له صقور التاريخ المعاصر من صدام وتنافر بين الحضارات. وإن تعميم وتكريس قيم التسامح والتعاقد واحترام الآخر، واعتمادها كأساس لتعايش أفضل هو ما نريد أن نطبقه في بلادنا، لأن تأكيد الهوية من خلال تراث القيم المشتركة سيمكن دون شك من تعزيز الإحساس بالانتماء والاعتزاز بالنفس، ليس بما هو رفض للعصرنة المحتمية كما تتجلى وتفرض نفسها، بل كما هو تعبير عن مكونة تبرز خصوصية أُنسنة الفرد ضمن شمولية العولمة التي تتجلى، للأسف، في قالب يعمل جاهداً نحو كل الخصوصيات.

٣٩،٥ ولقد حددت موريتانيا لنفسها أهدافاً طموحةً جداً في مجال التعليم ورصدت موارد هامة تم تسخيرها لبناء المدارس وتعميم التمدريس وتشجيع التميز وتعزيز تكوين المدرسين. ولكي يعطي دفعاً أكبر لهذا التوجه، أعلن رئيس الجمهورية هذه السنة سنة للتعليم، ما جعله أولوياً على مستوى التمويل والاستثمار، ومحورياً في التفكير والبحث عن الحلول التي يمكنها إعطاء الدفع اللازم. وأنتهز الفرصة لأشكر اليونسكو على الدعم والمواكبة اللذان تقدمهما لبلادنا في هذا المجال.

(39.1) **Ms Ainina (Mauritania) (translation from the Arabic):**

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, God bless his noble Prophet. Mr President, Your Excellency Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellencies ministers and heads of delegations, Your Excellencies ambassadors of Member States, experts, ladies and gentlemen, allow me at the outset to say how happy I am to be among you under the dome of UNESCO, which symbolizes our collective wisdom and is the greatest and noblest embodiment of the message of humankind on earth; UNESCO is the bearer of an eternal global message. I also congratulate the Director-General and staff of the Organization on their good performance in disseminating the message of peace and brotherhood all over the globe. Our venerable Organization has been the foremost champion, over 70 years, of the values which gather together and disseminate confidence and pride to unstable souls, and hope to individuals of threatened cultural identities, and preserve outstanding diversity in ways of life and among peoples. It is a message which is deserving of the efforts that you are exerting, especially at present, when numerous cultures and peoples are suffering from the woes of war, conflict, oppression and rejection of the Other. On the basis of and relying on this principle, our country has this year launched a public policy aimed at raising the profile of individuals by means of integrated programmes which ensure general individual and collective freedoms, and which endeavour to encourage growth and combat poverty by expanding the national productive base in the fields of culture and youth, which will definitely contribute to consolidating the culture of peace and constant dialogue among all components of our society in order to participate in the development effort.

(39.2) Mr President, Your Excellency Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, Mauritania is, and has always been, by virtue of its singular geographical position between the two great groups of North Africa and West Africa, a bridge over which the civilizations pass between North and South Sahara, whose inhabitants have a culture of peace and tolerance among the peoples of the region. In the tense context of today, our country is continuing its efforts to strengthen its role as a vital link within the space of its multiple affiliations: Arab, African, Islamic and international, on the basis of its duty to champion just issues, and its conviction that dialogue is the optimum means for defusing conflicts, addressing crises, and encouraging mediation in order to find just outcomes from the tremors experienced by our world.

(39.3) Mr President, Your Excellency Madam Director-General, in the field of culture, being convinced of the role that culture should play in sustainable development, as I said earlier, Mauritania has adopted just this year an ambitious cultural reform which will help to protect its national cultural identity, not only as a basis for cohesion among all the constituent elements of our people, but also with a view to making culture an effective contributor to development through the richness it provides as well as through job opportunities. The national plan for cultural development includes the announcement of a public policy in the field of culture which should lead to a comprehensive review of the legal system and an institutional framework for culture containing the necessary supervisory structures for various cultural activities and effective training for supervisors and technicians working in this field, involve local associations and civil society organizations in implementing this policy, carry out large-scale cultural projects aimed at protecting various elements of our cultural heritage and achieving tangible development with regard to the performance of cultural activities locally, and lay the foundations of cultural industries capable of creating an appreciable number of job opportunities, and supporting private cultural production by establishing an effective system of easy loans and developing activities and programmes capable of creating a new dynamic in the field of cultural work. Among the components of the national plan for cultural development, the national plan for the revival of the values heritage is of particular importance for us. It constitutes, Mr President, Your Excellency Madam Director-General, and distinguished delegates, an initiative which Mauritania is placing at the disposal of the international community so that we may all, by developing the ethical human heritage, help to reduce the gap between rights and opportunities, and hence counter all forms of discrimination, exclusion, extremism, fanaticism, and local and trans-boundary conflicts.

(39.4) When we adopt universal values, which are also our own values, we contribute to the effort to ensure the universality of the rights and duties of which our Organization is proud on the one hand, and the equality of all in their humanity on the other hand, which will enable the peoples and civilizations to talk among themselves and to listen to one another, be tolerant about their differences, and come together within the scope of what is common to them, the opposite of the clash and aversion of civilizations that the hawks of contemporary history propagate. The generalization and consecration of the values of tolerance, mutual assistance and respect for the Other, and the adoption of those values as the foundation of better coexistence is what we seek to apply in our own country, because the reaffirmation of our identity through the heritage of joint values will no doubt enable us to strengthen our feeling of belonging and pride in ourselves, not as a rejection of the inevitable modernization that is emerging and imposing itself, but as an expression of a component which highlights the specificity of the humanization of the individual within the universality of globalization which is becoming apparent, unfortunately, in a mould which works actively to obliterate all specificities.

(39.5) Mauritania has set itself very ambitious goals in the field of education, and devoted considerable resources to building schools, generalizing school attendance, encouraging excellence, and strengthening teacher training. In order to give

greater impetus to these efforts, the President of the Republic has proclaimed this year the Year of Education, and has made education a priority for funding and investment, and central to reflection on and the search for solutions which may give it the necessary impetus. I take this opportunity to thank UNESCO for the support and assistance it has provided to our country in this field.

40.1 The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Andrés Arauz, Minister Coordinator for Knowledge and Human Talent of Ecuador. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

41.1 Sr. Arauz (Ecuador):

Señor Presidente, señora Directora General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, autoridades, delegados y delegadas: comienzo con un saludo de nuestro Presidente Rafael Correa Delgado. Erradicar la pobreza no es un acto de caridad, sino de justicia, y las bases reales para garantizar esa justicia están en el cumplimiento integral de todos los derechos humanos. Al restringir a cualquier individuo el acceso a la educación, a la cultura, a la ciencia, a la tecnología y a la información, lo estamos condenando a una de las formas de esclavitud más aberrantes: la ignorancia.

41.2 Acabar con la pobreza no es un asunto meramente técnico; es, sobre todo, un asunto de voluntad política, que es hoy un imperativo moral en el Ecuador. Por ello, como ya lo señaló el Presidente Rafael Correa en la última Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el país cumplirá las 21 metas de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. 20 de esas 21 metas ya han sido cumplidas antes de lo previsto. En ese marco, el conocimiento y el talento humano no son pilares para erradicar la pobreza sino puntales para transformar la matriz productiva y cognitiva del país. Si no generamos nuestros propios conocimientos estamos condenados a depender de lo que otros producen, no solamente en términos materiales, sino epistémicos. Monseñor Leonidas Proaño, nuestro teólogo de la liberación, abogaba por alfabetizar urgentemente a los sectores sociales más excluidos de la historia, como los pobres e indígenas, para que ellos mismos asumieran los procesos de cambio.

41.3 El Ecuador es líder en Sudamérica en la apuesta por la educación, porque estamos convencidos de que es la mejor inversión. Hemos logrado la reordenación del sistema educativo mediante un modelo de gestión desconcentrada, la formulación de un nuevo marco legal que definió a la educación como un derecho constitucional y un servicio público, triplicando el presupuesto a la educación no universitaria. Los resultados del Tercer Estudio Regional Comparativo y Explicativo (TERCE) evidenciaron los grandes avances en el rendimiento educativo ecuatoriano, ubicándonos como el país que ha mejorado su desempeño de manera más rápida y significativa. Asimismo, somos el país latinoamericano con mayor número de becas en relación a su población. Entregamos casi once mil becas a jóvenes ecuatorianos para que estudien en las mejores universidades del mundo. Adicionalmente, mi Gobierno ha creado cuatro universidades emblemáticas: YACHAY, Ciudad del conocimiento, la Universidad Regional Amazónica IKIAM para estudiar nuestra biodiversidad, la Universidad de las Artes y la Universidad Nacional de Educación, clave en la calidad educativa.

41.4 Para que los países se tornen hacia una verdadera justicia internacional, en donde no se proteja la mercantilización de los bienes culturales, sobre todo en los países más desarrollados, en desmedro de los justos reclamos de nuestros países, el Ecuador hace un llamado a la UNESCO y a toda la comunidad internacional a impulsar, de verdad, la lucha contra el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales. Los países del Sur Global propusieron, en una reivindicación histórica, las Directrices Operativas para la aplicación de la Convención sobre las Medidas que deben Adoptarse para Prohibir e Impedir la Importación, la Exportación y la Transferencia de Propiedad Ilícitas de Bienes Culturales (1970), que buscan dar un giro en los avances contra este mal que aqueja a la humanidad. Debieron pasar cuatro décadas para contar con este instrumento. No es posible que el capital y las mercancías circulen libremente mientras las personas se enfrentan a tantas restricciones, como lo demuestra la crisis humanitaria de refugiados de los últimos meses. Por eso, la participación del Ecuador y otros países latinoamericanos en la UNESCO, a través del Programa MOST, ha sido fundamental para posicionar dentro de la agenda posterior a 2015, a la movilidad humana como un puntal para garantizar la ciudadanía universal. Como ha dicho el Presidente Rafael Correa: “¡Los seres humanos no son ilegales!”. El Papa Francisco, en su encíclica sobre el medio ambiente, señala que “la humanidad está llamada a tomar conciencia de la necesidad de realizar cambios de estilo de vida, de producción y de consumo”, porque, de lo contrario, profundizaríamos la crisis civilizatoria que ya estamos viviendo. Y la solución es poner al ser humano en el centro del desarrollo, en armonía con la naturaleza y evitar la privatización del conocimiento y la tecnología que nos permita luchar contra el cambio climático.

41.5 Celebramos la propuesta del Consejo Ejecutivo de que esta 38ª reunión de la Conferencia General proclame el “Día internacional de defensa del ecosistema de manglares”, iniciativa que fue presentada por el Ecuador. Este ecosistema es uno de los más importantes de las costas por su papel en el mantenimiento y conservación de la biodiversidad, pero también uno de los más amenazados del mundo. El Ecuador aspira a ser parte de la Red Mundial de Geoparques, con dos proyectos emblemáticos: el volcán Tungurahua, en proceso eruptivo, y el Geoparque Imbabura, que constituirán un importante incentivo de desarrollo sostenible en estas zonas del país. Hoy más que nunca debemos pensar en crear una cultura de paz. La UNESCO enfrenta ahora un escenario inaudito en el siglo XXI, un conflicto violento con una intolerancia creciente y la destrucción del patrimonio cultural de la humanidad. En ese sentido, el Ecuador considera que el mandato de la UNESCO está más vigente que nunca para encaminarnos hacia el logro de un desarrollo sostenible, justo, equitativo e inclusivo para todos los pueblos. Como ministro latinoamericano que soy invoco al Libertador Bolívar, quien dijo: “La unidad de nuestros pueblos no es simple quimera de los hombres, sino inexorable decreto del destino”. Esa sentencia es nuestra insignia y nuestro porvenir. Muchísimas gracias.

(41.1) **Mr Arauz (Ecuador)** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, officials and delegates, I bring you greetings from our President, Rafael Correa Delgado. To eradicate poverty is not an act of charity but of justice, and the real

basis for ensuring that justice lies in the full enjoyment of all human rights. To restrict anyone's access to education, culture, science, technology and information is to condemn that person to one of the most appalling forms of slavery: ignorance.

(41.2) Ending poverty is not merely a technical matter; it is above all a matter of political will, which is now a moral imperative in Ecuador. As President Rafael Correa mentioned at the latest session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the country will therefore meet the 21 targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Of the 21, some 20 have already been met ahead of schedule. In this framework, human talent and knowledge are pillars, not for the eradication of poverty but for transforming the country's productive and cognitive matrix. If we do not generate our own knowledge we are condemned to depend on that which others produce, in both material and epistemic terms. Monsignor Leonidas Proaño, our liberation theologian, advocated urgent literacy programmes for history's most marginalized social sectors, such as indigenous people and the poor, so that they themselves could undertake the processes of change.

(41.3) Ecuador is a leading country in South America in terms of its commitment to education, which its people believe to be the best possible investment. Its education system has been restructured thanks to a model of decentralized management, together with a new legal framework defining education as a constitutional right and a public service, tripling the budget for non-university education. The results of the Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (TERCE) reflected the considerable progress in Ecuador's educational performance: it is the country which has achieved the most rapid and significant improvement. Per head of population, it is also the country in Latin America that grants the greatest number of educational scholarships. We have provided some 11,000 scholarships to young Ecuadorian nationals, enabling them to study at the world's best universities. My Government has also established four "Emblematic Universities": Yachay Tech University (located in Yachay City of Knowledge), Ikiam Amazon University, to study our biodiversity, the University of the Arts, and the National University of Education, which is of key importance for the quality of schooling.

(41.4) To encourage countries to turn to genuine international justice which will not protect the commercial exploitation of cultural property – particularly by the developed countries in defiance of the just claims of our countries – Ecuador calls on UNESCO and the entire international community to genuinely promote the fight against the illicit trade in cultural property. The countries of the global South, making a historic demand, have proposed the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which seek to give a new direction to progress in combating this evil which afflicts humanity. We have had to wait four decades for this instrument. There can be no free movement of capital and goods while people are faced with so many restrictions, as has been shown by the humanitarian crisis of refugees in recent months. Consequently, the participation of Ecuador and other Latin American countries in UNESCO, through the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, has been vitally important in positioning, within the post-2015 agenda, human mobility as a cornerstone in guaranteeing universal citizenship. As President Rafael Correa has said, "Human beings are not illegal!" Pope Francis, in his Encyclical on the environment, stated that "Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption", because if it does not, it would worsen the crisis of civilization we are already facing. The answer is to place the human person at the centre of development, in harmony with nature, and prevent the privatization of knowledge and of the technology we need to combat climate change.

(41.5) We welcome the Executive Board's proposal for the proclamation by this 38th session of the General Conference of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, an initiative presented by Ecuador. It is one of the most important coastal ecosystems, given its role in the maintenance and conservation of biodiversity, but it is also among the most seriously threatened in the world. Ecuador aspires to be part of the Global Geoparks Network, with two flagship projects: the Tungurahua volcano, currently erupting, and the Imbabura Geopark; these will be a major incentive for sustainable development in the respective parts of the country. Today, more than ever, we must consider the establishment of a culture of peace. UNESCO is currently facing a situation unprecedented in the twenty-first century, a violent conflict with growing intolerance and destruction of the cultural heritage of humanity. Ecuador believes that UNESCO's mandate is more significant than ever before, to set out towards achieving sustainable, just, equitable and inclusive development for all peoples. As a Latin American minister, I invoke the Liberator Simón Bolívar, who said: "The unity of our peoples is not the mere illusion of men, but inexorable decree of destiny". This maxim is our flag and our future. Thank you very much.

42. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Jehyson Guzmán, Vice-Minister of Popular Power for University Education, Science and Technology of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. You have the floor, Your Excellency.

43.1 **Sr. Guzmán** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela):

Alguna vez el maestro Andrés Bello dijo que no bastaba con sentir orgullo por ser políticamente libres si no lo fuéramos también culturalmente. Incontadas veces lo advertía nuestro Comandante eterno Hugo Chávez: sin cultura no hay revolución. Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General de la UNESCO, señoras y señores:

43.2 Reciban un saludo fraternal, que traigo desde la patria del Libertador Simón Bolívar y del Comandante Hugo Chávez, en nombre del pueblo venezolano y de nuestro Presidente, Nicolás Maduro, pero antes de todo deseo expresar nuestras condolencias al Gobierno y al pueblo rusos por el lamentable accidente aéreo ocurrido en Egipto el pasado 31 de octubre.

43.3 Venezuela, al celebrar los 70 años de la fundación de la UNESCO, año conmemorativo del Bicentenario de la Carta de Jamaica del Libertador Simón Bolívar, ratifica su sólido compromiso con la paz como premisa fundamental de esta Organización. En 1999, el Comandante Hugo Chávez expresó: "Hemos venido a este escenario de encuentros y de luchas de todas las culturas y de todos los rumbos de la humanidad; la UNESCO es precisamente eso: lucha y búsqueda de un mundo mejor". Fue en este mismo escenario donde el Comandante denunció los grandes rasgos de inequidad causados por la voracidad del modelo capitalista, advirtiendo sobre las pretensiones imperialistas de los Estados Unidos por aniquilar y comprometer la educación, la ciencia, la tecnología y la cultura de nuestros pueblos. Las numerosas conquistas sociales de la Revolución Bolivariana, compatibles con el mandato universal de la UNESCO, han posicionado a Venezuela como una referencia mundial, lo cual ha quedado ratificado con su reciente reelección en el Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas. Venezuela alcanzó las metas de la Educación para Todos,

fomentando la Cooperación Sur-Sur, la educación inclusiva de calidad y con pertinencia social, así como el intercambio de buenas prácticas educativas. Por ello agradecemos el apoyo de la Directora General para fortalecer al Instituto Internacional de la UNESCO para la Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe (IESALC), para seguir haciendo de la educación superior una prioridad en América Latina y el Caribe. Celebramos que hace diez años Venezuela haya sido declarada por la UNESCO como "territorio libre de analfabetismo", gracias a la puesta en marcha de la "Misión Robinson" que motivó al pueblo a cursar estudios desde primero hasta sexto grado de educación básica. A esto le siguieron las "Misiones Ribas", para culminar los estudios de secundaria; la que hizo posible el acceso a la educación universitaria fue la "Misión Sucre". Y hoy afirmamos que el sistema educativo venezolano concentra más de diez millones de estudiantes, lo que representa un tercio de nuestra población, haciendo de toda la patria una escuela.

43.4 En el año 2013, el Proyecto Canaimita fue reconocido por la UNESCO como una buena práctica educativa. Hoy hemos entregado más de cuatro millones de microcomputadoras portátiles a los niños y niñas de la patria. Venezuela presenta ante la UNESCO un conjunto de políticas educativas y de buenas prácticas de gestión pública, que ponemos a disposición de los pueblos del mundo, entre ellas: el Plan Canaima Universitario como práctica innovadora de la política pública nacional en apoyo a la educación de calidad y de acceso a la tecnología; en este marco, hasta hoy hemos entregado de forma gratuita un total de 170.000 tabletas a estudiantes universitarios, de manera gratuita; la Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina se convierte en una alternativa, beneficiando a más de 4.000 estudiantes provenientes de 48 países del mundo; la Misión Sucre preseleccionada por la UNESCO en el año 2009 como una de las mejores prácticas en políticas y programas de juventud de América Latina que representa una oportunidad de acceso a la educación universitaria; y, por último, el Programa de Formación de Medicina Integral Comunitaria que constituye una política del Estado venezolano en materia de formación para el área de salud.

43.5 La democratización de la información y las comunicaciones en Venezuela se consolida con la creación de más de 600 radios comunitarias y el uso masivo de la tecnología y con la instalación de 915 infocentros, iniciativa galardonada con el Premio UNESCO-Rey Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa para la Utilización de las Tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación en la Educación, que aportan formación, aprendizaje, alfabetización tecnológica y acceso gratuito a Internet al pueblo venezolano.

43.6 La cultura venezolana representa un eje transversal estratégico del Gobierno bolivariano, de rescate de los valores de identidad nacional, la preservación del patrimonio y la salvaguarda de las lenguas indígenas. El Sistema Nacional de Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles, declarado Artista de la UNESCO para la Paz, y las inscripciones de los Diablos Danzantes del Corpus Christi, La Parranda de San Pedro de Guarenas-Guatire y la tradición oral del pueblo indígena Mapoyo como patrimonio inmaterial de la humanidad constituyen otros reconocimientos de la UNESCO a los logros de la revolución bolivariana.

43.7 Uno de los grandes éxitos de nuestra diplomacia de paz estriba en el impulso y dinamismo de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), la Alianza Bolivariana para los pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA), la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR) y el Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR), en los que hemos desarrollado de manera conjunta múltiples programas y proyectos de cooperación que obtienen resultados significativos en las esferas de competencia de la UNESCO.

43.8 Conscientes de los desafíos que implica la puesta en marcha de la Agenda 2030, y reconociendo los avances significativos de Venezuela en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, así como de los objetivos propuestos en la Declaración de Incheon, refrendamos la visión de transformar vidas a través de la educación, sin dejar a nadie atrás, lo que refleja nuestros más profundos principios bolivarianos de forjar un mundo mejor. Señoras y señores: el Gobierno bolivariano del Presidente Nicolás Maduro reafirma su compromiso de preservar el legado del Comandante Chávez, garantizando las conquistas de nuestro pueblo en torno a la educación y a la cultura, como bienes de la revolución. Para concluir reiteramos nuestra denuncia ante la comunidad internacional de la agresión imperial de la cual ha sido objeto el Gobierno del Presidente Nicolás Maduro a través de un boicot económico que persigue destruir la revolución bolivariana del pueblo venezolano, lesionando los derechos fundamentales de los hombres y mujeres de la patria de Bolívar y Chávez. Señoras y señores: con respecto al decreto de Obama declaramos desde la fuerza de la moral: Venezuela no es una amenaza, Venezuela es una esperanza. Muchísimas gracias en nombre del pueblo venezolano.

(43.1) **Mr Guzmán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*translation from the Spanish*):

The great Andrés Bello once said that it was not enough to be proud of political freedom if one did not also have cultural freedom. Our immortal President Hugo Chávez said it many times: without culture there is no revolution. Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen:

(43.2) I bring you fraternal greetings from the homeland of the Liberator Simón Bolívar and of President Hugo Chávez, in the name of the Venezuelan people and of our President, Nicolás Maduro; first though, I wish to express our condolences to the Government and people of the Russian Federation for the terrible air disaster in Egypt on 31 October.

(43.3) As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of UNESCO and the bicentennial of Liberator Simón Bolívar's "Letter from Jamaica", Venezuela reiterates its firm commitment to peace as the fundamental principle of this Organization. In 1999, President Hugo Chávez said: "We have come to this stage of encounters and struggles of all the cultures and paths of humanity. UNESCO is exactly that: seeking for and fighting for a better future". It was in that same context that he denounced the major patterns of inequity caused by the voraciousness of the capitalist model, warning against the United States' imperialist ambitions to destroy and compromise our people's education, science, technology and culture. The numerous social conquests of the Bolivarian revolution, compatible with UNESCO's universal model, have positioned Venezuela as a worldwide example, and this has been ratified by its recent re-election to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. Venezuela has achieved the education for all goals, promoting South-South cooperation, high-quality, socially-relevant, inclusive education and the sharing of good educational practices. We are grateful to the Director-General for her support for strengthening the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC), to

continue making higher education a priority in Latin America and the Caribbean. We celebrate UNESCO's declaration, 10 years ago, of Venezuela as an "illiteracy-free zone", thanks to the implementation of the Robinson Mission, which encouraged the people to study from the first to the sixth year of basic education. This was followed by the Ribas missions, to complete secondary education; and it was the Sucre Mission which gave people access to university education. Today we can affirm that the Venezuelan education system includes over 10 million students, a third of the population, making our entire country a school.

(43.4) In 2013, the Canaimita Project was recognized by UNESCO as good educational practice. We have now delivered over four million portable microcomputers to the country's children. Venezuela is presenting to UNESCO a series of education policies and good practices in public administration, which we are glad to share with the peoples of the world. These include the University Canaima Plan, an innovative practice in national public policy to support quality education and access to technology. In this context, we have so far delivered, free of charge, a total of 170,000 tablet computers to university students. The Latin American Medical School is becoming an alternative, benefiting over 4,000 students from 48 of the countries of the world; the Sucre Mission, preselected by UNESCO in 2009 as one of the best practices in youth policies and programmes in Latin America, representing an opportunity for access to university education; and lastly, the national training programme for integrated community medicine, a policy of the Venezuelan State in the field of training for health care.

(43.5) The democratization of information and communications in Venezuela is being strengthened with the creation of over 600 community radio stations and the massive use of technology and the installation of 915 "Infocentros", an initiative rewarded with the UNESCO-King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education; these centres provide the Venezuelan people with training, instruction, technological literacy and free Internet access.

(43.6) Venezuelan culture represents a strategic cross-cutting policy for the Government of the Bolivarian Republic, for the preservation of the values of national identity, the preservation of heritage and the safeguarding of indigenous languages. The National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras, recognized as UNESCO Artists for Peace, and the inclusion of the Dancing Devils of Corpus Christi, the Parranda de San Pedro de Guarenas y Guatire and the oral tradition of the Mapoyo indigenous people as intangible heritage of humanity are further recognitions from UNESCO for the achievements of the Bolivarian revolution.

(43.7) One major achievement of our diplomacy of peace lies in the momentum and dynamism of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), in which we have jointly developed numerous cooperation programmes and projects which have achieved significant results in UNESCO's fields of competence.

(43.8) Aware of the challenges represented by the launch of the 2030 Agenda, and recognizing the significant progress made by Venezuela in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the objectives proposed in the Incheon Declaration, we endorse the vision of changing lives through education, leaving no-one behind, which reflects our most profound Bolivarian principles of forging a better world. Ladies and gentlemen: the Bolivarian Government of President Nicolás Maduro reaffirms its commitment to preserving the legacy of President Chávez, safeguarding the achievements of our people in the area of education and culture as the property of the revolution. In conclusion, we reiterate our condemnation before the international community of the imperial aggression which has been inflicted on the Government of President Nicolás Maduro through an economic boycott which seeks to destroy the Bolivarian revolution of the Venezuelan people, infringing the fundamental rights of the men and women of the homeland of Bolívar and Chávez. Ladies and gentlemen, regarding Obama's decree, we declare with the strength of morality: Venezuela is not a threat, it is a source of hope. On behalf of the Venezuelan people, thank you very much.

44. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Rumen Alexandrov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

45.1 **Mr Alexandrov (Bulgaria):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I take this opportunity, Mr President of the General Conference, to congratulate you on your election and wish you a very successful term of office. Let me also associate my delegation with the statement on behalf of the European Union to be delivered later on in the debate.

45.2 During the last two years since the 37th session of the General Conference we, Member States and Secretariat, have made remarkable efforts and achieved tangible results in pursuing our major goals: continue the reform actions for the sake of a more focused and efficient UNESCO and harness the potential of all to prepare for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. UNESCO managed to successfully position itself in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda in the areas of quality education, science, integration of culture as an engine for sustainable development. In fact, the whole of UNESCO's mandate is part of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. This is a clear recognition that today UNESCO is needed more than ever before. And UNESCO needs the commitment of all countries, large and small, in order to deliver successfully and efficiently.

45.3 My delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General for her commitment in pursuing these objectives through strong advocacy and efforts for a more coordinated interaction with other United Nations agencies. We also commend her for the continued engagement in reforming UNESCO. Be assured, Madam Director-General, of Bulgaria's unreserved support for all your endeavours.

45.4 We must now endorse the Education 2030 Framework for Action for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on education. And we should remain as committed as we were before to complete the unfinished business regarding the six education for all (EFA) goals. We commend the inclusion in the Framework of the affirmation of education as a basic human right and higher education as a global public good.

45.5 Bulgaria supports in particular the holistic and humanistic vision of the Education 2030 Agenda, which understands education as "inclusive and as crucial in promoting democracy and human rights and enhancing global

citizenship, tolerance and civic engagement as well as sustainable development [... as a facilitator of] intercultural dialogue [fostering] respect for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, which are vital for achieving social cohesion and justice”.

45.6 In this regard, we reiterate our firm belief that education is key, along with other approaches, to address the challenge of increased recruitment and radicalization of youth on social media, in communities and in schools. That is why our Government has supported at its very inception the proposal for the high-level conference on the use of Internet as a tool for development of youth against all forms of extremism and radicalism. It is with the same conviction that Bulgaria supports the United States’ initiative for the side event on 6 November 2015 to address the issue of using education to combat violent extremism.

45.7 In a similar vein, my Government supported the project “Empowering youth in the post-conflict situation of Mali for reconciliation, peace and development through an increased access to, and use of, new information and communication technologies (ICT)”. UNESCO has long recognized the power of increased access to information as a vehicle and tool for positive social transformation, peace and development, for making knowledge societies inclusive. The promotion of access to information and media for girls and young women in Burkina Faso is yet another UNESCO activity that enjoyed Bulgaria’s support.

45.8 Within the Priority Africa activities of UNESCO, Bulgaria assisted the Organization in a range of other activities, related to the Slave Route Project, capacity-building in the protection of intangible heritage, as well as on the key topics of the *General History of Africa*. In 2014, UNESCO received the award for the development of an e-learning tool, financed by my Government, focusing on women’s role in African history. My country’s contribution to all these activities, within its limited resources, is the expression of our understanding that solidarity should guide all UNESCO’s action to overcome the challenges we all face.

45.9 Ladies and gentlemen, the last two years have seen an unprecedented rise in terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that attempt to strike at the very heart of human civilization and the values we share. The destruction of cultural heritage, the “cultural cleansing” and the trafficking that affect the common heritage and all religions are an affront to all humankind. We need a resolute and coordinated approach in order to find immediate as well as long-term sustainable solutions to this crisis. Bulgaria is pleased to see UNESCO and its Director-General at the forefront of initiatives and activities aimed at alleviating the current situation, particularly in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The list of your actions in this area, Madam Director-General, is long, impressive and well documented. Bulgaria commends you for your leadership in harnessing the potential and expertise of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies, actors and civil society to promote cultural diversity and protect cultural heritage. Thank you very much.

46. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr István Mikola, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

47.1 **Mr Mikola (Hungary):**

Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to address the General Conference today. UNESCO, and we, Member States and governments, are facing enormous challenges. These, however, must be seen as opportunities, to concentrate our efforts within the Organization in these critical times. A crucial step in this direction was the unanimous adoption of the General Assembly resolution on saving the cultural heritage of Iraq. We especially welcome the “#Unite4Heritage” campaign to build support for the protection of cultural heritage endangered by extremist groups. To this end, we recommend the establishment of a new common database with the coordination of UNESCO that could function as a collection of currently available documentation of endangered cultural heritage values. In this context, it is key to take effective measures concerning the return of illegally exported or imported cultural goods. Hungary actively participates in this international information exchange process. Hence, Hungary is a candidate for membership of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation. We appreciate your support for the Hungarian candidacy.

47.2 In addition to tangible cultural heritage, we are especially committed to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage and UNESCO’s Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as indicated by the fact that Hungary was elected member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bureau in 2014. Reflecting our particular interest in sharing our tested and proven techniques regarding intangible cultural heritage, Hungary has submitted the nomination “Safeguarding of the folk music heritage by the Kodály concept” to the register of best safeguarding practices and we are hoping for a favourable decision in 2016.

47.3 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO-related anniversaries prove to be successful in Hungary. This year we are observing the 150th anniversary of the death of Ignác Semmelweis and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Flóris Rómer. Next month, an exhibition in honour of these outstanding Hungarian individuals will be on display in Salle Miró of UNESCO. As for the future, I would like to ask for your support during this session for Hungary’s anniversary nominations: the 1700th anniversary of the birth of Saint Martin of Tours in 2016; and the 50th anniversary of the death of Zoltán Kodály in 2017.

47.4 Distinguished delegates, Hungary has actively participated in, and thus warmly welcomes, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are convinced that the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires holistic, forward-looking policies created both nationally and internationally. The United Nations system has a very important role to play in providing guidance and essential tools which contribute to policy design and implementation in the fields covered by the SDGs. Hungary is looking forward to the discussion within UNESCO on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all fields.

47.5 Water is undoubtedly at the core of sustainable development, and is critical for socio-economic development, the ecosystem's health and human survival itself. Hungary has played an essential role in having a standalone goal on water. Many of you still remember the Budapest Water Summit in 2013 and its closing document. The Budapest Statement calls for the development of a dedicated and comprehensive sustainable development goal on water. In this context, I would like to draw your attention to our candidature to the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP). Hungary would greatly appreciate the valuable support of the Member States to its candidature.

47.6 We recognize that education is a main catalyst for sustainable development. Under SDG 4 on education, Member States agreed to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. By its horizontal nature, education is not only a goal in itself but also a contributor to and beneficiary of all the other Sustainable Development Goals.

47.7 Ladies and gentlemen, Hungary is committed to the global effort tackling climate change. Our aim is to adopt a single global legally binding agreement applicable to all at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris this December. Therefore, Hungary welcomes UNESCO's contribution to the success of COP 21.

47.8 The World Science Forum is being held at Budapest from 4 to 7 November. The Forum has grown to be one of the most prestigious scientific events, and we are proud that this year, UNESCO's involvement reached exceptional levels due to the active and invaluable contribution of the Natural Sciences Sector. We are looking forward to the speech of Director-General Irina Bokova later this week. Finally, let me emphasize that the Hungarian Government is fully committed to UNESCO and its programmes. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

48. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency, Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Ahmed Sayyad, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Yemen to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٤٩،١ السيد السيد (اليمن):

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، ماذا يمكن أن نقول في زمن الحرب والحزن والدمار، ونحن نرى بلداناً كانت مرتكزاً في حضارة العالم ورفيقه وتقدمه، تدير ظهرها لهذا الموروث الحضاري العريق وتتجه نحو التقاتل والتفكك والانقراض؟ لماذا تتراجع أصوات السلام والعيش المشترك بين أبناء الوطن الواحد والأمة الواحدة؟ ونرى اليوم معالم التراث وإبداعات الماضي التي حافظ عليها آباؤنا وأجدادنا، وحضّ عليها نبينا وديننا، تدمر أمام أعيننا وتتراجع أمام المد الطائفي والقبلي وظلام الجهل الديني وطغيان عقول تأبى أن ينفذ النور إليها. ولكننا، أمام وضع كهذا نشعر اليوم، أكثر من أي يوم مضى، بأن مواجهة هذه التحديات والوقوف بحزم ضد العنف والتعصب والتقاتل لا بد أن تنطلق من رسالة اليونسكو ومن مثل وأهداف هذه المنظمة العريقة التي جعلت السلام وقيم التسامح والعيش المشترك في مقدمة أهدافها وفي صلب رسالتها.

٤٩،٢ وانطلاقاً من هذا الفهم وهذه القناعة، فإن الجمهورية اليمنية على الرغم من دوامة الحرب والمواجهات العنيفة، تتمسك مع اليونسكو بالمثل والأهداف التالية: الحق في التعليم وأولوية التربية، وجعل هدف التعليم للجمع مدى الحياة واقعاً لا شعاراً. والحد من التفاوت بين الرجال والنساء وبين الشباب والشابات في مجال التعليم وتحديث المناهج وتشذيبها من تهميش الآخر أو تشجيع روح الكراهية والحقد والتعصب. وإننا نؤمن مع اليونسكو بالبعد الثقافي للتنمية وبضرورة التفاعل بين الثقافات والحضارات في ظل التنوع والاختلاف، وجعل ثقافة السلام والحوار بديلاً لثقافة الحرب والعنف والدمار. ونؤكد مع اليونسكو ضرورة تعزيز حرية التعبير وقيام إعلام حر ومستقل ومتعدد، وضمان حرية الصحافة، والوقوف بحزم ضد الانتهاكات التي يتعرض لها الصحفيون وتأمين سلامتهم وفقاً لما ينص عليه الميثاق التأسيسي لليونسكو والإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان. وندرك مع هذه المنظمة أن شباب اليوم هم قادة الغد، الأمر الذي يتطلب توفير التعليم الجيد للشباب والشابات، باعتبار ذلك الطريق الصائب والضامن لكرامتهم وحريرتهم وحقهم في مستقبل آمن، بعيداً عن العنف والإرهاب والمخدرات والتعصب والكراهية.

٤٩،٣ سيدي الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، لا يستطيع اليوم أي مواطن عربي أن يتجاهل الحرب والدمار في بلاده وأياً كانت المبررات والأسباب لهذه الحروب العنيفة والقوى الخفية والظاهرة التي تسيرها، فإنها تظل حروبنا بعضنا ضد بعض، جميعنا معنيون بها، وجميعنا ضحاياها، وجميعنا الخاسرون فيها، لا انتصار فيها أصلاً ولا منتصرين. والحروب التي نراها اليوم، السيدات والسادة، لا تنتمي إلى عصرنا فهي حروب ظلامية عبثية لا تحدف إلى إقصاء الآخر فحسب، بل تحدف أيضاً إلى تدميره ومنعه من حقه في الحرية والحياة، الأمر الذي يفرض علينا جميعاً أن نعمل معاً لوقف هذه الحروب والمواجهات العنيفة، أياً كانت الأديان التي نؤمن بها، والحضارات التي ننتمي إليها، واللغات التي نتحدث بها، والهويات الصغرى والكبرى التي تتمسك بها، وأن نعمل سوياً مع هذه المنظمة لتعزيز قيم التسامح والعيش المشترك. وشكراً جزيلاً لكم جميعاً.

(49.1) Mr Sayyad (Yemen) (translation from the Arabic):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, what can we say in times of war, sadness and destruction, as we see countries that used to be mainstays of world civilization and progress turning their backs on this venerable civilizational heritage and giving themselves over to killing, disintegration and extinction? Why are the voices of peace and the peaceful coexistence of the inhabitants of a single homeland and nation receding? We see today the landmarks of the heritage and the creations of the past which our fathers and grandfathers have preserved, and which our Prophet and our religion urged should be preserved, being destroyed before our very eyes, receding before the sectarian and tribal flood and the shadows of religious ignorance and the oppression of minds that light does not reach. But in the face of such a situation, we feel today, more than at any time in the past, that in order to confront such challenges and stand firmly against violence, fanaticism, and mutual slaughter, it is

necessary to act on the basis of UNESCO's message consisting of the ideals and goals of this venerable Organization, which has put peace and the values of tolerance and coexistence at the forefront of its objectives and at the core of its message.

(49.2) On the basis of this conception and conviction, Yemen, despite the vicious circle of war and wanton confrontations, clings fast, together with UNESCO, to the following ideals and objectives: the right to and priority of education, making the goal of lifelong education for all (EFA) a reality rather than a mere slogan. Reducing the disparities between men and women, including among youth, in the field of education, updating curricula and removing from them traces of marginalization of the Other or encouragement of hatred, scorn and fanaticism. Together with UNESCO, we believe in the cultural aspect of development and the need for interaction between cultures and civilizations against a backdrop of diversity and difference, and making the culture of peace and dialogue alternatives to the culture of war, violence and destruction. Together with UNESCO, we reiterate the need to strengthen freedom of expression and free, independent and pluralist information media, to ensure the freedom of journalism, to stand firmly against violations of such freedoms to which journalists are subject, and to ensure their safety in accordance with the provisions of UNESCO's Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Together with this Organization, we realize that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, which makes it incumbent upon us to provide quality education to young men and women, since that is the right way to ensure their dignity, their freedom and their right to a secure future, without violence, terrorism, drugs, fanaticism or hatred.

(49.3) Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, no Arab citizens can today ignore the war and destruction under way in their own country, whatever the justifications and reasons for these reprehensible wars and the covert and overt forces that fuel them, they remain our wars against one another; we are all concerned by them, we are all their victims, and we are all the losers, wars in which there is neither victory nor victors. The wars that we are witnessing today, ladies and gentlemen, do not belong to our age; they are wars of wanton darkness which not only are aimed at excluding the Others, but also at destroying them and depriving them from their right to freedom and life, which makes it incumbent upon us all to work together to halt these wars and senseless confrontations – whatever the religions we believe in, the civilizations we belong to, the languages we speak, and the greater and lesser identities we cling to – and to work together with this Organization to strengthen the values of tolerance and coexistence. I thank you all very much.

50. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Carmel Shama Hacohen, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Israel to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

51.1 Mr Hacohen (Israel):

Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished ministers, Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen. In 1949, just one year after the establishment of the State of Israel, we became a full member of UNESCO. The proximity in time was made not only for practical or political purposes, it was more than that. Israel's Declaration of Independence, in 1948, is based on the same values UNESCO aims to promote. And, Mr President, I am quoting: "[Israel] will be based on freedom, justice and peace [...]; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions...". They are as relevant today as they were 67 years ago, and they reflect the fact that in Israel, and here in UNESCO, we have shared for more than six decades the same dream of a better world.

51.2 Israel is a strong believer in education, since our major resource is the human being. We are not rich in oil, nor in nature's gifts spread around over our region. Our source of strength is our people, our children and their education. In the last two years, Israel continued to work with UNESCO on many areas such as education, with a high emphasis on promoting teachers in Africa, information and technology, where Israel has a leading role in the Information for All Programme (IFAP), science, culture and many more aspects.

51.3 Israel is also working together with UNESCO on Holocaust education, and values enormously UNESCO's work on that subject. The global challenges we are facing today are making UNESCO more relevant than ever. Education, climate change, radicalization, racism, anti-Semitism, to name a few, are all interconnected in our global village. To address those challenges we need cooperation, we need to work together, we need a strong UNESCO, not an organization that is weakened by political disputes.

51.4 Sadly, Israel has witnessed in the last four years a dangerous trend of politicization of UNESCO's bodies, especially the governing bodies, which continue to single out Israel with anti-Israeli and anti-reality proposals and resolutions. We all share responsibility to our national interest, but at the same time, by joining this Organization we share the responsibility of making UNESCO strong and efficient. When you become a Member State in this Organization you are expected to behave like one. You are expected to be responsible and follow the spirit and values of the Organization and not to take advantage of your membership for advancing only your narrow interests, and especially not by using offensive language and incitement instead of mutual respect and tolerance.

51.5 UNESCO's values are about coexistence even if we do not agree. They are not about bullying or humiliating other Member States. Ladies and gentlemen, 20 years ago, on 4 November 1995, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist. Rabin was a messenger of peace, but even though he was killed, his dream for peace is still valid in the hearts of all Israelis. We pray for peace to preserve both our and our neighbours' lives, and we work for a better world to improve the quality of life for everyone. UNESCO is the best tool to ensure that the life we all cherish will be worth living, that our history will be worth remembering and that our future will be worth creating. Let us use UNESCO as a bridge over gaps instead of using it to dig new ones or to widen the existing ones. I thank you.

52. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Thierry Muñoz-Ledo, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Mexico to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

53.1 **Sr. Thierry Muñoz-Ledo (México):**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores: esta histórica tribuna ha sido escenario de grandes debates. Es, a la manera de Arquímedes, el punto de apoyo desde donde nuestras ideas pueden mover al mundo. Y es precisamente en este 70º aniversario de la UNESCO, cuando esta institución nos convoca a reflexionar sobre la trascendencia de la educación para todos los seres humanos y para tomar las decisiones en esta materia que marcarán la pauta para los siguientes quince años. El Gobierno de México, encabezado por el Presidente Enrique Peña Nieto se propuso, desde el comienzo de su administración, transformar radicalmente al país. Por ello, puso en marcha 13 reformas estructurales que sientan las bases para mejorar la economía, para fortalecer y ampliar los derechos de sus ciudadanos y para afianzar su régimen democrático. De entre estas 13 reformas, el Ejecutivo Federal ha sido muy enfático al afirmar que sin lugar a dudas, la más importante es la reforma educativa.

53.2 El Secretario de Educación Pública de México, Aurelio Nuño Mayer, está convencido de que, para ejercer plenamente el derecho a la educación, es indispensable que esta sea de calidad. Hace ya más de cincuenta años, el segundo Director General de la UNESCO, Jaime Torres Bodet, siendo Secretario de Educación Pública en México, se enfrentaba al reto de ofrecer educación a todos los mexicanos. Hoy, el reto es que esta educación sea de calidad. Con este compromiso, el Gobierno de México modificó su Constitución política para elevar al máximo rango legal el derecho a una educación no solo obligatoria, gratuita, y laica, sino ahora también de calidad. La reforma educativa de México ha establecido diversos objetivos, entre los que se destaca el fortalecimiento de la escuela, a través de la implementación de un modelo de autogestión y la participación de los padres de familia, mediante una estrecha relación con los directores de las escuelas. México es un país con una gran población que se encuentra altamente dispersa en los casi dos millones de kilómetros cuadrados. Por ello, a lo largo de su historia ha sufrido un rezago significativo en materia de infraestructura.

53.3 Con el fin de hacer frente a este gran reto, México invertirá en los próximos tres años una enorme cantidad de recursos financieros para mejorar las condiciones físicas y el equipamiento de más de treinta mil planteles educativos, que representan casi la totalidad de las escuelas en rezago. Asimismo, hemos comenzado la revisión de los programas de estudio para asegurarnos de que la educación sea pertinente e idónea para las condiciones de vida actuales. Pero este enorme esfuerzo sería completamente infructuoso si nos olvidáramos de uno de los actores fundamentales del proceso educativo: el docente. Por esa razón, hemos instaurado un Servicio Profesional Docente en México, a fin de regular el ingreso, la promoción, el reconocimiento y la permanencia en el servicio público educativo. Gracias a esta gran experiencia México decidió patrocinar la Guía para el Desarrollo de Políticas Docentes, en el marco de esta reunión de la Conferencia General.

53.4 En México concebimos la educación como un mecanismo de movilidad social ascendente que cuenta con el poder de contrarrestar la inercia de las desigualdades. Estamos convencidos de que la educación, esa fuerza organizada del mundo de las ideas, debe ser el ariete que abata las evidentes desigualdades que lastran a nuestras sociedades. Impartir una educación de calidad permitirá forjar hombres y mujeres conscientes de su entorno, capaces de enfrentar la inmediatez y, al mismo tiempo, proyectarse en el futuro; individuos preocupados por los demás, capaces de interrogar y descifrar su realidad. De esa magnitud es la noble tarea que nos hemos trazado. Celebramos que este foro, que desde hace 70 años nos ha convocado bajo un mismo espíritu, el de afirmar la cooperación mundial, hoy renueve el compromiso de trabajar en conjunto durante los próximos quince años, a fin de que cada individuo en todos los Estados Miembros tenga acceso a una educación de calidad a lo largo de su vida. Muchas gracias.

(53.1) **Mr Muñoz-Ledo (Mexico)** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, this historic body has been the stage for major debates. As Archimedes might have put it, it is the fulcrum from which our ideas can move the world. And it is precisely at the time of this 70th anniversary of UNESCO, when the Organization invites us to consider the transcendent importance of education for all human beings and to make decisions in this sphere which will set the pattern for the coming 15 years. Since it took office, the Government of Mexico, led by President Enrique Peña Nieto, has undertaken to transform the country radically. It has therefore launched 13 structural reforms to establish the basis for improving the economy, strengthening and extending citizens' rights and strengthening its democratic regime. The federal executive authority has strongly emphasized that the most important of these 13 reforms is in the area of education.

(53.2) The Mexican Minister for Public Education, Aurelio Nuño Mayer, believes that exercising the right to education means that that education must be of high quality. Over 50 years ago, the second Director-General of UNESCO, Jaime Torres Bodet, who was the Mexican Minister for Public Education, undertook the challenge of providing education to all Mexican citizens. The challenge now is that the education should be of high quality. With this commitment, my Government has amended the Constitution to raise to the highest legal status the right to an education which is not only compulsory, free of charge, and secular, but now also of high quality. Mexico's education reform has established a number of goals, including the strengthening of schools through the implementation of a model of self-management and the participation of parents, through a close relationship with head teachers. Mexico is a country with a large population, spread over almost two million square kilometres. As a result, throughout its history it has suffered significant lags in terms of infrastructure.

(53.3) Over the coming three years, Mexico will tackle this major challenge by investing considerable financial resources to improve physical conditions and equipment in over 30,000 educational establishments, representing almost all the schools which have been falling behind. We have begun reviewing our curricula to ensure that education is relevant and appropriate for today's living conditions. But this huge effort would be entirely fruitless if we were to overlook one of the fundamental stakeholders in this process: teachers. We have therefore established a Professional Teaching Service in Mexico, to regulate teachers' recruitment, promotion, recognition and retention in the teaching profession. Thanks to this great experience, Mexico has decided to sponsor the Teacher Policy Development Guide in the framework of this session of the General Conference.

(53.4) In Mexico we see education as a mechanism for upward social mobility, which has the power to counteract the inertia of inequalities. We believe that education, that the organized force of the world of ideas, must be the battering ram

which will demolish the obvious inequalities hobbling our societies. Providing quality education will produce men and women who are aware of their environment, able to deal with immediate concerns and, at the same time, project themselves into the future; people who show concern for others and are able to consider and understand their realities. This is the scale of the noble task we have undertaken. We are glad that this forum, which for 70 years has brought us together in the same spirit of affirming international cooperation, is now renewing its commitment to work together over the coming 15 years to ensure that every person in all the Member States will have access to quality lifelong education. Thank you very much.

54. The President:

Thank you very much, Sir. Our next and last speaker for this meeting is His Excellency Mr Lee Byong Hyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

55.1 Mr Lee (Republic of Korea):

Mr President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates. It is my honour and privilege to speak on behalf of the Republic of Korea during the 38th session of the General Conference as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

55.2 This session takes place with a towering achievement, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will guide the international community to attain sustainable development during the next 15 years. Over the last 70 years, UNESCO has been at the heart of action to strengthen the defences of peace and sustainable development by promoting education for all (EFA) on the basis of human rights, and safeguarding the cultural and natural heritage of humanity.

55.3 UNESCO has been acting to advance scientific cooperation and innovation for the benefit of all and to lead social transformations and to defend freedom of expression. UNESCO's mandate has never been more relevant to us than today and the Republic of Korea reaffirms its full support to the mandate and the fundamental principles of UNESCO and renews its pledge to further these tasks as shared responsibilities of humanity.

55.4 The year 2015 is a milestone for global education. The World Education Forum 2015 held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, last May, set out the direction of the global education agenda for the next 15 years. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all stakeholders for their participation and contributions.

55.5 I am certain that the Incheon Declaration adopted at the Forum for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all paved the way for the adoption of the mandated goals in education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Republic of Korea is determined to increase its Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending on education and to continue its close cooperation with UNESCO to translate the 2030 Agenda into concrete actions.

55.6 In the same vein, the Republic of Korea is determined to take the lead in the "Better Life for Girls" initiative with a view to overcoming inequalities in education and in building capacities for the most vulnerable girls in developing countries, as Madam President Park Geun-hye rightly emphasized at the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) high-level event during the United Nations Summit.

55.7 Also, the Republic of Korea is planning to launch a new project "ICT transforming education in Africa". Taking stock of our achievements and the lessons learned through our previous projects such as Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR), the Republic of Korea is looking forward to engaging in future programmes for developing countries.

55.8 Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I highly appreciate the Secretariat's efforts for the inclusion of water, oceans, biodiversity and science policy in the 2030 Agenda. I look forward to UNESCO's continued contributions and a strong presence in these fields of competence with the expertise and experience of its international scientific programmes such as the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). In this regard, I highly welcome the adoption of the MAB Strategy 2015-2021, which reconfirms the mission of the MAB Programme for sustainable development.

55.9 Distinguished delegates, it is our firm belief that cultural universality and diversity unites and ties all of us on the planet. As confirmed through the 2030 Agenda, culture is one of the major players for sustainable development. Recognizing the importance of unlocking potentials and the values of culture, the Republic of Korea is making every endeavour on the basis of our national policy goals, to ensure happiness for the people and cultural enrichment.

55.10 In addition, my Government notes the great impact of the World Heritage Convention on sustainable development and thus implements various activities with our expertise, in particular with the aim to strengthen the capacity to protect and preserve the world heritage of developing countries. Also my Government fully supports UNESCO's mandate of promoting and preserving documentary heritage and continues to extend our cooperation in the activities of the UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize, along with our assistance to the Memory of the World Programme through training workshops.

55.11 Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Republic of Korea is committed to respond to the global call for action in the new era of the 2030 Agenda, as a trustworthy partner of UNESCO throughout its journey, as it has always been. Together with all of you in UNESCO, we will embark on a long journey toward the future with greater happiness and greater peace all over the world. Thank you so much.

56. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for sharing your vision and experiences. This morning's debate has been very enriching, and I am sure that the Director-General and her staff have been taking good note of your comments. I am looking forward to continuing our debate this afternoon. The plenary will reconvene at 3 p.m. sharp, but I

respectfully request all of you, dear delegates, to be here at least by 2.45 p.m. so that we are on time to hear an address by His Excellency, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.
La séance est levée à 13 h 15
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15
Заседание закрывается в 13.15
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١,١٥ بعد الظهر
会议于 13 时 15 分结束

Fourth plenary meeting

Wednesday 4 November 2015 at 3.00 p.m.

President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

later: **Ms Lomonoco** (Italy)

later: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Quatrième séance plénière

Mercredi 4 novembre 2015 à 15 h 00

Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

puis : **Mme Lomonoco** (Italie)

puis : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Cuarta sesión plenaria

Miércoles 4 de noviembre de 2015 a las 15.00

Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

después: **Sra. Lomonoco** (Italia)

después: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Четвертое пленарное заседание

среда 4 ноября 2015 г. в 15.00

Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

затем: **г-жа Ломоносо** (Италия)

затем: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الرابعة

الأربعاء ٤ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٣,٠٠ بعد الظهر

الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

ثم: السيدة لومونوكو (إيطاليا)

ثم: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第四次全体会议

2015年11月4日星期三 15时00分

主席：Simataa 先生（纳米比亚）

随后：Lomonoco 女士（意大利）

随后：Simataa 先生（纳米比亚）

Visit of His Excellency, Mr Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands
Visite de Son Excellence, M. Henry Puna, Premier ministre des îles Cook
Visita de SE el Sr. Henry Puna, el primer ministro de las Islas Cook
Визит Его Превосходительства г-на Генри Пуна, премьер-министра Островов Кука
زيارة معالي السيد هنري بونا، رئيس وزراء جزر كوك
库克群岛总理亨利·普纳先生阁下来访

1.1 The President:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the fourth plenary meeting of the General Conference. Distinguished delegates, many of you have travelled from afar to attend this august body, but very few have travelled farther than our esteemed guest this afternoon. It is my honour and special privilege to welcome His Excellency Mr Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. Although not a member of the United Nations, the Cook Islands has been a proud Member State of UNESCO for 25 years.

1.2 His Excellency is a lawyer by training, educated in the Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia. After a successful career in law he entered politics, winning a parliamentary election a decade ago. Under Mr Puna's leadership, the Cook Islands Party won a landslide election in 2010 and he subsequently became the country's Prime Minister. It was under his premiership that the Cook Islands became a founding member of the Polynesian Leaders Group, bringing together eight countries of the region to cooperate in the fields of education, culture, environmental conservation and climate change adaptation. Your Excellency, we are honoured to have you here with us, and are looking forward to your speech. The floor is now yours, Sir.

2.1 Mr Puna (Prime Minister of the Cook Islands):

Mr President, thank you for those very kind words. Excellencies, Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished representatives, youth leaders, ladies and gentlemen, I bid you good afternoon and *kia orana*. I also take this opportunity to congratulate UNESCO on celebrating its 70th anniversary. It is indeed an auspicious milestone and reminds the world of just how long the message and mission of UNESCO has been with us; yet, sadly, at times we struggle as a global community to live up to it.

2.2 This year my country celebrated its 50th anniversary of self-governance in free association with New Zealand. We have taken the time to reflect on where we have come from and acknowledge the opportunities we will have and the challenges we will face in the next 50 years. Our national vision is for a society where all live with dignity, enjoy their human rights, achieve their full potential and contribute to the development and wellbeing of society. This vision describes the attributes of and opportunities for our people because, spread over 15 small islands and atolls and more than two million square kilometres of ocean, they are at the centre of our development.

2.3 When we consulted with our communities on what they wanted for the Cook Islands in the next 50 years, a group of students at one of our secondary schools came out very clearly, saying that they wanted a Cook Islands that they could be proud of. As they will be the leaders in 50 years' time, it is our responsibility to make sure that our focus remains grounded on our people, their families and their communities. By promoting social investment, we enable our people to fulfil their potential, prosper and participate in the social, economic, political and cultural life of our nation and when today's young people take the lead, they will be able to do so in a country that they can be proud of.

2.4 With that in mind, this question needs to be asked: how can the Cook Islands contribute to the UNESCO agenda and how can the programmes and initiatives of UNESCO support our development pathway? Our culture and identity are the foundations of our country. We have thousands of years of knowledge and practice that have led us to be the people and the country that we are today; this cannot be lost. The work of UNESCO on intangible cultural heritage, education for sustainable development, the Memory of the World Programme and work to support archival practices in the Pacific, all support this. But we must go further. The Cook Islands commits to working in the next year to ratify at least one additional cultural convention. Why has this not had priority in the past? Possibly because, until the more recent conventions on intangible cultural heritage and cultural diversity, we did not necessarily see our cultural heritage reflected in the older conventions. Our cultural heritage is not buildings and monuments, our cultural heritage is centuries of calendars for fishing and planting, traditional navigation, using our ocean and environment to predict and signal our weather patterns, drum beats and dance steps. These are the things that have made our country what it is and are still all in use today. We must find a way to see these aspects of knowledge and practice recognized within the tools of UNESCO so that we see them validated when we ratify such conventions.

2.5 We have high levels of access and participation in education from early childhood to senior secondary level, but ensuring that education is of high quality and relevant to the lives of young people creates challenges in our country. The ability to sustain a scope of curriculum programmes for small and often geographically isolated cohorts, and the ability to meet the needs and interests of all students, requires new ways of thinking about resourcing and providing access to education. To this end, my country is investing in the integration of information technology (IT) into our teaching programmes and the use of real-time IT as a modality for delivery to isolated students. The cost of such infrastructure and connectivity has a significant impact on the operating expenses of our schools but equity, rather than economies of scale, informs our decision-making.

2.6 For our "at-risk" youth, ongoing engagement or reengagement with education and training, both formal and non-formal, helps to improve individual self-esteem and responsibility, supporting a more cohesive society. Currently we are strengthening technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes, building second-chance training opportunities and providing easily accessible pastoral care through counselling and careers advisory services.

2.7 We know that the issue of supporting young people in a fast-changing twenty-first century is one that the whole Pacific is dealing with. We also know that many of the UNESCO programme areas and the work of other United Nations agencies have identified youth strategies. We humbly ask that such efforts have a greater level of explicit coordination and collaboration so that countries can have more streamlined access to expertise and support in this area.

2.8 I take this opportunity to note the importance to our region of the UNESCO field office for Pacific States. We recognize the financial constraints under which the Organization is working but request that such constraints do not impact the ability of the UNESCO Office in Apia to support our countries in the implementation of the full scope of the UNESCO agenda. While we fully acknowledge the work and support of Headquarters and regional offices, nothing can replace the value added to our work by people working amongst us in the Pacific.

2.9 Within the Pacific region, we know each other very well. We understand the impact that the decision of one country can have on the political and financial environment of its neighbours and the livelihoods of those in the region. We work together for the betterment of our region while respecting the sovereignty and unique cultures and contributions of our individual countries and peoples. To this end, the Cook Islands offers its full and strong support to the candidacy of Samoa as a voice for the Pacific on the Executive Board of UNESCO.

2.10 As we commence work on the post-2015 agenda and respond to the challenges of the global Sustainable Development Goals, the challenge for UNESCO will be to build such an understanding as that which we have in the Pacific, across all countries so that, while we maintain our individual sovereignty, we respect each other and work together to meet global goals in a way that is equitable, empowering and sustainable for the well-being of all and particularly our next generation. We, the Cook Islands, are ready to play our part in meeting this challenge. *Kia orana e kia manuia*. Thank you for your attention.

3. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your very inspiring words. As I understand, black pearls from the Cook Islands are known around the world, and you, Mr Henry Puna, have been personally involved in making pearl farming one of your country's leading export industries. The Cook Islands are providing the world with sea pearls, and you have provided us all with pearls of wisdom this afternoon. Thank you again for your speech.

General policy debate (*continued*)

Débat de politique générale (*suite*)

Debate de política general (*continuación*)

Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (*продолжение*)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)

总政策辩论 (续)

4. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, we will now continue with national statements. In order to make our afternoon as efficient as possible, we will need to continue the good practice of respecting the six-minute time limit. I wish to thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this regard. I now have the honour to call on our first speaker, His Excellency, Ivica Dačić, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

5.1 Mr Dačić (Serbia)

(*address delivered in Serbian; English text provided by the delegation*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. May I first of all congratulate you, Mr President, on your election and wish you every success in the discharge of this important post. The Republic of Serbia truly believes in the noble mission of this Organization, whose 70th anniversary we are observing this year. UNESCO's role in the promotion of universal human values through cooperation in the areas of culture, education, science, information and communications is more important today than it has ever been before. In a world of growing global interdependence, a peaceful intercultural dialogue and exchange are essential to safeguarding international peace and security, and towards achieving overall social and economic progress. The Organization's unique expertise makes UNESCO an important factor in the process of seeking solutions to complex challenges facing mankind at this historical juncture.

5.2 Against the background of this responsible role of UNESCO on the international level, it is crucial to preserve in these troubled and demanding times the Organization's moral credibility. UNESCO should continue to adhere to its original principles and goals. Politicization of its work is not in the interest of its mission, which is so vitally important to mankind. Any abuse of UNESCO, being also part of the United Nations system, should not be allowed, especially in the year marking its 70th anniversary. It is not for UNESCO to make political decisions regarding statehood. Moreover, it should not be allowed to put UNESCO at the service of affirming the illegal and unilateral declaration of independence of a part of the territory of a United Nations Member State, whose sovereignty and territorial integrity are guaranteed by a valid and legally binding United Nations Security Council resolution. This, of course, refers to the application by the so-called "Republic of Kosovo" for admission to UNESCO membership.

5.3 I will take this opportunity to recall once again that under United Nations Security Council resolution 1244, Kosovo and Metohija constitutes a territory of the Republic of Serbia under the interim administration of the United Nations, where the United Nations mission – UNMIK – continues to be active today. Therefore, it is not a state. All this testifies to the fact that the application for admission by the so-called "Republic of Kosovo" is unprecedented in UNESCO's history thus far. By opposing this act, Serbia is defending international law, the United Nations Charter and

the United Nations Security Council as the supreme authority for safeguarding international peace and security. These principles must be fully respected, for only in this way will the existing system of international relations, founded on the United Nations Charter, be preserved, and the universal character of international law maintained.

5.4 The session of the UNESCO Executive Board held on 21 October showed not only all the controversial nature of the issue at point but also a deep divide among the Member States. This is undoubtedly proven by the fact that the absolute majority of 31 out of 58 members of this body did not effectively endorse the adoption of the recommendation. In an Organization having as one of its main objectives the protection of the cultural heritage of mankind for generations to come, we must not forget that 236 religious and cultural and historical monuments have been targeted in Kosovo and Metohija since June 1999 – i.e. after the end of armed conflict – to date. Some 174 religious sites of the Serbian Orthodox Church and 33 cultural and historical monuments were destroyed, more than 10,000 icons, ecclesiastical, art and liturgical objects were stolen. Nearly 5,300 tombstones in 256 Serbian Orthodox cemeteries were destroyed or damaged, and in more than 50 of them there is no entire monument. Still today, four gems of our spiritual and cultural heritage: Decani Monastery, the Patriarchate of Pec, Gračanica and the Church of Our Lady of Ljevis, are inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. For all these reasons we are deeply concerned about our cultural and historical heritage in the Province, which is a pillar of our national, cultural and spiritual identity and a part of the precious historical and civilizational heritage of modern Europe and the world.

5.5 In addition, I would like to point out that it is neither the intention nor the desire of Serbia to isolate or prevent anyone from having access to the activities of UNESCO. On the contrary. However, the fact is that Kosovo and Metohija participates even now in numerous activities of the Organization, but in a status-neutral manner and in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244, which shows best that the true intent of the applicants is solely political.

5.6 Ladies and gentlemen, Serbia is strongly committed to the dialogue with representatives of Pristina, conducted under the auspices of the European Union, and being one of the few successful examples of peaceful conflict resolution in the world today. Extremely important agreements have been reached in the framework of the dialogue in the interest of improving the everyday living conditions of all inhabitants of Kosovo and Metohija. Our commitment to this process reflects a strong resolve to actively contribute to the improvement of political and economic stability of the Western Balkans, as well as to solving all outstanding open issues solely by political and diplomatic means. It is with this aim in mind that the Republic of Serbia has demonstrated its constructiveness and willingness to find a compromise in the dialogue. In this way, we have helped reach mutually acceptable solutions for many complex issues in a variety of domains such as justice, energy and the telecommunications sectors, in the interest first and foremost of reconciliation and a common future. Discussions on the property owned by the Serbian Orthodox Church, as well as on the status and protection of Serbian cultural heritage in Kosovo and Metohija in the Brussels dialogue are yet to be on the agenda.

5.7 Taking this as a starting point, I appeal to you. Let us postpone the debate on this issue in UNESCO and let us give dialogue a chance because it is the only way to achieve a mutually acceptable solution on this issue and thereby avoid further divisions, politicization and confrontation within UNESCO. This approach is also in the spirit of the principles on which the Organization was founded and, we believe, in the best interest of regional stability and cooperation. With your support for the adjournment of the debate, we can reach a sustainable solution that will not be the result of unilateralism and imposition, but of a constructive approach and dialogue. That is what we are asking for – a chance for dialogue and agreement, rather than unilateralism. Thank you.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Dapong Ratanasuwan, Minister of Education of Thailand. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

7.1 **Mr Ratanasuwan (Thailand):**

Mr President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to congratulate UNESCO for its great success over the past two years in promoting sustainable development and accelerating reform initiatives in priority areas. This reflects the leadership of the Director-General and I commend her achievements in managing the very challenging context of the Organization.

7.2 Thailand is now in the process of reform in many aspects. Education, of course, is one of them. The Thai Government has continuously allocated over 20% of the national budget to education. But why is this current Government putting such a high priority on educational reform, and why now, more than ever? We sincerely believe that education is a key tool to achieving security, prosperity, sustainability and a resilient democracy. I would like to add that this is in line with the original objective of UNESCO's founders. Indeed, it is evident that UNESCO has promoted education as a key tool for building peace in the world during the past 70 years. I therefore trust that it will maintain its role as a capacity-builder in delivering inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

7.3 In this regard, I encourage UNESCO to implement the Education 2030 Agenda through concrete actions and integrate education into other areas of its mandate. This should be education for a sustainable future that can help build our ability to cope with borderless and interconnected challenges. This calls for extensive collaboration among governments, international organizations, the public sector and the private sector. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be our guiding framework in going in that direction. To achieve the Goals, education has to be well integrated with science, technology and innovation. We support UNESCO's role in working with other agencies to solve global issues such as climate change and water security, using a holistic approach.

7.4 Ladies and gentlemen, the Thai people regard His Majesty the King as an exemplary teacher. In fact, many aspects of Thai education reform reflect His Majesty's principles and philosophy. He has urged teachers to love and dedicate themselves to their students, and to focus on developing their potential. Education must encourage and

promote ethics, mindfulness, thoughtfulness, and public benefit over self-interest. Students' sense of team spirit, harmony and giving should be encouraged.

7.5 In the Thai context, we have been following His Majesty's sufficiency economy philosophy, which is very similar to the concept of sustainable development. I am proud to say that His Majesty has been our model for growth and has led by example in promoting education and the conservation of environment and culture. It is evident and internationally recognized, since in 2006, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan presented the United Nations' first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award to His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and said that His Majesty had reached out to the poorest and the most vulnerable people of Thailand and empowered them to take their lives in their own hands.

7.6 This is why Thailand has been focusing on empowering local people. We therefore fully support UNESCO's effort in promoting social transformations and intercultural dialogue in order to eradicate poverty, prevent violence, and promote social inclusion and sustainable peace. When the people engage themselves in development, they will be able to improve their livelihoods and maintain pride in their natural and cultural heritage. On behalf of the Thai Government, I would like to thank UNESCO for its tireless efforts in all priority areas. We certainly continue to keep our commitment to work with UNESCO and the global community, for a better today and tomorrow. Thank you for your attention.

Ms Lomonoco (Italy) takes the Chair

8. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Now I have the pleasure to introduce as the next speaker Her Excellency, the Honourable Ms Freda Belinda Adeline Tuki, Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs of the Solomon Islands. Thank you.

9.1 **Ms Tuki (Solomon Islands):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by saying that it is indeed a privilege for me and the members of my delegation to be representing our country, the Solomon Islands, at the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. It is an honour for me in particular to make a few remarks on this wonderful occasion, in front of such esteemed dignitaries who have gathered at this Conference.

9.2 Madam President, I wish to extend greetings to you as President of the General Conference of UNESCO from the Government and people of the Solomon Islands. I would also like to express my Government's acknowledgement with thanks to UNESCO for its continued support in our education reform programmes, particularly early childhood care and education, basic education and professional development for teachers, together with disaster preparedness initiatives for schools, which aim to improve our systems so that they can respond to the impact of natural disasters such as cyclones.

9.3 The Solomon Islands applauds UNESCO and other United Nations agencies for having the vision to develop a new global education agenda, the Education 2030 Agenda, which is fully outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 4 and its corresponding targets, which aim to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This is a challenging goal indeed for a small island developing State such as the Solomon Islands. This new Agenda is holistic, ambitious and aspirational and resonates well with my country's dream to educate every citizen in our country. Madam President, we will strive to make a difference in our young people's education so that they can realize their full potential and be better prepared for the challenges ahead. Education is undoubtedly the best tool for change and progress and the main driver of development for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), hence my country's commitment to investing more in education in the coming years.

9.4 Madam President, in this regard, I wish to inform you of the preparatory work that my Government, through the Ministry of Education, has done to implement the SDGs, especially those relating to further development of education in our country. The three broad goals of the education reform programme that my country is currently implementing are to improve access to education at all levels of our education system, ensure quality of education in terms of teacher effectiveness and better learning strategies for students, and better management of resources at the national, provincial, education authority and school levels.

9.5 Since the Solomon Islands began a comprehensive education reform in 2004, our country has made educational advances, particularly in terms of improved access to primary education, although progress was slower than we had hoped. But the good news is that many school-age children are now attending primary and junior secondary schools. The literacy and numeracy standards of our primary school pupils have also increased. However, we need to work hard to improve access and quality, not only in early childcare and education but also in senior secondary education.

9.6 There is now a growing emphasis on the quality of education, in my country especially, to improve teaching and learning processes so that our students can acquire the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes that they require to earn a living and contribute to the country's social and economic development. In order to strengthen our education reform initiatives, our Ministry has recently made progress on the development of our new strategic framework for education, which will take our country through to 2030, and of our five-year medium-term national and provincial education action plans. These plans will align with SDG 4 to guide the development of education.

9.7 Madam President, although we have made moderate progress in our efforts to improve the quality of education and learning opportunities for our children and young people, my country still needs to work hard to implement the programmes and activities of UNESCO's sectoral mandates, such as developing a participatory approach that can enable us to integrate traditional and scientific knowledge into the management of the impact of climate change and natural hazards. Thank you, Madam President.

10. **The President:** Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I now have the honour to give the floor to His Excellency, Mr Paul Rabary Andrianirina, Minister of National Education of Madagascar. Thank you.

11.1 **M. Rabary** (Madagascar) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs. Au nom de la République de Madagascar, permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter M. Simataa, Président de la 38^{ème} session de la Conférence générale, pour sa brillante élection. Nous lui souhaitons plein succès pour son mandat. Nous rendons également hommage au leadership et aux importantes actions de son prédécesseur, S. E. M. Hao Ping.

11.2 Madame la Présidente, cette 38^{ème} session de la Conférence générale est marquée par la célébration du 70^{ème} anniversaire de notre Organisation. Durant toutes ces années, l'UNESCO s'est efforcée de relever les grands défis de notre siècle en s'attachant, en tout premier lieu, à promouvoir la paix dans le monde. Les nouveaux objectifs de développement durable adoptés par les Nations Unies confirment l'importance des idéaux de l'UNESCO, qui doivent s'imposer face aux enjeux du développement durable, notamment l'éradication de la pauvreté, l'accès à une éducation de qualité pour tous et la préservation du patrimoine culturel et naturel.

11.3 Madame la Présidente, l'éducation est le meilleur moyen pour réaliser les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD). Pour le Gouvernement de Madagascar, l'éducation pour tous et de qualité constitue la priorité des priorités. Le Président de la République malgache, S. E. M. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, a réitéré cette conviction lors de la 70^{ème} Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Madagascar développe actuellement des programmes et des stratégies afin d'assurer une éducation répondant aux normes de qualité, et souhaite la poursuite du Programme de renforcement des capacités en faveur de l'EPT (CapEPT). Madagascar s'attèle à une réforme du curriculum, en mettant en avant la sauvegarde du patrimoine et les nouvelles technologies de la communication et de l'information, afin d'améliorer l'apprentissage et les acquis des élèves. Madagascar loue les efforts faits par l'UNESCO dans le cadre de la priorité Afrique concernant le projet d'Histoire générale de l'Afrique et tiendra compte de ce projet dans les réformes de ses programmes scolaires.

11.4 Suite à l'adoption du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, Madagascar demande des soutiens techniques et financiers pour ses programmes en faveur de l'éducation des enfants déscolarisés et de l'éducation des jeunes filles. Notre objectif, en effet, est de promouvoir une éducation équitable, inclusive et de qualité et un apprentissage tout au long de la vie.

11.5 Madame la Présidente, la culture constitue un des leviers du développement durable. L'une des priorités de Madagascar est de faire de ses valeurs identitaires des vecteurs et des moteurs de relance économique. Pour y parvenir, Madagascar a besoin de renforcement des capacités et d'une importante assistance technique pour développer ses industries créatives.

11.6 Enfin, Madagascar tient à féliciter la Directrice générale pour l'initiative et le succès planétaire de la campagne Unite4Heritage. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour condamner fermement tous les actes de destruction des sites et monuments historiques, inscrits ou non sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Conformément à son programme national de développement, Madagascar tient à souligner sa volonté de protéger sa biodiversité, qui constitue l'un des derniers sanctuaires de la diversité biologique de la planète. Disposant de ce potentiel exceptionnel, Madagascar développe résolument le tourisme culturel et durable et soutient la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale (COI) et son Système d'alerte aux tsunamis et de mitigation dans l'océan Indien. Tout en remerciant l'UNESCO pour le projet d'École solaire, Madagascar encourage le Secrétariat à renforcer le programme sur les énergies alternatives et renouvelables, et c'est dans ce cadre que nous soutenons les efforts de protection de la biodiversité à la veille de l'ouverture, à Paris, de la Conférence mondiale sur le climat.

11.7 Nous souhaitons aussi que le Secrétariat alloue plus de moyens aux programmes pour la jeunesse, pour l'éducation physique et sportive et pour l'éducation à la paix. A cet égard, Madagascar soutient la création de l'institut de catégorie 2, École de la paix, en Côte d'Ivoire. En tant que membre du Conseil intergouvernemental du Programme international pour le développement de la communication (PIDC), Madagascar renouvelle son appui à ce programme, qui a un impact positif sur les populations les plus démunies. Nous soutenons également le Programme Information pour tous (PIPT), indispensable à la mise en place de sociétés équitables et inclusives, et demandons au Secrétariat de renforcer le Secteur de la communication et de l'information en le dotant des moyens nécessaires à ses ambitions. Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

12. **La Présidente :**

C'est nous qui vous remercions, Excellence, pour votre intéressante intervention. Le prochain orateur est le Ministre des sciences, de la recherche et des technologies de la République islamique d'Iran, S.E.M. Mohammad Farhadi.

13.1 **Mr Farhadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran):

I extend to His Excellency, Mr Stanley Simataa, sincere congratulations on his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. I wish him the best in his important task. Madam President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to congratulate you on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. From its inception, UNESCO has been a place in which to expand cooperation among cultures and faiths, and this policy has brought many valuable gifts to humanity. Seventy years after UNESCO's foundation, we have a good opportunity to look at the past with wisdom in order to envision the future and the force and importance of this great unique Organization. This House is here, among many other tasks, to promote cultural diversity. Therefore, allow me to continue my speech in my mother tongue, Persian.

(The speaker continued in Persian; text in English provided by the delegation)

13.2 UNESCO was born in the hope of becoming the pioneer in opposing ignorance, violence, intolerance and war. Today more than ever, the world cries for peace, moderation, prudence, and genuine dialogue for the sacred sake of justice, equality of educational opportunity, sustainable development and the culture of peace. Today, the world needs to confront the negative phenomena of extremism and violence. The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its deep concern over the loss of human life and the displacement of peoples, as well as the widespread, unprecedented destruction of cultural heritage in countries in West Asia and Africa with the intention of cultural cleansing through violence and extremism. Terrorism is now also financed by the sale of artefacts. We support UNESCO's efforts in assisting the concerned governments to protect their cultural heritage and proclaim our readiness to collaborate, in the spirit of the rich concept of the protection and promotion of cultural diversity in this House.

13.3 Adolescents and children are among the most vulnerable members of society. In this context of conflict and the destruction of heritage sites, some computer games propagate hatred and psychologically prepare children for violent behaviour. I propose that UNESCO launch a worldwide campaign in the framework of the "#Unite4Heritage" campaign to create and disseminate free virtual games promoting love of cultural heritage with different educational tools.

13.4 Excellencies, social and human sciences are also a field which is entrusted to UNESCO. Iran is proud that it has proposed and sponsored the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science, approved during the 32nd session of the General Conference, a unique initiative which highlights the critical importance of ethics in our fast-moving and technologically enamored world. Ethics in science and values education go hand-in-hand in building a resilient and sustainable world. The ethical aspects of scientific and technological development, especially in the field of cyberspace, have increasing importance as far as international protocols are concerned. Allow me to add that tonight the Avicenna Prize will be presented to the current laureate, Professor Shinwari of Pakistan.

13.5 Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, we honour the efforts made to achieve Education for All (EFA), for which many of the goals have been attained. We have also done our utmost in this regard. We hope that through collaboration we can strive to attain the goals of the global education agenda, Education 2030, especially the free exchange of information without discrimination. For this purpose, it is necessary that UNESCO support policies aimed at preventing scientific discrimination in education and access to the most advanced sciences, and enable the countries of the South to access educational and scientific resources, through which they can reach higher levels of science and technology in the framework of South-South and South-South-North cooperation and thus achieve the right to education. My Government strongly supports the development of a global convention for the recognition of higher education qualifications and believes it to be a positive step towards reducing the scientific gap between North and South, facilitating South-South-North cooperation and enabling the circulation of elites and the intellectual capital of developing countries.

13.6 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, global climate and environmental changes have pronounced effects, especially in regions like West Asia which are facing a severe shortage of water resources. In addition to extensive consequences to the technical and economic infrastructure of the countries of the region, they have a social and cultural impact. We believe that regional and international cooperation for conservation management and optimal use of joint water resources in arid and semi-arid regions is essential. Supporting transboundary biosphere reserves in cooperation with UNESCO can help achieve these goals. I urge UNESCO to design and follow up studies for the three axes of environmental sustainability, justice in energy, and worldwide cultural development and research by 2050. In order to achieve the 2014-2024 objective entitled "Energy for All", UNESCO should support training in development, production and use of all renewable energies, especially in rural areas. In this regard, we propose and donate the creation of a UNESCO prize for renewable energy, which would be tangible and moral support for the development and use of these resources in developing countries.

13.7 The post-2015 development agenda emphasizes low-cost Internet access for all in the least developed countries by 2020. My country also supports UNESCO's actions to improve access of people with disabilities to information and communication technologies (ICTs). In view of its mandate, UNESCO is requested to offer applicable guidelines to meet the ethical and social challenges introduced by ICTs, such as the lack of respect for privacy and the growth of extremism on the Internet and through ICTs, which have unfortunately in recent years been used by extremists to promote hatred and violence and even to recruit people to terrorist operations. We also highlight the necessity of promoting linguistic diversity in cyberspace in order to enable multilingual content use, and promote free access to scientific information resources.

13.8 Considering the importance attached by UNESCO to social inclusion with emphasis on youth and women, and especially women with special needs, we wish to emphasize the importance of their empowerment, with a special focus on women's vocational education. We declare our readiness to cooperate with UNESCO and its partners to achieve this objective. The active presence of the UNESCO Office in Tehran, which I really admire, can particularly enhance this cooperation in the region.

13.9 Madam Director-General, I admire your efforts to promote UNESCO's ideals in the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, ideals which are all found in UNESCO's DNA, the beautiful term you used in your speech yesterday. I would like to take this opportunity to recall the proposed initiative of President Rouhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran approved during the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, namely a "World against Violence and Extremism (WAVE)". It is in UNESCO's DNA, I believe. He will participate in the Leaders' Forum on 16 November to further focus on that initiative. Thank you for your attention.

14. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker on my list is His Excellency, Mr Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, Minister of Education and Research of Norway. You have the floor, Excellency.

15.1 **Mr Isaksen (Norway):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, considerable progress has been made in the world in the last few decades. Never before have so many people enjoyed such high standards of living or benefited from so much cooperation. At the same time, the past few years have taught us that we cannot simply assume that progress will continue and this only serves to underline the need for a well-functioning United Nations.

15.2 There are dark clouds on the horizon. Not since the Second World War have so many people been forced to flee from their countries and from their homes. We have all been witnesses to the horrible destruction of cultural treasures that belong to us all. Norway commends UNESCO's work in putting this high on the international agenda including in the United Nations Security Council. Norway also strongly supports the campaign "#Unite4Heritage".

15.3 We need the United Nations as never before. To succeed, the United Nations needs to adapt to a world that is facing new challenges. And UNESCO, like other members of the United Nations family, has to undergo a continuous process of reform if it is to retain its relevance in a rapidly changing world. Member States should give strategic direction to these reforms and hold the Secretariat accountable for conducting its work in a transparent and efficient manner. At the same time, we wish to avoid time-consuming micro-management and ensure that the UNESCO Secretariat gets sufficient space and financial resources to carry out its duties and achieve the expected results.

15.4 Ladies and gentlemen, Norway puts education first. We are in the process of doubling Norway's development assistance for education. In particular, we want to strengthen girls' education, the quality of learning, vocational and technical training, and education in emergencies and protracted crises. The provision of education is, of course, a national responsibility. Mobilization of domestic resources is key. However, official development assistance (ODA) remains a necessary addition, particularly in the least developed and most fragile countries.

15.5 The Oslo Summit on Education for Development resulted in the creation of a high-level International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. The commission has been welcomed by the United Nations Secretary-General, who has also stated that he will act on its recommendations. It is an urgent challenge to reach the growing number of children and adolescents who are out of school in countries affected by emergencies and protracted crises. Additional resources must be mobilized for this purpose, both as part of humanitarian responses and in terms of longer-term investments in resilient education systems. Furthermore, we need to do what we can to protect education from attacks. At the end of May, Norway hosted the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools. The main objective was for countries to sign the "Safe Schools Declaration", including the guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military weapons in conflicts. As we speak, 49 States have endorsed the Declaration, and we are hoping for many more.

15.6 Ladies and gentlemen, let me mention another, but not entirely different, challenge related to education. We live in an era where people are on the move, either forced or voluntarily. I am confident that it will benefit individuals, students, academics and not least countries if we develop a global instrument for just, fair and transparent recognition of qualifications, making use of people's resources and competencies. The development of a global convention for recognition of higher education qualifications responds to this need and Norway strongly supports this initiative.

15.7 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ambitious, comprehensive and universal and it will be our navigational star for the next 15 years, including here at UNESCO. As a coastal State investing heavily in research on how the oceans influence our climate and environment, we are pleased as well for the role given to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in the 2030 Agenda and within UNESCO. It is a recognition of the global trust in IOC and confidence in its ability to deliver.

15.8 UNESCO also has a vital role in promoting access to information and press freedom. We will continue to prioritize the work on the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. In September this year, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include a commitment to public access to information. SDG target 16.10 states plainly that all countries pledge to "ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements". This new commitment has potentially transformative implications for the free flow of information and independent media development worldwide. Thank you.

16. **La Présidente :**

Merci. Le prochain orateur est S. E. M. Hazwan al-Waz, Ministre de l'éducation de la République arabe syrienne.

١٧،١ السيد الوز (الجمهورية العربية السورية)

السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرية العامة، أصحاب السعادة، يسرني ووفد بلادي سورية أن نحني وإياكم الذكرى السنوية السبعين لتأسيس منظمنا العتيدة ونشارك في أعمال الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام وننقل لكم وللعالم أجمع تحية شعبنا المتجذر في أرض أسهمت في بناء الحضارة البشرية وسطرت تاريخ الإنسانية. ندخل السنة الخامسة وشعبنا في سورية يخوض معركة ضد الإرهاب والتطرف العنيف بفكره التكفيري وإجرامه المنظم المتمثل في التنظيمات الإرهابية المسلحة، كداعش وجبهة النصرة والعصابات المسلحة الأخرى ومتفرعات تنظيم القاعدة، لإسقاط نموذج دولتنا الوطنية ومصادرة قرارها السياسي السيادة المقاوم. ولقد أدركت الإرادة السياسية العليا في بلادي منذ البداية مرامي الحرب الظلمة على أبناء شعبنا، فلبت حكومة سورية المطالب المجتمعية المحقة وأعلنت بلادي تصديها للإرهاب ومحاربه.

١٧،٢ السيدات والسادة، فرضت الأزمة الراهنة على سورية حكومةً وشعباً أن تتخذ من محاربة الإرهاب أولوية، فوضعت الخطط الحكومية تحت عنوان "التصدي للأزمة" لدرء تداعياتها على الإنسان والوطن. وانبرت مؤسسات القطاع العام وهيئات المجتمع المحلي والقطاع الخاص يداً واحدة، وفق الموارد المتاحة، لضمان مواصلة العملية التنموية والحفاظ على المقدرات ومعالجة الانعكاسات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية للنزوح الداخلي والمهجرة التي تطل خاصةً الشابة. وخصصت ١٠,٣٩٪ من الميزانية الحكومية العامة للعام ٢٠١٦ لتوفير مستلزمات مواصلة تعليم الطلبة عامةً، بما فيهم الطلبة النازحين في الداخل السوري والمهجرين بفعل الإرهاب. وواصلت وضع استراتيجيات وطنية لتطوير التعليم في إطار خطط التطوير المجتمعي الشامل، لدرء الأزمة والأضرار المفجعة التي ألحقتها العصابات الإرهابية المسلحة بقطاع التربية بشرياً ومادياً، حيث بلغ عدد الطلبة في العام الدراسي الحالي ٤٢٥٠٠٠٠ طالباً وطالبة يتابعون التعلم في ٤٨٦ ١٧ مدرسة.

١٧،٣ السيدات والسادة، اتخذت أوجه التعاون بين حكومة بلادي ومنظمتنا العتيدة دفعاً حثيثاً خلال الأزمة الراهنة، مما يبرهن على جدية الالتزام المتبادل بالحفاظ على رصيد التعاون التاريخي بين اليونسكو وسورية التي تحتفل في العام ٢٠١٦ بالذكرى السبعين لانضمامها إلى المنظمة. ونوجه من هذا المنبر تقديرنا للموقف الموضوعي للسيدة المديرية العامة إيرينا بوكوفا ولليونيسكو بمحشد الرأي العالمي وتعبئة الجهود لحماية التراث الثقافي السوري المادي واللامادي من إجرام الإرهاب ومحاولاته طمس تاريخ وهوية الحضارة في سورية. وإنا لنعلن أن سورية التي تدافع بكل طاقاتها الوطنية الرسمية والشعبية عن التراث الثقافي والتاريخي والديني، وللتصدي للإتجار غير المشروع بثرواتها وممتلكاتها الثقافية، تتكامل مع جهود اليونسكو والدول الصديقة في مبادرة "#متحدون من أجل التراث"، كما أنها تلتزم التزاماً كاملاً باتفاقيات اليونسكو المبرمة ذات الصلة. ونؤكد حرصنا على إعلاء قيم اليونسكو "بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر" ومساندتها في تفعيل دورها وتحصينه في وجه الأزمات التي تعيق مسيرتها. وندعم الخيارات البراجمجة الهادفة إلى تحقيق التنمية المستدامة بحلول عام ٢٠٣٠، وخطة عمل التربية المنبثقة عنها مما نراه رافعة أساسية في مواصلة الإصلاح الإداري، وسياسية الموارد البشرية والبرمجة حسب الميزانية وأولوية أفريقيا، والمساواة بين الجنسين، ومبادرة التعليم أولاً والتعليم للجميع، والتعلم مدى الحياة، وجودة التعليم وتدريب المعلمين وتعليم الفتيات، والطفولة المبكرة، فضلاً عن الأولويات التي تراعي قضايا العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية وبرامج الشباب والإعلام والتقانة والعلوم الطبيعية والبيئية والموارد المائية.

١٧،٤ السيدات والسادة، في عالم نشد فيه بلوغ أهداف العقد الأممي للتقارب بين الثقافات ومكافحة الفقر والتصدي للتطرف العنيف كمفززات مباشرة للإرهاب، نؤكد دعمنا التام لإسهامات المنظمة باعتبارها رافعة لتحقيق السلم والأمن الدوليين ونبد الأفعال الإرهابية القائمة على التمييز الديني والعرق والإقصاء والاتجار بالبشر وتدمير الحضارات وانتهاك سيادة الشعوب وحقوقها في تقرير مصيرها. ونؤكد قرارات اليونسكو المتعلقة بالقدس الشريف وبالأراضي العربية المحتلة، بما فيها الجولان السوري المحتل، ونرفض الانتهاك الممنهج لحرمة المسجد الأقصى وتحويل القدس وسعي سلطات الاحتلال اليومي إلى تدمير مقدرات وتراث شعبنا في الجولان السوري المحتل، وتخريب نسيجه المجتمعي وبنية مؤسساته التعليمية والثقافية وإلغاء دورها في حفظ الهوية الوطنية والتاريخية.

١٧،٥ السيدات والسادة، ونحن على مشارف نظام علمي جديد ينشد السلام والعدالة والاحترام المتبادل وسيادة الشعوب والحفاظ على مقدراتها وحضاراتها، فإننا ندعم القضايا العادلة لدول مجموعة السبعة والسبعين والصين وحركة عدم الانحياز ومجموعة دول الريبكس، والجهود المبذولة في إطار منظمتنا العتيدة لعالم أكثر إنسانية. وشكراً لحسن الاستماع.

(17.1) **M. Al-Waz (République arabe syrienne) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, la délégation de mon pays, la République arabe syrienne, et moi-même avons le plaisir de saluer le soixante-dixième anniversaire de la création de notre vénérable Organisation, de participer aux travaux de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale et de vous apporter, à vous et au monde entier, les salutations de notre peuple, dont les racines plongent dans une terre qui a contribué à l'édification de la civilisation humaine et a tracé les lignes de l'histoire de l'humanité. Nous entamons la cinquième année de lutte de notre peuple contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent, avec sa pensée « *takfiri* » et sa criminalité organisée aux mains de groupes terroristes armés, tels Da'ech, Jabhat al-*No*usra et d'autres bandes armées et excroissances d'al-Qa'eda visant à renverser le modèle de notre État et à confisquer son pouvoir de décision politique souverain et résistant. Dès le début, la volonté politique suprême de mon pays a bien mesuré l'étendue de la guerre d'oppression contre notre peuple, et le Gouvernement syrien a répondu aux demandes sociales équitables en déclarant sa résistance et son combat contre le terrorisme.

(17.2) Mesdames, Messieurs, la crise actuelle a imposé au Gouvernement et au peuple syriens de faire du combat contre le terrorisme une priorité ; des plans gouvernementaux ont été adoptés sous le mot d'ordre « repousser la crise » afin d'éviter ses conséquences sur les hommes et la patrie. Les institutions du secteur public, de la vie associative et du secteur privé ont travaillé main dans la main en utilisant les ressources disponibles pour faire en sorte que le processus de développement se poursuive, que les capacités soient maintenues et que les effets économiques et sociaux de la migration interne et de l'émigration, qui frappent les jeunes en particulier, soient pris en charge. Ainsi, 10,39% du budget national pour 2016 ont été consacrés à la fourniture du matériel nécessaire à l'éducation des étudiants en général, notamment les Syriens déplacés à l'intérieur de leur propre pays et les personnes n'ayant plus de toit du fait du terrorisme. Le Gouvernement a continué de formuler des stratégies nationales visant à développer l'éducation dans le cadre de plans pour un développement social global, afin d'enrayer la crise et les dommages catastrophiques que les bandes terroristes armées ont infligés au secteur de l'éducation en termes tant humains que matériels. Pour l'année scolaire en cours, 4 250 000 élèves au total – garçons et filles – sont scolarisés dans 17 486 établissements.

(17.3) Mesdames, Messieurs, les diverses formes de coopération entre le Gouvernement de mon pays et notre vénérable Organisation ont reçu une impulsion particulière pendant la crise en cours, ce qui démontre tout le sérieux de l'engagement réciproque visant à préserver la coopération historique entre l'UNESCO et la République arabe syrienne, qui fête en 2016 le 70^e anniversaire de son adhésion à l'Organisation. De cette tribune, nous exprimons toute notre gratitude pour les positions objectives de Mme Irina Bokova et de l'UNESCO vis-à-vis de l'opinion mondiale, cherchant à mobiliser les efforts afin de protéger le patrimoine culturel syrien matériel et immatériel de la criminalité terroriste et de ses tentatives d'oblitérer l'histoire et l'identité de la civilisation en Syrie. Nous déclarons que la République arabe syrienne, qui défend de toutes ses forces nationales officielles et populaires le patrimoine culturel, historique et religieux et qui s'oppose au trafic illégal des richesses et

des biens culturels, joint ses efforts à ceux de l'UNESCO et des pays amis dans le cadre de la campagne « #UnisPourLePatrimoine ». Elle s'engage également à respecter pleinement les conventions de l'UNESCO en la matière, et nous proclamons notre détermination à promouvoir les valeurs de l'Organisation en élevant dans l'esprit des hommes les défenses de la paix, à soutenir ces valeurs en renforçant leur rôle et en les immunisant contre les crises qui entravent leurs progrès. Nous soutenons les choix programmatiques consistant à réaliser le développement durable dès 2030 et le plan d'action pour l'éducation qui en découle, dans lequel nous voyons une base pour la poursuite de la réforme administrative. Nous soutenons également la politique des ressources humaines et la programmation axée sur le budget, la Priorité Afrique, l'égalité des sexes, l'Initiative mondiale pour l'éducation avant tout, l'Éducation pour tous (EPT), l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie, une éducation et une formation des enseignants de qualité, l'éducation des filles et de la petite enfance, en plus de la priorité à accorder aux problématiques des sciences sociales et humaines et aux programmes sur la jeunesse, l'information, la technologie, les sciences naturelles, l'environnement et les ressources en eau.

(17.4) Mesdames, Messieurs, dans un monde où nous nous efforçons d'atteindre les objectifs de la Décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures, de combattre la pauvreté, de résister à l'extrémisme violent et aux exactions terroristes, nous affirmons notre soutien total aux contributions de l'Organisation en tant que pilier essentiel à la réalisation de la paix et de la sécurité internationales et au rejet des actes terroristes basés sur la discrimination religieuse et raciale, de l'exclusion, du trafic des êtres humains, de la destruction des civilisations, de la violation de la souveraineté des peuples et de leur droit à l'autodétermination. Nous réaffirmons les résolutions et décisions de l'UNESCO relatives à Jérusalem et aux territoires arabes occupés, notamment le Golan syrien occupé. Nous récusons la violation systématique de l'enceinte de la Mosquée al-Aqsa, la judaïsation de Jérusalem, les tentatives quotidiennes des autorités d'occupation de détruire les atouts et le patrimoine de notre peuple au Golan syrien occupé, de saboter son tissu social et ses institutions éducatives et culturelles, et d'abolir son rôle dans la préservation de l'identité nationale et historique.

(17.5) Mesdames, Messieurs, au seuil d'un nouvel ordre mondial, nous appelons de nos vœux la paix, la justice, le respect mutuel, la souveraineté des peuples, la préservation de leurs atouts et de leur civilisation. Nous soutenons les causes justes du Groupe des 77 et de la Chine, du Mouvement des pays non alignés et du groupe de pays « BRICS », ainsi que les efforts déployés par notre vénérable Organisation en vue d'un monde plus humain. Je vous remercie de votre écoute.

18. **The President:**

The next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Shamsiddin Orumbekzoda, Minister of Culture of Tajikistan.

19.1 **Г-н Орумбекзода (Таджикистан):**

Уважаемые коллеги, дамы и господа. От имени делегации Таджикистана позвольте, прежде всего, поздравить вас с 70-летним юбилеем и очередной Генеральной Конференцией ЮНЕСКО. Одновременно хотел бы выразить признательность Генеральному директору, Ее Превосходительству г-же Ирине Боковой за искреннее личное участие в укреплении всесторонних связей между странами-членами ЮНЕСКО.

19.2 Как уже отметили предыдущие ораторы, ЮНЕСКО на протяжении последних семи десятилетий проделала громадную и бесспорно ценнейшую работу, продвигая идеи мира, солидарности, толерантности и межкультурного диалога путем развития сфер образования, науки и культуры. Аналитический взгляд в прошлое отчетливо показывает, что за этот период деятельность ЮНЕСКО была весьма продуктивной и эффективной. Однако сегодня мировое сообщество столкнулось с новыми, более опасными вызовами и угрозами: международный терроризм, религиозный радикализм, вандализм быстрыми темпами сеют зерна вражды, нетерпимости и жестокости в умах молодого поколения. Мы все с вами являемся свидетелями последних чудовищных событий в странах Ближнего Востока, где совершается чрезмерная жестокость, человеческая трагедия и варварское уничтожение исторических памятников мирового культурного наследия. В нынешних условиях, в свете новых глобальных вызовов и угроз роль ЮНЕСКО в качестве консолидирующей силы в усилении взаимодействия между странами-членами Организации для предотвращения и недопущения в будущем этих угроз как никогда велика.

19.2 Республика Таджикистан во главе с Его Превосходительством президентом страны, уважаемым Эмомали Рахмоном, с первых дней обретения независимости придает особое значение всестороннему сотрудничеству с ЮНЕСКО. За последние два десятилетия в рамках сотрудничества с ЮНЕСКО ее центрами в стране были осуществлены многочисленные программы и проекты, которые внесли весомый вклад в развитие сфер образования, науки, сохранение материального и нематериального культурного наследия в стране. Таджикистан и впредь намерен придерживаться курса углубления взаимодействия и повышения роли ЮНЕСКО в стране и в мире в целом. Безусловно, что благие намерения и благородные цели Организации достижимы, в первую очередь, путем улучшения качества образования людей и воспитания молодого поколения в духе мира, как акцентировали тут многие выступающие. Правительство Республики Таджикистан считает развитие образования, культуры, науки в стране одной из приоритетных задач государства и последовательно предпринимает действенные шаги в этих направлениях.

19.3 Следует отметить, что финансирование сектора образования, культуры и науки из государственного бюджета за последние десять лет увеличилось более чем в 12-15 раз. И эта благоприятная тенденция будет сохранена и в последующие годы.

19.4 Отрадно отметить, что Таджикистан в тесном сотрудничестве с ЮНЕСКО эффективно реализует многочисленные программы и проекты в области образования, культуры и науки. За последние годы в рамках реализации задач программы «Образование для всех» в стране были проведены многочисленные конференции, семинары, «круглые столы», телевизионные передачи, открытые уроки, тренинги, и разработаны методические учебные планы по ускоренному обучению и т.д. Одним из важнейших достижений в ходе реализации программы «Образование для всех» является разработка и принятие Концепции по инклюзивному обучению для детей с ограниченными возможностями на период 2011-2015 г. и Национальной стратегии развития образования в Республике Таджикистан до 2020 г.

19.5 Пользуясь предоставленной возможностью, хотел бы обратить внимание участников Конференции на актуальнейшие вопросы современности, связанные с защитой окружающей среды, изменением климата, рациональным водопользованием, адекватным доступом к питьевой воде. В июне этого года в столице Таджикистана г. Душанбе состоялась Международная конференция высокого уровня по итогам реализации Международного десятилетия действий «Вода для жизни» 2005-2015 г., которая подвела итоги проведения Десятилетия. Можно с уверенностью сказать, что Международное десятилетие действий «Вода для жизни» логично и гармонично вписалось в процесс реализации целей развития тысячелетия и содействовало их достижению. Однако современные глобальные вызовы и угрозы, включая финансово-экономический кризис, рост населения, изменение климата, учащение стихийных гидрометеорологических явлений, нехватка воды и, как результат, возрастающий уровень бедности, увеличение миграционных процессов, рост инфекционных заболеваний, детской и материнской смертности все еще требует мобилизации наших усилий и принятия соответствующих мер в этих сферах. В этой связи президент Республики Таджикистан выступил с инициативой об объявлении нового десятилетия «Вода для устойчивого развития», которое, безусловно, созвучно и соответствует текущим глобальным тенденциям по определению наших будущих действий на период после 2015 г., в котором водным ресурсам, по нашему мнению, должно отводиться ключевое место.

19.6 Мы выражаем признательность Комитету всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО, Межправительственному комитету по нематериальному культурному наследию ЮНЕСКО за всестороннюю поддержку в деле сохранения материального и нематериального культурного наследия Таджикистана. С первых дней обретения независимости вопросы сохранения своих многовековых культурных традиций Таджикистан ставит в число первоочередных. На государственном уровне эта позиция вылилась в целенаправленную и осмысленную культурную политику, которая во многом созвучна положениям и требованиям Конвенции ЮНЕСКО об охране всемирного культурного и природного наследия.

19.7 Я хотел бы завершить свое короткое выступление словами великого мудреца, основоположника таджикской, иранской и дорийской литературы Абу Абдаллаха Рудаки, который сказал: «Нет в мире радости сильнее, чем лицемерье близких друзей». Спасибо за внимание.

(19.1) **M. Orumbekzoda** (Tadjikistan) (*traduit du russe*) :

Mes chers collègues, mesdames et messieurs. Au nom de la délégation du Tadjikistan, permettez-moi avant tout de vous souhaiter une belle célébration du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO ainsi qu'une session fructueuse de la Conférence générale. Je voudrais également remercier la Directrice générale, S. E. Mme Irina Bokova, pour son engagement personnel et sincère en faveur du renforcement des liens entre les États membres de l'UNESCO.

(19.2) Comme les précédents orateurs l'ont fait remarquer, l'UNESCO a accompli un travail considérable et d'une valeur indéniable au cours de ses 70 ans d'existence, en promouvant les idées de paix, de solidarité, de tolérance et de dialogue interculturel à travers le développement de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture. En jetant un regard sur le passé, on constate que l'UNESCO a été extrêmement productive et efficace depuis sa création. Mais aujourd'hui, la communauté mondiale se confronte à des défis et des dangers nouveaux et accrus : le terrorisme international, le radicalisme religieux, le vandalisme, qui font rapidement germer l'antagonisme, l'intolérance et la violence dans l'esprit des jeunes générations. Nous sommes tous témoins des terribles événements survenus dernièrement dans les pays du Proche-Orient, qui sont le théâtre de violences extrêmes, d'une tragédie humaine et de la destruction barbare de monuments historiques qui appartiennent au patrimoine culturel mondial. Dans le contexte actuel, à la lumière de ces défis et dangers nouveaux, le rôle de l'UNESCO en tant que force de consolidation de la coopération entre États membres visant à prévenir et empêcher ces phénomènes à l'avenir est plus important que jamais.

(19.3) La République du Tadjikistan, avec à sa tête le Président, S. E. M. Emomali Rahmon, accorde depuis les premiers jours de son indépendance une importance particulière à la coopération avec l'UNESCO. Ces 20 dernières années, dans le cadre de la collaboration avec les unités de l'Organisation au Tadjikistan, de nombreux programmes et projets ont été mis en œuvre, apportant une contribution majeure au développement de l'éducation, de la science et de la conservation du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel dans le pays. Le Tadjikistan entend désormais maintenir le cap de l'intensification de la coopération avec l'UNESCO et du renforcement du rôle de l'Organisation aux niveaux national et mondial. Il ne fait aucun doute que les honorables intentions et les nobles objectifs de l'UNESCO sont réalisables, en s'attachant en premier lieu à améliorer la qualité de l'éducation et à dispenser une éducation à la paix aux jeunes générations, comme de nombreux intervenants l'ont souligné ici même. Le Gouvernement de la République du Tadjikistan considère le développement de l'éducation, de la culture et de la science au niveau national comme l'une des missions prioritaires de l'État, et prend par conséquent des mesures concrètes en ce sens.

(19.4) Il convient de noter que le financement par des fonds publics de l'éducation, de la culture et de la science a été multiplié par 12 à 15 fois au cours des dix dernières années. Cette évolution favorable sera maintenue dans les années à venir.

(19.5) Il faut en outre signaler que le Tadjikistan, en collaboration étroite avec l'UNESCO, a mis en œuvre avec efficacité de nombreux programmes et projets dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la culture et de la science. Ces dernières années, dans le cadre de la réalisation à l'échelon national des objectifs du programme Éducation pour tous, un grand nombre de séminaires, conférences, tables rondes, émissions télévisées, cours ouverts et formations ont été organisés, des programmes d'apprentissage accéléré ont été élaborés, etc. Parmi les principales réalisations obtenues dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'EPT, figurent l'élaboration et l'adoption, entre 2011 et 2015, du concept d'apprentissage inclusif pour les enfants handicapés, ainsi que la stratégie nationale pour le développement de l'éducation en République du Tadjikistan jusqu'à 2020.

(19.6) Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour appeler l'attention des participants à la Conférence sur les questions cruciales et d'actualité de la protection de l'environnement, du changement climatique, de la gestion des ressources en eau et de l'accès à l'eau potable. Une conférence internationale de haut niveau sur les résultats de la mise en œuvre des objectifs de la Décennie internationale d'action « L'eau, source de vie » (2005-2015) s'est tenue en juin dernier dans la capitale tadjike, Douchanbé, pour dresser le bilan de la Décennie. On peut affirmer avec certitude que celle-ci s'est inscrite de façon logique et harmonieuse dans la réalisation des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, et qu'elle a contribué à les atteindre. Cependant, les défis et les dangers mondiaux actuels, notamment la crise financière et économique, la croissance démographique, le changement climatique, la fréquence accrue des phénomènes hydrométéorologiques extrêmes, la pénurie d'eau, et, par conséquent, le niveau croissant de pauvreté, l'intensification des processus migratoires, l'augmentation des

maladies infectieuses et de la mortalité infantile et maternelle, nécessitent encore que nous mobilisions nos efforts et que nous prenions les mesures qui s'imposent dans ces domaines. À cet égard, le président de la République du Tadjikistan a présenté une initiative concernant le lancement d'une nouvelle décennie sur le thème « L'eau pour le développement durable », laquelle correspond pleinement aux tendances mondiales de la définition de nos actions futures pour l'après-2015 qui, d'après nous, doit accorder une place essentielle aux ressources en eau.

(19.7) Nous remercions le Comité du patrimoine mondial et le Comité intergouvernemental de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'UNESCO pour le soutien sans réserve apporté à la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel du Tadjikistan. Depuis les premiers jours de l'indépendance, les questions de la préservation des traditions culturelles pluriséculaires font partie des priorités du pays. Au niveau national, cela a débouché sur une politique culturelle efficace et ciblée, en grande partie conforme aux dispositions et aux exigences de la Convention pour la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel de l'UNESCO.

(19.8) Je voudrais conclure ma brève intervention en citant un grand sage, le père de la littérature tadjike, persane et doriennne Abuabdule Rudaki : « Il n'y a pas de plus grande joie au monde que celle d'être auprès de ses proches amis ». Merci de votre attention.

20. **The President:**

Our next speaker on the list is Her Excellency, Honourable Ms Nimisha Jayant Madhvani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uganda.

21.1 **Ms Madhvani (Uganda):**

Thank you Madam President. I am currently the Ambassador of Uganda to UNESCO. The Minister sends her greetings to the Director-General and conveys her apologies. Owing to the elections she is unable to be here but her heart is very much in two places. It is my pleasure on behalf of my delegation to congratulate Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa on his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I trust that, guided by the African spirit of *ubuntu*, he will steer this session to achieve, amicably, as is the tradition of UNESCO, consensus on matters before it. We salute the Director-General for her very detailed achievements for our Organization since our last meeting. We also thank the team she worked with in the Secretariat, the Executive Board and indeed the Member States for supporting her in moving UNESCO forward. Uganda further extends its congratulations to the Chair of the Executive Board for his leadership.

21.2 The challenges facing our Organization have been with us for some years now. In spite of them, we still expect the Director-General to deliver more and better services. In this session we must support the efforts of the Director-General by providing adequate finances to enable her to implement the programme we agreed in document 37 C/4. If this is not done we risk the continuation of millions of children worldwide being unable to access quality education and many adults, particularly women, remaining illiterate. Furthermore, we risk lagging behind in science and innovation and also missing out on delivering on conventions on culture, freedom of expression and access to information. The greatest loser in this will be the priority areas of Africa, gender equality and youth, and the bigger family of least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

21.3 We heard the voices of youth in their recommendations urging UNESCO to do more in its fields of competence, to ensure that peace and sustainable development become a reality for many people, now and not in some distant future. If we do not provide the requisite resources, we will have shot ourselves in the foot and made a false start in the journey towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. The Ugandan delegation, Madam President, appreciates the support received from UNESCO over the past biennium in all the programmes. This support has enabled us to address many issues facing teachers in the delivery of appropriate quality education and issues of science, technology and innovation and climate change, as well as promoting cultural heritage and freedom of expression. However, we believe that more can be done and we look forward to this in the next biennium.

21.4 Madam President, the challenges that led to the establishment of UNESCO are still with us today. The world needs peace today as much as it did 70 years ago, perhaps more. This peace is built in the minds of people through education, sciences, culture and communication, and through the intellectual cooperation of humanity. Uganda further requests the Director-General to host a special showing of Pascal Plisson's film "*Le grand jour*" for all members of UNESCO, ministers here present, and members of parliament of various countries. This film encapsulates most of the principles of UNESCO – youth education, preservation of cultural heritage, and skills development, illustrated through four young people from Uganda, Mongolia, Cuba and India.

21.5 Uganda would like to congratulate UNESCO on its 70th anniversary. In Uganda, we celebrated this anniversary at the end of September 2015. We used the occasion to raise awareness among Ugandans, particularly young people, of the values of UNESCO, what it stands for and its mandate and programmes. As the final celebrations arrive, it is not too late to reflect on the extent to which the values and aspirations of the founding fathers have been and are being addressed, so as to develop strategies for the next 70 years. Madam President, I wish the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO fruitful dialogue that will reaffirm UNESCO's status as a beacon of hope and an agent of sustainable development and peace. We look forward to your visit to Uganda. Thank you, for God and my country.

22. **La Présidente :**

J'ai l'honneur de donner la parole à la Vice-Ministre-Présidente du Gouvernement de la Flandre et Ministre flamande de l'enseignement de la Belgique, S. E. Mme Hilde Crevits.

23.1 **Mme Crevits (Belgique):**

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, chers collègues, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, la Belgique se félicite tout d'abord du rôle crucial qui a été confié à l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 des Nations Unies pour le développement durable. Nous voudrions exprimer notre engagement en faveur du nouveau

Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, qui met l'accent sur la qualité de l'éducation tout au long de la vie et reconnaît explicitement l'éducation comme un bien public. La responsabilité publique qui en découle impose une tâche à chaque acteur du système éducatif, tant privé que public. L'enseignement des valeurs démocratiques et la promotion du dialogue entre nos communautés culturelles, religieuses et philosophiques peuvent s'avérer des outils efficaces pour lutter contre toutes les formes de radicalisation. À cet égard, nous saluons particulièrement le lancement du nouveau plan mondial d'éducation au développement durable.

23.2 Nous appelons les États membres de l'UNESCO à s'appuyer pleinement sur l'expertise de l'Organisation, en ce qui concerne les ressources éducatives libres, par exemple, ou pour l'élaboration d'un nouvel instrument normatif mondial pour la reconnaissance des qualifications relatives à l'enseignement supérieur.

23.3 Le besoin d'une UNESCO énergique, déterminée et efficace n'a jamais été aussi urgent. De violents conflits armés sont à l'origine de grands flux migratoires mondiaux. Des efforts supplémentaires seront indispensables pour parvenir à un développement durable au niveau mondial. Notre patrimoine commun pâtit lui aussi des troubles et conflits qui sévissent dans le monde. Et si le patrimoine est menacé, la population l'est également, et inversement. Les destructions du patrimoine de l'humanité qui frappent actuellement le Proche et le Moyen-Orient nous touchent au cœur. En Belgique, nous avons nous-mêmes vécu pareilles tragédies au cours des deux guerres mondiales.

23.4 Les déchirures qui marquent notre paysage ainsi que certaines de nos cités médiévales comme Nivelles et Ypres, ou encore la bibliothèque de l'Université de Louvain, complètement détruites durant le premier conflit mondial, en témoignent jusqu'à nos jours. Des initiatives comme #Unite4Heritage mobilisent le soutien de l'opinion publique autour des actions de l'UNESCO. En contribuant au projet « Sauvegarde d'urgence du patrimoine culturel syrien », le Gouvernement de la Flandre apporte lui aussi son aide. Il est évident que des actions post-conflit seules ne sont pas suffisantes. Nous devons agir avant que le patrimoine n'existe plus que dans les manuels d'histoire. Nous nous félicitons donc du 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.

23.5 Il est incontestable que la prévention et la sensibilisation contribuent à la paix, à la stabilité et au développement. La clé de l'efficacité de l'UNESCO résidera dans la façon dont elle sera capable de combiner ses forces. Ainsi, l'éducation peut contribuer au développement durable mais également aux sciences, aux technologies et à l'innovation qui sont indispensables à la réalisation des objectifs de durabilité et à la lutte contre le changement climatique.

23.6 Chers collègues, nous voulons poursuivre nos efforts pour parvenir à un accord qui incitera chacun à contribuer à la lutte contre le changement climatique. Comblé le fossé entre des pays se trouvant à des stades différents de développement sera un élément-clé pour la conclusion d'un véritable accord sur le climat.

23.7 Nous soulignons également l'importance de la coopération scientifique. L'UNESCO est l'hôte de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale (COI), qui joue un rôle essentiel dans le transfert de technologie marine et dans le développement des capacités. C'est donc avec satisfaction que nous constatons que des efforts supplémentaires capitaux ont été consentis, dans le projet de budget, en faveur de la Commission. Les résultats du travail de développement des capacités sont rendus visibles par le Bureau des projets de l'UNESCO/COI (centre de catégorie 1) à Ostende, qui fête aujourd'hui ses 10 ans d'existence. Un autre anniversaire à célébrer est celui des 10 ans de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. Le Forum organisé en Belgique pour célébrer ce 10^e anniversaire a permis de réaffirmer que la Convention de 2005 est pleinement applicable au numérique car elle s'inscrit de fait dans le cadre du principe de la neutralité technologique.

23.8 Nous voudrions enfin remercier l'UNESCO de son association à la première Conférence mondiale des Humanités consacrée aux défis et responsabilités pour une planète en transition, qui se tiendra à Liège au mois d'août 2017. Chers collègues, l'UNESCO est le forum mondial par excellence pour affronter les grands défis de notre communauté internationale d'un point de vue humaniste et multidimensionnel. Joignons donc nos forces et partageons nos expertises pour réaliser son programme ambitieux ! Merci.

24. **The President:**

The next speaker is the Minister of Culture of Singapore, Her Excellency, Ms Grace Fu.

25.1 **Ms Fu (Singapore):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, Singapore congratulates UNESCO on 70 years of building peace through education, science and culture. Singapore is a member of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee and of various UNESCO networks. We proudly reaffirm this partnership on this milestone anniversary for UNESCO. This year, 2015, is also a special year for Singapore, being our 50th year of independence. It was made even more special with the inscription of the Singapore Botanic Gardens as a world heritage site.

25.2 Singapore is a young nation, but our roots go back centuries. The Gardens themselves were founded in 1859. We have carefully preserved this site throughout Singapore's journey of modernization and development. This did not happen by chance in our small and densely-populated city-State. Other heritage sites have also stood the test of development. There are over 7,000 conserved buildings and 70 national monuments in Singapore, such as the Yueh Hai Ching temple, one of our oldest temples, built in the 1850s, where our ancestors gave thanks after arduous journeys at sea, or the former Supreme Court and City Hall, from pre-independence days, which we have lovingly restored to house our new national gallery. This goes to show the values that underpin our urban design and development, the will to harmonize economic and physical development with social, cultural and environmental needs. This is a people-centred approach to designing a liveable city of the future.

25.3 Singapore must get this right. As a tiny island State, there is no room for error. Our development is thoughtfully designed and implemented to support our policy objectives. One example is the environment, and the way we have used our drains and canals. Located at the equator, we need an efficient drainage system to manage the heavy downpours we often get. It is not difficult to find big concrete canals in many parts of the country. About 10 years ago, we decided to turn these drains into active, beautiful and clean water bodies. We converted unsightly canals into meandering rivers, seamlessly integrated with parks, and populated with canoes and boats. What used to be unsightly concrete features have become vibrant waterways for the community.

25.4 Another example is our social policy of racial and religious harmony where everyone is treated equally, regardless of creed. Our community and living spaces are designed to support this, from our unique street food, or hawker food as we call it in Singapore, to public housing, places of worship and schools. Let me elaborate. Our hawker food used to be sold on the streets. To improve hygiene and sanitation, we created hawker centres to house our food vendors or hawkers. Hawkers of Chinese, Indian, Malay and other races operated side by side. Over time, they influenced one another in their use of spices, ingredients and cooking techniques, producing uniquely Singaporean flavours and characteristics. These hawker centres are now found in neighbourhoods all over Singapore. There are options for everyone, including halal food for Muslims and vegetarian food. They are more than just places for a good meal. They are common spaces for Singaporeans to take part in communal life. A society that eats together stays together.

25.5 In town planning, we design for a living environment that integrates the different races. As a matter of policy, our towns are multiracial, with different races living as neighbours to one another. We provide places of worship for different faiths in every town. We ensure that our schools are multiracial and children can learn their vernacular languages and grow up with children of different races. All of this shows our effort in applying thoughtful urban design to the process of development. It is not just for the aesthetics, but to meet policy needs, supported by an appreciation of people's needs and aspirations. Singapore is happy to share its experiences in these areas, and to learn from fellow Member States. I warmly welcome all Member States to join us for the 2016 World Cities Summit in Singapore next July. It will be a chance for global leaders to share practical insights in urban development, and the design of liveable and sustainable cities.

25.6 Madam President, I have shared these thoughts on Singapore's journey of development to illustrate the natural affinity between our priorities, and UNESCO's noble mission. We will build on this to forge deeper partnerships with UNESCO. Singapore is proud to be part of UNESCO's global action to build peace among all nations. Thank you.

26. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Excellency. I have now the honour to introduce Her Excellency, Ms Jet Bussemaker, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands. Thank you very much.

27.1 **Ms Bussemaker (Netherlands):**

Madam President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science, I am speaking to you today on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. I would like to start by giving my compliments to the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her leading role in successfully positioning UNESCO's work, particularly in the fields of education (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4), gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG 5), at the heart of the new 2030 Agenda as it links peace, security and sustainable development.

27.2 Today, I would like to focus on three topics. All three are cornerstones of a healthy and democratic society and all three are bound by the overarching theme to protect what is valuable and vulnerable. The first is cultural heritage, the second is freedom of expression and journalists' safety, and the third is respect for diversity and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

27.3 Let me start with the first topic, cultural heritage. Heritage determines our identities and can be considered the face of our nations. For precisely these reasons, it is shocking to see heritage on the frontline of conflict. I attach great importance to UNESCO's leading role in putting the protection of cultural heritage high on the international agenda. UNESCO is tasked with coordinating this action. Cooperation within the United Nations, with and between Member States and other strategic partners, including NGOs, is therefore essential. At a national level, we have to echo this broad cooperation. Allow me to share the example of the trafficking of cultural goods. To combat this, we need to cooperate on reliable evidence-based information and data collection. We call on UNESCO and its Member States to make this part of our common goal.

27.4 This brings me to my second point: the importance of freedom of expression, and in particular the safety of journalists and other media workers. Independent media is the heartbeat of a properly functioning democracy. It is therefore unacceptable that journalists and other media workers are being threatened, harassed, physically attacked and even murdered because of their investigative work or their opinions. At this moment, nine out of ten cases where journalists are murdered, the killers go unpunished. Two days ago, we commemorated the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, and for the Netherlands, the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity is of the utmost importance.

27.5 The third vulnerability that we feel must be protected involves bullying, discrimination and violence towards pupils and students, boys and girls on the ground of their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. During today's side event on addressing homophobic bullying at school, I met with colleagues from sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia, Latin America and Europe. It is promising to see that ministers of education are reporting progress in different regions of the world. They do so by developing evidence-based sexuality education, sharing good practices and

building strong communities. We made a pledge for next year's UNESCO's stock-taking ministerial conference against homophobia and transphobia in education. In this respect, I would like to conclude this last subject by quoting United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who said earlier: "Hatred of any kind must have no place in the twenty-first century.[...] We must all raise our voices against attacks on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people." I agree fully with him.

27.6 Madam President, in the interest of peace and freedom around the world, UNESCO must be capable of operating effectively and decisively on all these themes in order to transform vulnerability into strength. Doing so requires the active contribution of all United Nations organizations, Member States and other strategic partners, including civil society organizations.

27.7 To conclude, I should like to reiterate our message as a candidate for a non-permanent seat on the 2017-2018 United Nations Security Council. The Netherlands is your partner for peace, justice and development. Thanks to UNESCO, there is growing awareness that security is not only about armed forces, but also about culture, cultural heritage, education and sustainable development. We want to fulfil our international responsibility at all levels. Thank you.

28. **The President:**

Thank you. We now have Her Excellency, Honourable Ms Aishath Shiham, Minister of Education of Maldives.

29.1 **Ms Shiham (Maldives):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies; distinguished delegates; ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to represent the beautiful islands of the Maldives at the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference. I join others in warmly congratulating the Honourable Stanley Mutumba Simataa on his election as President of this memorable Conference. May I also take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her remarkable leadership and unrelenting efforts to reform UNESCO in name of the noble causes of peace and shared prosperity.

29.2 Madam President, after one-and-a-half decades of the new millennium, 2015 remains a year of historical significance for my country. Perhaps one of the ways for which it will be most remembered will be the historic adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by world leaders. These represent a universal, ambitious agenda "of the people, by the people and for the people" to secure a world that we deserve. Maldives is determined to join hands with the rest of the world and with international partners to take the bold and urgent steps needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. In our efforts to achieve these goals, we will be building on six out of the eight MDGs that we have achieved and stand firmly resolved to fulfil the rest.

29.3 We are encouraged by the significant improvements Maldives has made in making access to education universal for both girls and boys from pre-school to secondary levels. We stand firm in ensuring 12 years of free education through the Government's "no-child-left-behind" policy beginning in 2016. We are progressively making headway in improving the quality and relevance of the education we provide. We have undergone a process of reforming our school curriculum to place greater emphasis on relevant socioeconomic themes and issues, life skills, and the development of values and skills, in order to ensure that our citizens are responsible and productive. The reforms uphold human rights, democracy and justice. We all know that quality education can only be provided by quality teachers. As such, earlier this year we set higher standards for teachers, and the training of teachers has been given high priority.

29.4 Madam President, investing in people is, we believe, the best way to promote human rights, the best way to guarantee a brighter future for the generations to come, and the best way to ensure that the democracy gains we have made are consolidated and further enhanced. That is why President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom's Government has embarked on a national development agenda that is based on the "empowerment of people": empowerment of youth, empowerment of children, and empowerment of women.

29.5 Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentleman, for us in the Maldives, climate change is a security threat. Together with other small island developing States, we have taken urgent action to keep the rise of global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius. We are working, in good faith, towards a legally-binding agreement in Paris this month.

29.6 Another such issue is oceans. Oceans are intimately linked with our lives and livelihoods. They are the source of our food, and the backbone of our heritage and traditions. This is why Maldives banned turtle poaching in the early 1980s, declared Baa Atoll as a UNESCO biosphere reserve in 2012, and made the entire Maldives a shark sanctuary. We understand the value of our oceans and the treasures they contain. Our oceans are home to some of the most precious marine habitats in the world. Building the resilience of our people remains at the centre of our efforts.

29.7 Madam President, each of us is a reflection of our past, of our history. I share with Madam Director-General the urgency and significance of ensuring that we conserve and promote our rich history and heritage. Heritage in all its forms brings us closer together as a nation and provides us with a shared vision for the participatory evolution of our nations, increases our appreciation of the diversity of nations and leads people to peace. Let me conclude by congratulating UNESCO on its 70th anniversary and reaffirming the Maldives's commitment to the high ideals of creating a better world for all that UNESCO stands for. Thank you all.

30. **The President:**

Thank you. We now have the Minister of Basic Education of South Africa, Her Excellency, Ms Angie Motshekga. Thank you, Minister.

31.1 **Ms Motshekga (South Africa):**

Madam President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General Irina Bokova, honourable colleagues and delegates, ladies and gentlemen, South Africa would like to thank UNESCO for the opportunity to

address the general policy debate of the 38th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

31.2 First, Madam President, as the South African Development Community region, and in particular as the Republic of South Africa, we wish to congratulate Stanley Mutumba Simataa for his election yesterday as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. His election has made us proud as a country, region and the African continent as a whole, and again I would like to congratulate him.

31.3 As South Africa we recognize fully and support the Education 2030 Agenda as encapsulated in the Education 2030 Framework for Action. Cardinal in this regard is for Member States to fully integrate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 in their education programmes, through which inclusive and equitable quality education is ensured and lifelong learning opportunities for all are promoted.

31.4 Madam President, Madam Director-General, honourable colleagues and delegates, South Africa is fully committed to continuing to implement the UNESCO programmes. We commit ourselves as a country to integrating UNESCO programmes, particularly the Education 2030 Framework for Action, in our programmes. Coincidentally, the Education 2030 Framework for Action is inextricably aligned with our 2030 National Development Plan. The integration of the Education 2030 Framework for Action with our 2030 National Development Plan is guaranteed.

31.5 I do wish to reiterate our commitment and active participation in UNESCO and its programmes. We want to reiterate that we fully support the adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, that we will actively participate in the development of the thematic indicators of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, and that we commit to the integration of the Education 2030 Framework for Action with our country's 2030 National Development Plan. We also fully support the alignment of the Framework with existing education frameworks in Africa and we will continue to cooperate with Member States, particularly on the African continent, in our region in particular, in strengthening our monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting processes and mechanisms. We will share with Member States the new ground-breaking scientific discoveries relating to the new hominin species, named *Homo Naledi*, which was recently discovered in our country, as well as from our work involving the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), which again we believe will contribute greatly to scientific and ground-breaking information about our history and about science.

31.6 I am pleased to report that the Government of South Africa, in cooperation with the Governments of Botswana and Namibia and the Southern African Development Community Region, is implementing the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System study, which is the only UNESCO pilot case study of its kind. This project, which is an underground system between South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, is an agro-international programme that will help to harness underground water resources for our region, which is highly stressed and currently undergoing a very serious drought. We believe that this programme with UNESCO will help us mitigate the difficulties we are experiencing as a region. We believe that this programme with UNESCO is an essential life-sustaining resource which will enhance our cooperation as Member States and hopefully, as I said, will tackle the precarious water scarcity in the region.

31.7 Madam President, Mr Chair, Madam Director-General and colleagues, I want to reiterate that in South Africa, we commit ourselves fully to the programme and will endeavour at all costs to make sure that we indeed implement the programme and work in cooperation with other Member States, follow all guidelines and contribute in our humble way to ensure that as a nation, we meet these goals. I thank you.

32. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. The next speaker on the list is Minister of Education of Panama, Her Excellency Ms Marcela Paredes de Vasquez.

33.1 **Sra. Paredes de Vásquez (Panamá):**

Señora Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores: en esta oportunidad nos dirigimos a tan distinguida conferencia, en representación de la República de Panamá, para presentar la visión del Estado panameño en materia educativa y declarar nuestro compromiso con la Declaración de Incheon (Corea) de 2015. Existe un amplio consenso en nuestro país respecto a la idea de que una educación de calidad es la única vía para potenciar las capacidades de la población y reducir la desigualdad. Compartimos la visión de una educación centrada en el ser humano, su dignidad y sus derechos fundamentales, con justicia social y con respeto a la diversidad cultural, lingüística y étnica. El crecimiento económico de Panamá ha sido uno de los más altos de Latinoamérica durante la década reciente. Aun así, somos un país con una desigualdad relativamente alta. Las debilidades en materia educativa y de desarrollo del capital humano persisten en Panamá y en su mejora se cifra una de nuestras más importantes estrategias.

33.2 El Plan Estratégico de Gobierno 2015-2019 del Presidente Juan Carlos Varela prioriza la atención a los grandes retos sociales. Entre las principales acciones tomadas por el Gobierno panameño en materia educativa podemos señalar las siguientes: reforzamiento del Programa de Beca Universal, que asigna de manera condicionada entre 30 y 50 dólares mensuales a estudiantes de enseñanza secundaria de escuelas oficiales y particulares, beneficiando a más de 550.000 estudiantes; mejora de la calidad de las instalaciones educativas a través del programa "Mi escuela primero", que aspira a instaurar en cada centro escolar condiciones dignas, con todas las facilidades para un efectivo proceso de aprendizaje, esfuerzo al que se ha invitado, con resultados exitosos, a la empresa privada y que el gobierno panameño ha complementado con una agresiva iniciativa para eliminar las "aulas rancho", presentes sobre todo en zonas indígenas; y la ampliación de la cobertura en el nivel medio y preescolar, con 50 nuevas escuelas de nivel medio y 2000 aulas nuevas de educación preescolar.

33.3 Pero el esfuerzo en materia de mejora educativa no está circunscrito a las infraestructuras. Dotar a nuestros jóvenes de competencias que les permitan afrontar con éxito los retos del presente y el futuro es también una

prioridad de gobierno. Con el programa “Panamá Bilingüe” se busca dotar a las escuelas oficiales de una educación de calidad en el idioma inglés y en el idioma español. Se formará a 10.000 maestros de inglés hasta que alcancen certificación de dominio. Estos maestros estarán en entrenamiento intensivo por un año, con 4 meses de inmersión en un país de habla inglesa, para posteriormente ser insertados en nuestras escuelas primarias. El programa “Aprende al máximo” se declina en 4 ejes de acción: “Razona al máximo”, que transforma la enseñanza de las matemáticas; “Comprende al máximo”, que busca mejorar los niveles de lectura o comprensión lectora; “Descubre al máximo”, que imprime a la enseñanza de las ciencias un enfoque de indagación; y “Convive al máximo”, que refuerza los elementos de una formación integral. Mencionemos por último la articulación de la educación técnica y la creación de institutos técnicos superiores no universitarios, con carreras técnicas de dos años.

33.4 Otras líneas de acción importantes se orientan a fortalecer la educación inclusiva en el país, con estándares de atención de 0 a 3 años y de jóvenes desertores del sistema escolar. La mejora en la calidad educativa no será una realidad si no mejoramos la formación inicial y la educación continua de nuestros docentes. Con un instituto de formación docente y un instituto de liderazgo educativo esperamos mejorar tanto el nivel de nuestros profesores como la gestión de los directivos. Deseamos contar con un sistema de evaluación nacional que incluya medición de resultados del aprendizaje y participar en las pruebas del PISA de 2018.

33.5 En nombre del Gobierno panameño, aprovecho para agradecer el apoyo de la UNESCO y reconocer su labor en pro de la educación. Deseamos expresar nuestra gran satisfacción por la firma, el pasado 30 de octubre, del memorando de entendimiento de préstamo de personal por parte de la señora Irina Bokova, Directora General de la UNESCO, y la Excm. Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado, Vicepresidenta y Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá. Finalmente reiteramos a la UNESCO nuestras felicitaciones por su septuagésimo aniversario y felicitamos a la señora Irina Bokova por su gestión. Auguramos muchos éxitos a la nueva presidencia y reiteramos el compromiso de nuestro país de impulsar la educación, la cultura y la ciencia bajo los lineamientos de la UNESCO. Muchas gracias.

(33.1) **Mme Paredes de Vásquez** (Panamá) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous nous adressons en cette occasion à cette éminente Conférence au nom de la République du Panama pour présenter le projet de l'État panaméen en matière d'éducation et faire part de notre engagement en faveur de la Déclaration d'Incheon (République de Corée) de 2015. Dans notre pays, il existe un vaste consensus autour de l'idée selon laquelle l'éducation de qualité est la seule voie possible pour développer les capacités de la population et réduire les inégalités. Nous partageons l'idéal d'une éducation centrée sur l'être humain, sa dignité et ses droits fondamentaux, ainsi que sur la justice sociale et le respect de la diversité culturelle, linguistique et ethnique. Au cours des dix dernières années, le Panama a connu l'une des croissances économiques parmi les plus fortes d'Amérique latine. Malgré cela, il existe dans notre pays des disparités relativement fortes. Les faiblesses en matière d'éducation et de développement du capital humain persistent au Panama, et améliorer cette situation constitue l'une de nos principales stratégies.

(33.2) Le Plan stratégique pour 2015-2019 du Gouvernement du Président Juan Carlos Varela donne la priorité aux grands défis sociaux. Parmi les principales mesures prises par le Gouvernement panaméen dans le domaine de l'éducation, nous pouvons signaler le renforcement du programme de bourses universelles, qui accorde, sous conditions, entre 30 et 50 dollars tous les mois à des élèves de l'enseignement secondaire des écoles publiques et privées, ce qui profite à plus de 550 000 élèves. Nous pouvons citer l'amélioration de la qualité des installations éducatives grâce au programme « Mon école d'abord », qui vise à mettre en place dans tous les centres scolaires des conditions décentes, et à doter les établissements de tous les équipements nécessaires à un processus d'apprentissage efficace. Dans le cadre de cette initiative, des entreprises privées ont été sollicitées avec succès, et le gouvernement panaméen a complété les efforts déployés en lançant une offensive visant à éliminer les classes rudimentaires (faites de terre, de zinc ou de feuilles), qui existent surtout dans les régions autochtones. Enfin, une autre mesure est l'élargissement de l'offre dans le deuxième cycle de l'enseignement secondaire et dans l'enseignement préscolaire, avec l'ouverture de 50 nouveaux établissements pour le deuxième cycle du secondaire et de 2 000 nouvelles classes pour l'enseignement préscolaire.

(33.3) Cependant, les efforts destinés à améliorer l'éducation ne se limitent pas aux infrastructures. Doter les jeunes de compétences qui leur permettent de relever avec succès les défis que leur réservent le présent et l'avenir constitue aussi une priorité du gouvernement. Le programme « Panama bilingue » cherche à mettre en place dans les écoles publiques un enseignement de qualité en anglais et en espagnol. Pour se faire, 10 000 professeurs d'anglais seront formés jusqu'à recevoir un certificat de maîtrise. Ces enseignants suivront une formation intensive pendant un an, avec quatre mois d'immersion dans un pays anglophone, avant d'intégrer nos écoles primaires. Le programme « Apprends au maximum » se décline en quatre axes d'action : « Raisonne au maximum », qui transforme l'enseignement des mathématiques ; « Comprends au maximum », qui cherche à améliorer les niveaux de lecture ou de compréhension écrite ; « Découvre au maximum », qui oriente l'enseignement des sciences sur la recherche ; et « Partage au maximum », qui renforce les éléments d'une formation complète. Enfin, nous mentionnons la mise en place de l'enseignement technique et la création des instituts techniques supérieurs non universitaires, qui proposent des cursus techniques de deux ans.

(33.4) D'autres axes d'action importants visent à renforcer l'éducation inclusive dans le pays, avec des normes visant les 0-3 ans et les jeunes ayant quitté le système scolaire. L'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation ne serait possible sans amélioration de la formation initiale et de la formation continue de nos enseignants. Nous comptons améliorer le niveau de nos enseignants et la gestion des directeurs d'établissements grâce à un institut de formation pédagogique et à un institut d'administration scolaire. Nous voulons disposer d'un système d'évaluation national incluant la mesure des résultats de l'apprentissage, et participer au test PISA de 2018.

(33.5) Au nom du Gouvernement panaméen, je souhaiterais remercier l'UNESCO de son soutien et saluer son travail en faveur de l'éducation. Nous désirons faire part de notre grande satisfaction suite à la signature, le 30 octobre dernier, du mémorandum d'accord relatif au prêt de personnel par Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO et Mme Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado, Vice-Présidente et Ministre des affaires étrangères du Panama. Enfin, nous réitérons nos félicitations à l'UNESCO pour son 70^e anniversaire, et félicitons Madame Irina Bokova de sa gestion. Nous souhaitons plein succès à la nouvelle présidence et renouvelons l'engagement de notre pays en faveur de la promotion de l'éducation, de la culture et de la science sous la direction de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

34. **The President:**

We have now His Excellency, Honourable Mr Otmar Enrique Oduber, Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Culture of Aruba. Please, Mr Minister, you have the floor.

35.1 **Mr Oduber (Aruba):**

Cada ken cu su forsa esey ta un realidad. Tur hende tin un sombra hasta den scuridad. Hende ta keda hende no ban lubida. Si e zapato unta sirbibo bo tey cana forsa. Dear Madam President, dear Ms Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellencies, colleagues, ministers, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great honour that I, as the Minister of Tourism and Culture of Aruba, direct myself towards you at the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The words that I have expressed have been written in Papiamentu. Originating from an Aruban song, their meaning reflects the message I hope to share with you today:

35.2 In English, the message said: *"We all have our strengths, that is a reality. Everyone has a shadow, even in the darkest of places. People will remain people, please let us not forget that. If the shoe does not fit you, you won't be able to walk straight.* Beforehand, let me state that I admire, applaud and support the institution that is UNESCO. Seventy years striving to build lasting peace on the basis of intellectual solidarity and the promotion of collaboration is a source of inspiration for many countries, including mine. It is no simple task to connect and coordinate 204 nations striving to adhere to a collective vision. It is only logical that at times, this collective vision is reassessed in order to ensure that every country feels represented by it.

35.3 In the case of Aruba, an island in the Caribbean, I can tell you that we are quite similar to as well as quite different from many countries attending this Conference. A small island home to approximately 110,000 inhabitants, Aruba is primarily known for its booming tourism industry. Our pristine beaches, year-round sunny weather and service-driven people have been the attraction for many visitors for more than two decades now. Residing within the Dutch Kingdom, Aruba obtained its independent status in 1986. Fortunate enough to be a worthy partner within this Kingdom, Aruba is also very proud of its autonomous voice. Although not unfamiliar with worldly challenges, Aruba has known no wars, no heavy conflicts, and no natural disasters. We count our blessings every day. Does this mean that we are better off than other countries? Should we be considered exemplary?

35.4 Ladies and gentleman, please allow me to share some thoughts with you on one topic that I believe best reflects my message today. I would like to address the intangible cultural heritage of Aruba and local efforts for the safeguarding thereof. Considering the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, it can be mentioned that the Kingdom of the Netherlands ratified the associated Convention in 2012. Aruba, as part of the Kingdom, also has the duty to comply with the rules of this Convention. Article 13 of the Convention states that "[t]o ensure the safeguarding, development and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, each State Party shall endeavour to [...] designate or establish one or more competent bodies for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory".

35.5 My intention is not to repeat information that you already know nor is it to waste your time. Yet the previously described sentence is but one example of the challenges Aruba has encountered during its ratification process. As required by the Convention, it has not been possible for the island of Aruba to designate or establish a competent body for the safeguarding of our intangible heritage, the reason being that it is simply not feasible to acquire the local expertise and funding to do so. Perhaps you may call it a matter of prioritization. We often get quite inspired after visiting such conferences as this one and meeting colleagues and other professionals who understand what the priorities are at an international level.

35.6 Yet when we return to our daily realities, who are we to solely decide what the most pressing issues are? It is not always easy to sit at the table and advocate for culture when stark budget cuts are a current trend for most of us. It becomes even more difficult for those who are part of a potent yet small nation. As the American diplomat Madeleine Albright once said, "Do resolutions have teeth, and if they do, do they bite?" This shows the stark contrast between a diplomatic environment and our daily realities.

35.7 Does this mean that Aruba as a nation will cease to strive to ratify this Convention? No, we will call upon our partners, friends and allies to provide us with perhaps new insights that enable us to reach this collective objective. I will sit at the table again for as long as it takes. I will also call upon UNESCO to recognize these challenges that are often characteristic of smaller nations and that prioritization of the small island developing States (SIDS) should become a reality. Thank you very much.

36. **La Présidente:**

Merci. Nous avons à présent le plaisir d'accueillir la Ministre de l'éducation de base du Cameroun, S. E. Mme Youssouf Hadidja Alim.

37. **Mme Hadidja Alim (Cameroun):**

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs délégués permanents, Mesdames et Messieurs, la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO marque un moment particulier de la vie de notre Organisation. En effet, en même temps qu'elle conclut l'année de célébration du 70^e anniversaire de la signature de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, elle constitue la première rencontre des États membres après l'adoption par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, le 25 septembre dernier à New York, du programme de développement pour la période post-2015 qui marque le passage du cycle des OMD à celui des ODD.

37.2 C'est donc pour moi un grand honneur et un réel plaisir de prendre la parole au nom de la République du Cameroun en cette circonstance solennelle. Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier chaleureusement M. Stanley

Mutumba Simataa, de la Namibie, d'avoir accepté de représenter l'Afrique à la présidence de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO et de le féliciter pour sa brillante élection.

37.3 Monsieur le Président, je puis d'ores et déjà vous assurer du soutien de mon pays dans l'accomplissement de votre mission. Dans le même chapitre, je voudrais rendre un hommage à votre prédécesseur, M. Hao Ping, pour la compétence avec laquelle il s'est acquitté de son mandat. Sa présence constante à toutes les rencontres organisées au Siège de l'Organisation a été la preuve de son engagement profond et de tout le sérieux avec lequel il a assumé sa charge. Permettez-moi également d'adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations à S. E. Mohamed Sameh Amr, Président du Conseil exécutif, pour le doigté avec lequel il a mené la préparation de nos assises. Les États membres retiendront aussi que c'est à son implication personnelle que nous devons la rénovation de la salle du Conseil exécutif, à laquelle le Cameroun a apporté une contribution de 50 000 euros.

37.4 Enfin, mes félicitations vont à Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, pour le courage et le dynamisme avec lesquels elle dirige l'UNESCO. Je lui adresse également mes félicitations pour l'initiative qu'elle a prise d'organiser un Forum des dirigeants spécial 70^e anniversaire, et la remercier d'avoir bien voulu y convier S. E. M. Paul Biya, Président de la République du Cameroun.

37.5 Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO a fortement contribué à la formulation des ODD, notamment à la définition de l'ODD 4 relatif à l'éducation, ainsi qu'à ses cibles. L'adoption en ce jour du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030 est la preuve du rôle de leader que joue cette organisation dans le domaine de l'éducation. Dans la même dynamique, l'UNESCO a veillé à ce que soient prises en compte ses valeurs et ses visions dans les domaines des sciences naturelles et exactes, des sciences sociales et humaines, de la culture, de la communication et de l'information.

37.6 Madame la Directrice générale, la 37^e session de la Conférence générale avait adopté la stratégie opérationnelle révisée pour la priorité Afrique. Celle-ci était apparue comme la voie idoine pour assurer à cette priorité globale de notre Organisation une plus grande visibilité et une meilleure prise en charge dans les programmes de l'UNESCO. Deux années se sont écoulées et nous constatons qu'il est toujours difficile d'apprécier la performance de cette priorité. Aussi soutenons-nous la demande qui vous a été adressée par le Conseil exécutif de lui présenter, à sa 199^e session, une proposition en vue de la prise en compte des indicateurs de performance des priorités globales Afrique et Égalité des genres, ainsi que des points de référence et cibles correspondantes, de sorte que ces priorités soient dûment reflétées dans tous les résultats escomptés pertinents.

37.7 Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour relever avec force que les relations entre le Cameroun et l'UNESCO sont excellentes depuis 1960, date de l'adhésion de mon pays à l'UNESCO. Celle-ci, depuis lors, accompagne le Cameroun dans la formation des ressources humaines de qualité et dans les réformes des programmes liés à ces domaines de compétence. Comment ne pas rappeler, pour s'en féliciter, qu'au cours des deux dernières années nous avons vu ces relations se densifier, avec la visite que S. E. Mme Irina Bokova a effectuée à Yaoundé, à l'invitation du Président de la République, S. E. M. Paul Biya. Une visite au cours de laquelle elle a procédé à l'inauguration du Bureau régional multisectoriel de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé, qui bénéficie d'une dotation annuelle de 300 000 dollars des E.-U., soit 150 millions de francs CFA, inscrits au budget du Cameroun. Permettez-moi, Excellences, de saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour exprimer la profonde gratitude du Gouvernement camerounais à la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour l'estime, la considération et l'honneur faits à notre pays.

37.8 En outre, la coopération Cameroun-UNESCO vient de s'enrichir par la décision toute récente d'ériger le Centre d'excellence en microscience de Yaoundé en centre de catégorie 2 sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais remercier ici solennellement le Conseil exécutif pour cette décision, qui dote la sous-région Afrique centrale d'un cadre de recherche performant et moderne dans le domaine des sciences. Nous avons l'espoir que le Centre International de Référence Chantal Biya (CIRCB), dont le dossier a déjà été soumis à l'UNESCO, connaîtra le même aboutissement heureux.

37.9 Enfin, mon pays tient à signifier sa profonde gratitude à l'UNESCO pour son aide au titre du programme de participation et la création de 15 nouvelles radios communautaires ainsi que la réhabilitation de 21 autres existantes. Par ailleurs, mon pays ambitionne de faire de la réserve de faune du Dja, avec l'aide de l'UNESCO et des autres partenaires, un exemple réussi de conciliation des objectifs de développement avec l'impératif de conservation du patrimoine culturel.

37.10 Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout simplement dire que le Cameroun reste aux côtés de l'Organisation et continuera à lui apporter son concours en vue de la promotion et de la diffusion des vertus cardinales qui fondent son action et auxquelles l'humanité est si fièrement attachée parce qu'elles justifient notre existence. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention. *Choukran.*

38. The President:

I now have the pleasure to introduce His Excellency, Professor Mohammad Thneibat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Jordan.

٣٩،١ السيد الذنبيات (الأردن):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود. السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، وبعد، يسرني بدايةً التوجه بالتهنئة إلى سعادة السيد ستانليه سيماتا على انتخابه رئيساً للدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة، متمنياً له التوفيق والنجاح في إدارة أعمال هذا المؤتمر، كما أتقدم بالشكر والتقدير إلى السيد هاو بنغ على نجاحه في رئاسته للدورة السابعة والثلاثين المنقضية، وكذلك إلى السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي والسادة الأعضاء، منتزهاً الفرصة لأثني على جهود السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا في قيادة المنظمة خلال الأعوام الماضية. وأعرب أيضاً عن تقدير حكومة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية لقيادة المنظمة على مساعيها في المحافظة على

التراث الثقافي لمدينة القدس الشريف الذي أصبح مهدداً أكثر من أي وقت مضى بالتهويد المنهج وتقييد دخول المصلين إلى المسجد الأقصى (الحرم الشريف) من قبل سلطات الاحتلال، مؤكداً أهمية الالتزام بالأبعاد السياسية والقانونية لهذه القضية الحساسة، مع استعداد الحكومة الأردنية لتقدم الدعم اللازم للحفاظ على واقع مدينة القدس قبل حرب عام ١٩٦٧، والحفاظ على النسيج الثقافي والعمراني والسكاني لهذه المدينة المقدسة بشكل عام وعلى المقدسات الإسلامية والمسيحية بشكل خاص. كما أدعو اليوم لأن يكون موضوع الحفاظ على التراث الثقافي من أولويات عمل الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمنظمة.

٣٩،٢ السيدات والسادة، نجتمع مرة كل عامين لنستعرض إنجازاتنا وخططنا ولنؤكد مسؤوليتنا والتزامنا بالعمل على ترجمة الميثاق التأسيسي للمنظمة الذي ينص على "المساهمة في صون السلم والأمن بالعمل، عن طريق التربية والعلم والثقافة، على توثيق عرى التعاون بين الأمم، لضمان الاحترام الشامل للعدالة والقانون وحقوق الإنسان والحريات الأساسية للناس كافة دون تمييز بسبب العنصر أو الجنس أو اللغة أو الدين"، كما أقرها ميثاق الأمم المتحدة لجميع الشعوب. ونحن في الأردن ملتزمون بهذا الميثاق الإنساني قولاً وعملاً، آمليين في تعزيز مفاهيم السلام والتسامح والمساواة وحقوق الإنسان والحريات الأساسية للناس، وتحمّل مسؤوليات حسام وأعباء اقتصادية واجتماعية وثقافية وسياسية لترجمة التزامنا حتى أصبح الأردن قبلة وملاذاً لمعظم شعوب منطقتنا، نقاسم لقمة العيش دون تمييز أو تفرقة أو اعتبار جنس أو دين أو هوية، ونقدم التعليم والصحة وفرص العمل وكل فرص العيش الكريم الآمن واحترام الآخر والعيش المشترك، وهذه المسؤولية تبنتها المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية بجدية تامة، قيادة وحكومة وشعباً، بفضل الرؤية الحكيمة لصاحب الجلالة الهاشمية الملك عبد الله الثاني ابن الحسين المعظم.

٣٩،٣ السيدات والسادة، لقد استقبل الأردن أعداداً كبيرة من اللاجئين من سورية والعراق وغيرها من الدول التي تعاني من آفة الإرهاب المتنامية والصراعات المحلية المسلحة البغيضة. وبلغ عدد اللاجئين السوريين المقيمين في المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية قرابة المليون ونصف المليون لاجئ، منهم ١٤٥ ألف طالب على مقاعد الدراسة يعاملون معاملة الطالب الأردني في الحصول على فرص التعليم، تتحمل المنظمات الدولية ٣٨ في المائة من تكاليف تعليمهم، مما ترتب عليه تحمل الدولة لأعباء مالية كبيرة من أجل توفير البنية التحتية والخدمات التعليمية والصحية لهم في بلد محدود الموارد والإمكانيات. لذلك فإنني أدعو منظماتنا العريقة والمجتمع الدولي لبذل المزيد من الجهد من أجل توفير دعم أكبر للأردن ولوكالة الغوث الدولية، لتمكينها من الاستمرار في القيام بالمهام التعليمية والإنسانية تجاه اللاجئين في المناطق التي يتواجدون فيها، سواءً في المخيمات أو داخل المدن. ويضاف إلى ذلك استضافة الأردن لآلاف الطلبة في مدارسنا من خمس وثمانين جنسية في العالم، تتحمل خزينة الدولة جزءاً كبيراً من تكاليف دراستهم، وتقدم لهم خدمات تعليمية كما تقدم لأبنائنا. وإننا ننظر إلى التعليم كخدمة عمالية عامة، ولذلك نحتاج إلى دعم عالمي لتقلد هذه الخدمة بالشكل الأمثل للأطفال اللاجئين والنازحين إلى الأردن. ورغم أن اللجوء يشكل عبئاً على الموارد الاقتصادية، فإننا لن نتوان عن تقديم كافة الإمكانيات والخدمات الإنسانية، لتوفير سبل العيش الكريم لفئات اللاجئين حتى عودتهم الطوعية إلى بلدانهم.

٣٩،٤ السيدات والسادة، إن النزاعات والصراعات التي تسود منطقة الشرق الأوسط بأسبابها المتعددة من فقر وبطالة وجهل وشعور بالظلم والاضطهاد وغياب العدل والمساواة تقود إلى نتيجة مشتركة، ألا وهي الكوارث الإنسانية من فوضى وكرامية وطائفية وما إلى ذلك، يدفع ثمنها الفرد من إنسانيته وحضارته وثقافته، فيعكسها بصورة سلبية على مجتمعه مما يؤدي في النهاية إلى تراجع فكري وتموي خطير تختفي عندها النزعة الإنسانية. فلا مبادئ وطنية دون مواطن حقيقي.

(39.1) **M. Thneibat (Jordanie) (traduit de l'arabe):**

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences les chefs et membres de délégation, que la paix, la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous. J'ai le plaisir, tout d'abord, d'adresser mes félicitations à Son Excellence M. Stanley Simataa pour son élection au poste de Président de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO à sa 38^e session et de lui souhaiter tous les succès dans la gestion des travaux de la Conférence. J'exprime également mes remerciements et mon appréciation à M. Hao Ping pour sa présidence réussie de la 37^e session de la Conférence générale, ainsi qu'au Président et aux membres du Conseil exécutif, et je saisis cette occasion pour louer les efforts de Mme Irina Bokova dans sa direction de l'Organisation au fil des années passées. J'exprime également l'appréciation du Gouvernement de la Jordanie à l'endroit de l'équipe dirigeante de l'Organisation pour ses efforts visant à préserver le patrimoine culturel de Jérusalem, plus que jamais menacé par la judaïsation et la restriction de l'entrée des fidèles à la Mosquée al-Aqsa (*al-haram ash-sharif*) par les autorités d'occupation. Nous réitérons l'importance de la prise en compte des aspects politiques et juridiques de cette cause sensible et soulignons la volonté du Gouvernement jordanien de fournir le soutien nécessaire au maintien de la situation de Jérusalem d'avant la guerre de 1967 et à la préservation du tissu culturel, urbain et démographique de la ville sainte en général et des lieux saints islamiques et chrétiens en particulier. Je lance aujourd'hui un appel en vue de faire de la préservation du patrimoine culturel l'une des priorités de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation.

(39.2) Mesdames, Messieurs, nous nous retrouvons tous les deux ans pour passer en revue nos réalisations et nos plans et souligner notre responsabilité et notre engagement à mettre en œuvre l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation, qui appelle à « 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. » En Jordanie, nous nous engageons à respecter, par nos paroles et nos actes, cet instrument humanitaire, en espérant consolider les idées-forces que sont la paix, l'égalité, les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales des individus. Nous assumons d'énormes responsabilités et fardeaux économiques, sociaux, culturels et politiques afin de traduire notre engagement en réalité et faire en sorte que la Jordanie devienne un pôle d'attraction et un refuge pour la plupart des peuples de notre région, où nous partageons notre pain quotidien sans la moindre discrimination quant au genre, à la religion ou à l'identité, et où nous offrons l'éducation, les soins médicaux, des emplois et toutes les chances de mener une vie dans la dignité, la sécurité, le respect d'autrui et la cohabitation paisible. Cet engagement a été pris par les dirigeants, le Gouvernement et le peuple jordaniens en toute sincérité grâce à la vision pleine de sagesse de Sa Majesté le Roi Abdallah II, fils du vénérable Hussein, du Royaume hachémite de Jordanie.

(39.3) Mesdames, Messieurs, la Jordanie a accueilli un grand nombre de réfugiés de République arabe syrienne, d'Iraq et d'autres pays qui souffrent du fléau croissant du terrorisme et des horribles conflits armés locaux. Le nombre des réfugiés syriens résidant en Jordanie est passé à près d'un million et demi de personnes, dont 145 000 enfants scolarisés, qui sont

traités exactement comme les élèves jordaniens en ce qui concerne les possibilités d'éducation : les organisations internationales assument 38% du coût de leur éducation, ce qui implique que l'État doit assumer des charges financières considérables pour garantir l'infrastructure et les services éducatifs et sanitaires nécessaires, dans un pays aux ressources et aux moyens réduits. Voilà pourquoi j'en appelle à notre vénérable Organisation et à la communauté internationale afin qu'elles multiplient leurs efforts pour fournir un soutien plus important à la Jordanie et à l'Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient (UNRWA) afin qu'ils puissent continuer d'accomplir leurs missions éducatives et humanitaires vis-à-vis des réfugiés dans les zones où ils se trouvent, que ce soit dans les camps ou dans les villes. En outre, la Jordanie abrite dans ses écoles des milliers d'élèves de 85 nationalités différentes du monde entier ; le Trésor public assume une grande partie du coût de leur scolarité et leur fournit des services éducatifs sur un pied d'égalité avec les élèves jordaniens. Nous considérons l'éducation comme un service public mondial ; c'est pourquoi nous avons besoin d'un soutien mondial afin de pouvoir offrir ce service dans les meilleures conditions aux enfants des réfugiés et des migrants en Jordanie. En dépit du fait que l'octroi de l'asile pèse lourd sur les ressources économiques du pays, nous ne ménagerons aucun effort pour offrir toutes les possibilités et tous les services humanitaires et assurer des conditions de vie dignes aux diverses catégories de réfugiés, jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient en mesure de retourner volontairement dans leur pays.

(39.4) Mesdames, Messieurs, les divers conflits et luttes qui affectent la région du Moyen-Orient avec leurs nombreux facteurs, tels la pauvreté, le chômage, l'ignorance, le sentiment d'oppression et de persécution et l'absence de justice et d'égalité, mènent tous à un même résultat, à savoir les catastrophes humanitaires nées du chaos, de la haine ou du confessionnalisme. Ce sont les individus qui en paient le prix, dans leur humanité, leur civilisation et leur culture. Ces catastrophes donnent une mauvaise image des sociétés, ce qui mène finalement à une grave régression intellectuelle et développementale dans laquelle l'humanisme disparaît, car il n'y a guère de principes nationaux sans véritables citoyens.

40. La Présidente:

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Ministre. A présent, j'ai le plaisir de donner la parole à S. E. M. Ayeid Mousseid Yahya, Ambassadeur permanent de Djibouti auprès de l'UNESCO.

41.1 M. Yahya (Djibouti) :

Madame la Présidente de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués permanents, Mesdames et Messieurs, avant toute chose, qu'il me soit permis de féliciter M. Simataa, pour sa brillante élection à la tête de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je suis convaincu et persuadé qu'il saura diriger les travaux durant les deux années à venir avec le bon dosage d'autorité, de diplomatie et de sagesse que requiert sa fonction. Son pays, la Namibie, s'est toujours distingué en s'acquittant brillamment de ses responsabilités quand l'Afrique les lui a confiées. Nos remerciements et notre gratitude vont également à l'endroit de son prédécesseur, M. Hao Ping qui, durant les deux années passées, a su diriger notre Conférence avec brio, courtoisie et sagesse.

41.2 Madame la Présidente, en rappelant l'importance de l'UNESCO, je voudrais ici rendre un hommage appuyé et particulier à notre Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, qui, malgré une situation budgétaire difficile, a su mener notre Organisation à bon port, et surtout lui donner le rôle catalyseur qui est le sien pour une meilleure visibilité. Qu'elle en soit vivement remerciée.

41.3 Au moment où nous célébrons le 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, le préambule de l'Acte constitutif – et je cite – « *Les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix* » n'a jamais été aussi pertinent que ces deux dernières années où le contexte mondial est en ébullition, avec les guerres, l'extrémisme, la question des migrations et les problématiques climatiques.

41.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, il va sans dire que tout est prioritaire à l'UNESCO, dès lors qu'il s'agit d'éducation, de science et de culture. Mais je souhaiterais dans cette brève intervention mettre l'accent sur quelques aspects importants au plan national qui rejoignent en tous points les paragraphes des objectifs de développement durable adoptés à New York, en septembre dernier. Mon pays poursuit plusieurs priorités et l'éducation y figure en premier lieu.

41.5 L'Afrique a sans aucun doute parcouru un long chemin depuis le Forum mondial sur l'éducation de Dakar, en 2000, et mon pays n'a pas été en reste car la République de Djibouti a depuis lors entrepris des réformes en profondeur afin de s'adapter aux grandes mutations dans le monde de l'éducation. Sous l'impulsion du Président de la République, S. E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, cette réforme de notre système éducatif a eu pour conséquence l'élargissement de l'accès à l'école conforme aux valeurs républicaines, dans les zones urbaines comme rurales. On a vu une augmentation très significative de la scolarisation des filles ; on est parvenu même à la parité totale dans l'éducation primaire, et l'on s'achemine vers le même schéma dans le secondaire. Nous avons connu une augmentation des capacités de formation continue pour les enseignants, avec la création du Centre de formation des enseignants de l'enseignement fondamental, ainsi que de la capacité à produire des manuels scolaires de qualité adaptés au contexte local, du primaire au secondaire.

41.6 Les nations du monde se retrouvent dans cette enceinte aujourd'hui pour réaffirmer une conviction commune : le savoir et la culture sont le propre de l'homme, et leur protection, leur transmission et leur partage constituent pour nous tous un devoir supérieur. L'UNESCO est précisément l'instance qui garantit cet engagement commun. Nous pensons en effet que la culture de la paix, intellectuellement nourrie de tolérance et de respect réciproque, organisée thématiquement autour d'activités et de projets concrets, doit être l'un des piliers de cette prestigieuse organisation. Notre pays, et au-delà la sous-région de la Corne de l'Afrique, souffre des conséquences des conflits dans la région, des risques de l'extrémisme violent, du terrorisme et du fondamentalisme. Nous soutenons les actions en faveur de la promotion de la diversité culturelle, de l'acceptation de l'autre dans ses différences religieuses, culturelles, sociales ou politiques. C'est pour cela que notre pays s'est associé à la proposition des États-Unis d'Amérique concernant la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent à travers l'éducation.

41.7 Mesdames et Messieurs, le Djibouti que je représente se réjouit de sa coopération fructueuse avec l'UNESCO dans le domaine des sciences et vous informe, alors que s'ouvre aujourd'hui le Forum mondial de la science, qu'il

prendra intégralement en charge la traduction française, la mise en page et la publication du Rapport de l'UNESCO sur la science 2015. Ceci témoigne, si besoin en était, de notre attachement au multilinguisme et permettra à n'en point douter une meilleure vulgarisation dans l'espace francophone. À trois semaines de l'ouverture de la COP21 dans le pays hôte de l'UNESCO, notre Organisation doit assumer la part qui lui revient, et je tiens à féliciter notre Directrice générale pour son rôle proactif dans ce domaine. Je la remercie également de sa participation aux sommets que mon pays a accueillis en mai dernier, respectivement sur le changement climatique et sur la résilience, la recherche et l'innovation. L'objectif de ces deux sommets était d'offrir une tribune aux pays de la région pour engager un débat de fond autour des risques et opportunités d'une riposte commune contre le changement climatique et préparer la COP21. Le Djibouti est durement affectée par les conséquences du changement climatique : sécheresse récurrente, inondations, rareté des pluies et baisse de la production agricole. Ces deux conférences avaient pour objet d'identifier des projets et des programmes ciblés afin de lutter contre ces conséquences négatives.

41.8 En conclusion, je voudrais réaffirmer ici la foi de Djibouti dans les idéaux de l'UNESCO et dans l'importance de la coopération multilatérale pour léguer un avenir meilleur aux générations futures. Je vous remercie.

42. **The President:**

I now have the pleasure to introduce Her Excellency Ms Vilma Kathleen McNish, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Jamaica to UNESCO. Thank you very much, Ambassador.

43.1 **Ms McNish (Jamaica):**

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Permanent Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I bring you greetings from Jamaica. To Mr Stanley Simataa, I offer sincere congratulations on his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. He is assured of Jamaica's full support and cooperation during his tenure. To the Chair of the Executive Board, we are deeply grateful for your diligent stewardship over the last biennium.

43.2 To you Madam Director-General, I extend the Government of Jamaica's commendation on your astute leadership of UNESCO amidst the unprecedented challenges facing the Organization. You have been steadfast and resolute in your efforts to steer the Organization despite financial difficulties. We applaud your tenacity and resolve on behalf of UNESCO to respond to the complex humanitarian crises and cultural tragedies that have resulted from violent extremism and religious intolerance manifested so acutely in the wanton destruction of world heritage sites, in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and elsewhere. We are squarely behind your "#Unite4Heritage" campaign. I also take this opportunity to welcome our sister Caribbean island, Monserrat, as an Associate Member of UNESCO. You can count on Jamaica's support and collaboration.

43.3 Madam President, 70 years ago at the founding of UNESCO, there was a shared and fervent vision of a multilateral institution that would harness the creativity, collective will and determination of the international community to solve some of the world's most pressing problems and contribute to sustainable peace and prosperity. That vision remains as relevant today as it was seven decades ago. Now more than ever, UNESCO is playing an increasingly defining role in pursuit of a more diversified, dynamic and inclusive global agenda. This milestone in UNESCO's history occurs at a crucial moment for the international community. It coincides with the international efforts to chart a new global agenda for sustainable development and to reach a legally binding consensus on climate change.

43.4 The global effort to elaborate an inclusive post-2015 development agenda is a poignant reminder of our capacities as humans for compassion that transcends national boundaries. This humanistic approach resonates with millions of people, who sadly still live in extreme poverty or are otherwise marginalized by inequities in global progress and prosperity, as well as those marginalized by religious intolerance, xenophobia and gender inequality.

43.5 With its core mandate to promote international cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, UNESCO remains well-placed to play a significant role in the fulfilment of the development aspirations of millions around the world. This is reflected in its leadership in three seminal areas: culture for the future; education for all (EFA); and science for a sustainable future.

43.6 As a country whose culture is world-renowned, Jamaica recognizes UNESCO's invaluable role in promoting the cultural and creative industries as key drivers of development. The cultural and creative industries contribute significantly to Jamaica's gross domestic product (GDP). Indeed, the National Cultural and Creative Industries Commission was established last year to undertake the development and implementation of a policy and master plan for the sector.

43.7 Madam President, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa last September focused the world's attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and peculiar vulnerabilities. I refer, in particular, to their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change. Perhaps more than any other countries, small island developing States (SIDS) have a vested interest in a legally-binding agreement emanating from COP 21 in Paris later this year – an agreement that includes innovative and sustainable climate change financing that will enable our countries as well as our development partners, such as UNESCO, to continue their efforts to boost climate education and build capacity for adaptation and mitigation.

43.8 While we lament the demise of UNESCO's Intersectoral Platform for SIDS owing to the financial crisis facing the Organization, Jamaica commends UNESCO for its creativity in responding to the unique vulnerabilities of small island developing States and welcomes the priority attention that continues to be accorded to SIDS in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy.

43.9 Madam President, the Government of Jamaica is deeply committed to improving our people's lives and ensuring prosperity and sustainable development. These efforts have been aided, in no small part, by UNESCO's active

engagement in Jamaica. I should mention that this year the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO celebrates its 50th anniversary.

43.10 On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, allow me to express our appreciation to UNESCO for its continuing focus on social inclusion, on building the skills of our people through technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and in supporting our efforts to ensure greater gender equality, eradicating illiteracy and poverty and promoting youth empowerment and science and technology.

43.11 Madam President, at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn, Germany, in July, Jamaica was honoured and privileged to have its first site, the Blue and John Crow Mountains, inscribed on the World Heritage List, the first mixed site in the Caribbean region and one of 32 in the world. We are mindful of the trust placed in us to protect and preserve this unique landscape as part of the common heritage of mankind. I end by renewing the Government of Jamaica's commitment to and support for UNESCO in furthering the progress of our community of nations, as well as our commitment to values of peace and prosperity for the benefit of present and future generations. Thank you.

Mr Simataa resumes the Chair.

44. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Ursula Plassnik, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Austria to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

45.1 **Ms Plassnik (Austria):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, let me first congratulate you upon your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

45.2 Anniversaries, ladies and gentlemen, are a welcome occasion to reflect on achievements and future directions. Seventy years ago, UNESCO was created to enhance intellectual cooperation for education, science, culture and communication. Its founding principles and standards have perhaps never been so in tune with the needs of our societies as they are today.

45.3 Across the globe, we are witnessing frightful attacks against human rights and fundamental freedoms. We see a growing number of crimes committed against journalists, the destruction of our cultural heritage, the dislocation of millions of people uprooted from their homes and the denial of children's right to education. Currently, there are some 60 million people worldwide fleeing from their countries. This is the highest figure ever recorded and will lead to a lasting transformation of all our societies. It is important to show solidarity and to face this challenge in a humanitarian spirit. We have to perceive change as an opportunity and actively steer and shape it. We appreciate and value the participation of civil society and NGOs and their vital role in achieving this change.

45.4 Rightfully, on a policy level, the new 2030 Agenda places education as one core element of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education is an important enabler and driver to "transform our world", successfully combating global poverty, building a life of dignity for all and leaving no one behind. This is inclusive development. Austria is fully committed to free and comprehensive basic education that integrates the pillars of education for sustainable development (ESD) as well as global citizenship education (GCED). Our initiative in the Executive Board to further UNESCO's role in promoting global citizenship education was supported by a large number of countries and continues to grow. Global citizenship education enables individuals to engage with complex global topics and with an increasingly interconnected global society. Global citizenship education can help pupils and students to reflect on their potential, support democracy and social participation, appreciate diversity and define their identity in a way that it is not distorted by fanatical and fundamentalist ideologies.

45.5 Likewise, we see culture as an enabler and driver of development. Every approach to development needs to build upon its specific historical, economic and cultural contexts. UNESCO has undertaken tremendous efforts to highlight the impact of culture on social cohesion, inclusion and growth. With a number of conventions, UNESCO has set milestones to highlight the intrinsic value of culture for individuals as well as for societies, in particular the diversity of cultural expressions and the protection of cultural heritage. Through her tireless efforts, the Director-General has succeeded in raising global awareness for the protection of our common heritage, especially in the midst of armed conflicts, as well as the promotion of cultural diversity.

45.6 Austria, ladies and gentlemen, is committed to respecting the aspiration of countries to shape their cultural policies, in conformity with universally recognized human rights instruments. It is our task to promote and protect an enabling environment which allows a diversity of cultural expressions and safeguards fundamental freedoms. Sadly enough, we are witnessing emerging threats and deliberate destruction of heritage in a number of countries. Culture and cultural heritage are at the frontline of many armed conflicts today because of their symbolic value. In line with the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, we think it is extremely important to take measures even in times of peace, including international and national awareness-raising efforts, enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building. We thus endorse UNESCO's action plan for the emergency safeguarding of the Syrian cultural heritage and we are pleased to financially support this project. In Austria, the federal Ministry of Culture and Communication is currently organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum to draw public attention to the problem of illicit trafficking of cultural objects and financing of terrorism.

45.7 Austria is an outgoing member of the Executive Board. We have placed our work in the Organization above particular national interests. We have actively supported all initiatives to enhance UNESCO's focus and relevance, visibility and impact – and we are at the end of our four-year term, convinced that the Organization is better positioned than before. Thank you for your kind attention.

46. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Bernard Shamlaye, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Seychelles to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

47.1 **M. Shamlaye** (Seychelles) :

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, les Seychelles vous félicitent de votre élection, Monsieur le Président, et vous souhaitent un fructueux mandat.

47.2 Nous saluons la Directrice générale et la félicitons pour son travail et la conduite des réformes nécessaires pour assurer une plus grande efficacité et efficacité de l'Organisation et faire en sorte que la voix de l'UNESCO compte dans les délibérations internationales. Alors que nous célébrons le 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, nous saluons ses nombreuses réalisations et sa contribution au progrès dans le monde. Si nous nous tournons vers le passé, c'est pour agir avec sagesse aujourd'hui afin de mieux préparer l'avenir. Le monde sera-t-il meilleur lorsque les enfants et les jeunes d'aujourd'hui commémoreront le 100^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO ?

47.3 Les Seychelles accueillent avec satisfaction l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, qui définit le travail collectif à accomplir au cours des 15 prochaines années. En même temps, il est crucial que la Conférence sur les changements climatiques soit une réussite et débouche sur les accords nécessaires à la sauvegarde de la planète et à un développement durable et inclusif. C'est dans ce contexte que nous reconnaissons la nécessité de l'UNESCO et sa contribution à la paix, à la sécurité et au développement. Nous sommes tous conscients du fait qu'elle doit pouvoir compter sur les ressources dont elle a besoin pour s'acquitter de sa mission et devons donc tous lui apporter notre part.

47.4 Les Seychelles saluent la contribution de l'UNESCO à la 3^e Conférence internationale sur les petits États insulaires en développement et ses actions de suivi. Nous attendons la version finalisée du Plan d'action pour les PIED, accompagnée d'une stratégie de mise en œuvre. Nous soulignons aussi la nécessité de la mobilisation de ressources par l'UNESCO et les États membres.

47.5 Les Seychelles accordent une grande importance à la coopération avec l'UNESCO. Nous exprimons ici notre reconnaissance pour le soutien apporté par l'Institut international de planification de l'éducation dans la formulation de la stratégie à moyen terme concernant l'éducation et pour l'appui du Bureau international d'éducation aux activités liées à sa mise en œuvre. Aujourd'hui, les Seychelles offrent une éducation gratuite et obligatoire de 10 ans à tous les enfants – filles et garçons. À partir de 2016, celle-ci sera étendue à 11 ans. Les réalisations sont certes considérables, mais les défis demeurent. Parmi les priorités, figurent le recrutement, la rétention et le développement professionnel des enseignants, la réforme des curricula en vue d'améliorer la qualité et d'assurer une plus grande pertinence, et l'amélioration de l'enseignement et de la formation techniques et professionnels. La jeune Université des Seychelles contribue de manière significative à l'enseignement supérieur : un domaine qui demande davantage d'attention.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

47.6 Mr President, Seychelles was pleased to participate in the World Oceans Day event in June, organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which helped to draw attention to the importance of the ocean to the Earth's climate. We appreciate IOC's support in the organization of the second Blue Economy Summit that Seychelles will co-host in Abu Dhabi in January 2016. Coastal management and ensuring the health and productivity of oceans are crucial for small island developing States (SIDS).

47.7 Seychelles is finalizing a marine spatial plan for its exclusive economic zone of 1.3 million square kilometres. Some 30% of this area will be made marine protected areas (MPA) as a way to adapt to climate change and will also promote ocean research and protect the livelihood of artisanal fishermen and fisheries in general.

47.8 We look forward to continued and increased support for strengthening our capacity to better implement the provisions of the culture conventions, for safeguarding the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and for the development of creative industries.

47.9 Seychelles has recently adopted a science, technology and innovation (STI) policy. The challenge is now to implement it. Learning from good practices elsewhere and the support of UNESCO and other partners will be of great help. Seychelles will also be more closely engaged with UNESCO social and human sciences programmes as we work to maintain and strengthen the social cohesion, inclusiveness and social justice that are so important, especially in a small population, in the context of an increasingly complex world.

47.10 We commend the work of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). We recognize the need for improved data collection and sharing and analytical skills in order to better use evidence for decision-making. Disaggregated data is required for a better understanding of situations, both by national bodies, international organizations and development partners. ICTs provide us with the tools to achieve many of our objectives. We must acquire the means and the capability to use them effectively. We look to UNESCO's support in attaining our objectives and in facilitating South-South cooperation which, combined with North-South cooperation, can make a telling contribution to addressing the priorities of developing countries.

47.11 Africa and gender equality are the Organization's global priorities, youth, small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) its priority groups. We encourage UNESCO to give focused attention to these priorities in order to obtain transformative results. Mr President, Seychelles renews its commitment to UNESCO. We believe that the Organization is more than ever needed for the promotion of peace, stability and development; for international understanding, solidarity and development. We thank you.

48. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, this was our last speaker for the day. We had a very productive day today and I wish to thank you all for your wisdom in speaking but at the same time your patience in listening. The plenary will convene again tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. I am appealing to you all to be here at least by 9.45 a.m., because tomorrow's list of speakers will be fairly long. I wish you a pleasant evening. *This meeting is now adjourned.* Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 5.52 p.m.
La séance est levée à 17 h 52
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.52
Заседание закрывается в 17.52
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٥,٥٢ بعد الظهر
会议于 17 时 52 分结束

Fifth plenary meeting

Thursday 5 November 2015 at 10.00 a.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)
later: **Mr Sita Nsadisi José** (Angola)

Cinquième séance plénière

Judi 5 novembre 2015 à 10 h 00
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)
puis : **M. Sita Nsadisi José** (Angola)

Quinta sesión plenaria

Jueves 5 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.00
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)
después: **Sr. Sita Nsadisi José** (Angola)

Пятое пленарное заседание

четверг 5 ноября 2015 г. в 10.00
Председатель: г-н **Симатаа** (Намибия)
затем: г-н **Сита Нсадиси Жозе** (Ангола)

الجلسة العامة الخامسة

الخميس ٥ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ١٠,٠٠ صباحاً
الرئيس: السيد **سيماتا** (ناميبيا)
ثم: السيد **سيتا نساديزي جوزيه** (أنغولا)

第五次全体会议

2015年11月5日上午星期四10时00分
主席：**Simataa**先生（纳米比亚）
随后：**Sita Nsadisi José**先生（安哥拉）

General policy debate (*continued*)

Débat de politique générale (*suite*)

Debate de política general (*continuación*)

Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (*продолжение*)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)

总政策辩论 (续)

1. The President:

Good morning Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the fifth plenary meeting of the General Conference. Today we will continue with the national statements, and in the afternoon we will hear reports from the Credentials Committee. Can we please take our seats, ladies and gentlemen? Since we have a long list of eminent speakers, I propose that we start immediately with our work. I wish to remind you that each national statement will be limited to six minutes. I now have the honour to call on our first speaker this morning, Her Excellency Dr Mahali Phamotse, Minister of Education and Training of Lesotho. Excellency, you have the floor.

2.1 Ms Phamotse (Lesotho):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, dear colleagues, it is a great honour to be afforded this opportunity of delivering my maiden speech to this auspicious gathering. I bring to you all special warm regards and best wishes for a fruitful 38th session of the General Conference from His Majesty King Letsie III, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

2.2 Mr President, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and to wish you every success in your new assignment. I am particularly proud of you coming from the southern Africa region. I have no doubt that you will steer this session successfully based on your background knowledge as representative of a Member of the Executive Board.

2.3 Mr President, Lesotho has studied the work done in the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4), the report by the Executive Board on its activities, and the implementation of the Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5). We truly are satisfied with the planned strategies which we believe will turn UNESCO's vision for the post-2015 global agenda into reality.

2.4 Since 2000, efforts towards achieving education for all (EFA) have yielded unprecedented progress. As we are now at the end of the EFA goals, I am glad to announce that Lesotho performed particularly well on three of those goals, attaining 85% on youth and adult learning literacy and 72% on improving levels of adult literacy. On goal number two of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we achieved 80% for universal primary education. For this, we thank the UNESCO family and particularly the countries that provided financial, technical and other forms of support without which all these could not have been achieved. I must mention that Lesotho allocates 23% of the national budget and 13% of its gross domestic product (GDP) to education. However, this high investment is not translated into an equally high output which therefore requires our full effort so as to enhance quality, equity and access.

2.5 Mr President, we from Lesotho understand very well the financial crisis that UNESCO has been experiencing for over six years now. It would therefore be remiss of me not to acknowledge UNESCO's efforts in categorizing Africa as a global priority. My country has, for instance, been a beneficiary of many projects supported through the Participation Programme and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). We indeed are thankful to the Organization for this generous support, and hope that robust measures will be taken to ensure that the reforms are implemented efficiently and strategically to deliver the post-2015 development agenda and those goals related to regional offices.

2.6 Mr President, in the past biennium, Lesotho was the beneficiary of a number of projects. These include: the empowerment of youth groups in southern districts, the development of an electronic record management system for the teaching service department, and support for distance and rural learners/teachers through a mobile digital library model. Other projects include the science club network, a living library approach, and capacity building of Lesotho media houses. UNESCO's support in the strengthening of communication and information initiatives in Africa in general, and Lesotho in particular, resulted in the establishment of the two first-ever community radio stations operating in the rural areas of Lesotho. On issues of HIV and AIDS, UNESCO supports Lesotho through its Global Initiative on Education and HIV and AIDS (EDUCAIDS) programmes. This is commendable.

2.7 On North-South and South-South cooperation, Lesotho and some of the National Commissions of sub-Saharan Africa are benefiting from cooperation they have established with both the Korean and German National Commissions. Lesotho in particular has been fortunate, despite the prevailing financial crisis which has forced UNESCO to reduce its budget for capacity building for the National Commissions. Today our country's cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO has been renewed to focus on staff capacity building and on the establishment of subregional networks for mutual capacity as effective mechanisms of knowledge exchange. Similarly, in cooperation with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and its UNESCO Africa BRIDGE programme, three community learning centres in two districts have been established since 2012 in Lesotho. On the same note, we also boast income-generating activities such as aloe vaseline making, poultry-raising and others.

2.8 Mr President, one other important invaluable resource of Lesotho is water, which is not maximally utilized to benefit Basotho. Economically Lesotho depends to a large extent on its water resources to generate revenue. One of the challenges, however, is that many of Lesotho's rural and urban citizens have limited access to safe, clean drinking water and often have to walk long distances for hours to reach water access points, which may at times not be working.

Mr President, being aware that water will soon be a vital limiting factor in world development, we would like UNESCO to help us improve the water situation in Lesotho. On this note, I have to say also that on the cultural conventions the Sehlabathebe National Park has now been inscribed on the World Heritage List and we hope to make progress bringing this asset to the required standards. On this note, I would like to express our hope that the financial constraints that have beset this Organization for some time now shall finally be resolved when negotiations between the Director-General and our partners come to fruition sooner rather than later. I thank you.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Ellen Trane Norby, Minister for Children, Education and Gender Equality of Denmark. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

4.1 **Ms Norby (Denmark):**

Thank you, Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me start by congratulating every one of us on the anniversary and the achievements of UNESCO in the 70 years of its existence. We mark this anniversary at a time when Member States and the United Nations have come together and launched a new compelling agreement to eradicate extreme poverty and to set an agenda for global sustainable development towards 2030. Denmark is fully committed to following up on the 2030 Agenda nationally and in cooperation with our international development partners.

4.2 In the ongoing conflicts with extremism and terrorism we have witnessed throughout the world these past years, we have seen unprecedented destruction and plundering of outstanding cultural heritage and cultural artefacts. We support the work of UNESCO and the Director-General in fighting these attacks and in condemning them.

4.3 We also underline the importance of UNESCO's standard-setting and operational work in the field of media development, freedom of expression and safety of journalists throughout the world. Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and a basic condition for progress and democracy which needs to be protected and strengthened. Denmark is an active member of the Intergovernmental Council and the Bureau of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). In the same vein, we are also co-organizing an important side event this Friday 6 November, on artistic freedom in connection with the meeting of the Culture Commission. I hope that many of you will participate because artistic and cultural freedom is another form of freedom of expression that is extremely important to protect in our world of today.

4.4 We are aware that UNESCO for the last four years has had to deal with some extraordinary budget issues, and I wish to thank the Director-General and her staff for managing to keep up the spirit and important programme activities. This has been key – that we have succeeded in reforming UNESCO while at the same time keeping the focus on the content. Looking back, only a week ago the University of Aalborg in the northern part of Denmark co-hosted a conference on the impact of UNESCO. Numerous studies have shown that UNESCO activities do have an impact in different countries, and I think it is important that we also document these findings.

4.5 Looking forward, we need to focus exactly on the same question: how do we further strengthen the relevance and impact of UNESCO in the world and in our respective countries? The Danish Government shares the vision of the Director-General, who wishes to shape an Organization that is more “fit to deliver”, and we encourage her to continue the necessary reforms, not just of structures and costs but also in terms of the quality of the programmes that are delivered and that generate changes.

4.6 Governance in UNESCO needs to be lighter, less costly, more efficient and more strategic. At the national level in Denmark, we are currently working to increase the visibility and relevance of UNESCO with a view to strengthening action across traditional administrative and policy silos. Let me mention just a few of the points where we see that UNESCO matters to us.

4.7 Quality education in a globalized world must involve a global outlook and understanding of interconnections. There, UNESCO's values and inclusive work on education for global citizenship and sustainable development really matter. UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities is an important initiative for a number of cities in Denmark, and we are working to join the Network so as to gain inspiration as to how best to place inclusive learning at the centre of sustainable city development, a city development that also includes citizens in the cities.

4.8 In relation to global geoparks and the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), we have projects approved and under way in Denmark, that help communities to focus on their special qualities and potential, and stimulate positive local development and dynamics. In order to achieve sustainable development, we will have to include our local communities even more in the Organization and in policy decisions.

4.9 For all of these reasons, the work of UNESCO is important not only to us in Denmark but also on a global level. Education for everybody, protection of the cultural heritage, focus on the freedom of expression and the right of people to express themselves, be they journalists, artists, or people in general, is an important value not least in our world of today. From the Danish perspective, we look forward to closer cooperation within the UNESCO framework and I thank you for your attention.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Elizabeta Kancheska Milevska, Minister of Culture of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

6.1 **Ms Milevska (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia):**

Thank you, dear Mr President of the General Conference, dear Director-General of UNESCO, dear Mr Chair of the Executive Board, dear heads of delegations, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I would like at the outset to express

my great pleasure that today I have the opportunity to address this eminent forum, which again underlines the importance of UNESCO and the authority that the Organization has, inspiring the world's intellectual and political elite as well as media outlets.

6.2 This is the forum that is expected to show dialogue and leadership in addressing the changes of today. This is the forum that has proved that our efforts could lead to activities which would benefit all of us, the UNESCO Member States. I am pleased to say that our country, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, has special respect for UNESCO as an organization that has justified its existence exactly by focusing on political and development goals in our common interest. In this regard, I would like to express my conviction that this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, by which we mark the great jubilee of 70 years of UNESCO, will also enable us to take stock of the achieved results and even to set new goals in the spirit of the Organization, to promote cooperation and serve the needs of the citizens of our countries.

6.3 Ladies and gentlemen, as Minister of Culture and President of the National Commission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for UNESCO, I would like to underline the fact that the Government of our country pays great attention to cooperation with the Organization and tries to establish active and constructive cooperation with other UNESCO Member States.

6.4 All projects which we have thus far implemented with UNESCO give strong impetus to the recognition of the universal values of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and provide opportunities for institutions, experts and young talented people from our country to be actively involved. I avail myself of this opportunity to mention some of the major activities that we have implemented together with UNESCO in the fields of culture, education, environment and media: for example, opening the centre for digitization of cultural heritage; proclaiming the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology (IZIIS) in Skopje, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO; founding two UNESCO Chairs - one in Intercultural Studies and Research at the Saints Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, and the other in Media, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding at the School of Journalism and Public Relations; establishing many UNESCO Clubs and the inclusion of many schools in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

6.5 Of paramount importance also is the fact that thus far we have inscribed two cultural properties on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Another very important project carried out with our neighbours and other countries from the region is the exhibition entitled "Imagining the Balkans: Identities and memory in the long nineteenth century", through which we promote the common treasures that are part of the world's cultural heritage.

6.6 Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been fully committed to the process of inter-civilization dialogue, bringing different cultures closer together by implementing joint cooperation and communication, which is also advocated by UNESCO. In this regard, since 2007 we have organized together with UNESCO three global conferences on interreligious and inter-civilization dialogue. By fruitful discussion and exchanges of experience and knowledge at those conferences, representatives of all world religions, experts, and prominent members of international organizations, have once more acknowledged the fact that culture and religion are the key factors of peace, living together, prosperity and well-being. I am here to inform you that in 2016 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will host the fourth World Conference on Interreligious and Inter-Civilization Dialogue.

6.7 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has for a long time been very successfully and effectively involved in the great European and international project on the participation of its population in education, as part of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We invest in modern and practical education which will respond to the development needs of the country and will be comparable to that offered by other European Union countries.

6.8 Let me take this opportunity to note that it has been a special honour for our country to have a seat on UNESCO's Executive Board. Being part of the Board for the past four years, we have been consistent in our commitment to enhancing the international rule of UNESCO in order to further promote traditional cooperation with all Member States.

6.9 Ladies and gentlemen, it is up to us to see what kind of world we will live in, what kind of education will be offered to future generations, and what kind of treatment will be given to culture. Let me offer congratulations to UNESCO celebrating 70 years since the establishment of our Organization. I call on you as Member States of UNESCO to continue your commitment through the implementation of the Organization's initiatives and programmes in order to achieve visible results for a better and more prosperous future for generations to come and for humanity in general. Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

7. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Hussain Ibrahim Mohamed Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education of the United Arab Emirates. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٨، ١ السيد الحمّادي (الإمارات العربية المتحدة)

سعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام، سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، سعادة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب الفخامة، والمعالي، والسعادة، رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، حضرات السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته. أستهل كلمتي أمام مؤتمركم الكريم، ناقلاً إليكم تحيات وتمنيات رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان "حفظه الله" وأخيه نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي راعاه الله صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم، وأعضاء الحكومة والشعب الإماراتي. وأحبي رئيس المؤتمر العام، والفريق المعني بإعداد وتنظيم هذا الحدث الرفيع. وأخص، بلقطة تقدير وتأييد، المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، التي عُرفت بنخبها ومراسمها، وتمسكت بدور المنظمة التربوي والثقافي والعلمي ورسخت بذلك فرادتها وريادتها في مجالات اختصاصها. وأمام هذا التحول النوعي، نحضت يونسكو جديدة على قاعدة الثوابت التي أرساها الآباء المؤسسون، وفي

طلعتها بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر. وهذه رسالة نبيلة للإنسانية جمعاء لكي تستنهض إرادات الخير والبناء الكامنة فيها، فتطوي صفحة الحروب والنزاعات والمجاعات، وتنخرط في مشروع تنمية السلام، وسلام التنمية كجسر عبور إلى مستقبل الرفاه والازدهار والرقى الإنساني الأكثر إشعاعاً والأبعد دلالة والأعمق أثراً في عالم القيم الكونية الجديدة.

٨,٢ أيها السيدات والسادة، بعد أقل من شهر من الآن، تحتفل دولتنا التي تأسست على يد المغفور له القائد المؤسس الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان - طيب الله ثراه - بالعيد الوطني الرابع والأربعين. وفي هذه المساحة الزمنية القصيرة نسبياً في عمر الدول والأمم، اعتمدنا مبدأ "استخلاص الممكن من المستحيل". وقد مشينا بخطى ثابتة في هذا الطريق، ولا مأسنا الإعجاز في الإنجاز بشهادة المؤسسات الدولية ذات الصلة، على مختلف الأصعدة والمستويات. وإذا كان الذين يزورون دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة أو يقيمون على أرضها، من ٢٠٠٠ جنسية تعمل وتتفاعل وتعيش بسلام ووثام، يعجبون بعلمقة الحجر، فإننا لا نألو جهداً أيضاً في عملقة البشر من خلال إقامة مجتمع المعرفة والاستثمار في منظومات التربية الأكثر نخراطاً في عصر التكنولوجيا وثرواتها. ونحمد الله ونثني على قيادتنا الحكيمة، لأنه أصبحت لدينا قوائم البنية التحتية التعليمية التربوية المتميزة بتجهيزاتها وتقنياتها المتكورة. ومن خلالها، نتطلع إلى غد أفضل لأجيالنا الطالعة، قائم على التفكير والتنوير وقيم المعرفة. ونراهن على الجودة والابتكار في كل مراحل العملية التربوية. ونركز على الحلقة المحورية في هذه العملية، وهي المعلم وتدريب المعلم. ولأننا نتطلع إلى "اقتصاد المعرفة"، فإننا لا ندخر وسيلة تقنية أو رافداً علمياً إلا وأدرجناها في سياق البرامج والمقررات وطرائق التوجيه والتعليم. ومن هذا اجتدانا كبرى المعاهد والجامعات في العالم لإقامة فروع لها في بلادنا للإحاطة بالفكر والثقافة في جميع أنحاءها. وعلى الرغم من اعتماد التقنيات الرقمية والعملية التربوية، والانفتاح على موضوعات البيئة والتنوع الحيوي والمواطنة العالمية، وهي جديدة في مناهجنا ومقرراتنا، فإننا نركز على صقل مهارات الفكر والتفكير، وشحن المثابرة والمبادرة، وتنمية ذائقة الجماليات والفنون. وهدفنا الأول والأخير هو توطيد ثقافة السلام وتعزيز التنوع، والترويج لقيم الانفتاح والتسامح على مختلف الأديان والأعراق التي تتشكل منها القرية الكونية.

٨,٣ الأخوات والإخوة الأفاضل، أيها الحفل الكريم، إن دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة تتناغم مع اليونسكو في مجال التراث بشقيه المادي وغير المادي. وهذا القطاع عزيز علينا. وقد أحطناه بكل ما يستحقه من عناية ودأب واهتمام لأن "من ليس له ماضٍ، لا حاضر ولا مستقبل له"، كما كان يردد مؤسس الدولة وقائد كياننا الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان - طيب الله ثراه. ونحن بلد عريق في تاريخه، وفي حضارته. والشواهد على العراقة ممثلة للعيان في خريطة واسعة ومتنوعة من المتاحف، وهي منجم للمعرفة وذاكرة جماعية وهوية وطنية جماعية. ونحت أجيالنا الصاعدة على أن تستلهم دروسها، وتنهل من ينابيع عطائها الذي لا ينضب.

٨,٤ أيها الحضور الكريم، إن دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة تُعبر بخطى وثيقة من آبار النفط إلى آبار المعرفة. وتخرج من التلقين في التعليم إلى رحاب التفكير والتنوير. وتبني العقل التواصلي للتفاعل مع موجبات حضارات القرية الكونية. وتتمسك بالممارسة الأخلاقية في العمل السياسي. وترى أن كل الشهادات تفقد معناها إذا لم تكن جواز عبور إلى إنسانية القيم، كما ورد في كتاب اليونسكو "القيم إلى أين؟" الصادر عام ٢٠٠٤. لذلك ندعو إلى تفعيل عمل هذه المنظمة. ولعل العالم المأزوم اليوم بالمشكلات والأزمات ولعبة المصالح الضارية، في حاجة إلى اليونسكو، كما أنه في حاجة إلى حكمة القيادة الإماراتية، واعتدالها، ومبدئية مواقفها، للتغلب على دوامة الصراعات، واقتراح الحلول والبدائل للخروج من طرق النزاعات. وشكراً لكم على حسن إصغانتكم. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(8.1) **Mr Al Hammadi (United Arab Emirates) (translation from the Arabic):**

Your Excellency Mr President of the General Conference, Your Excellency Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellency Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies heads and members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I begin my statement before the General Conference by conveying to you the greetings and best wishes of the President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may God preserve him, and his brother, the Vice-President, President of the Council of Ministers, the Ruler of Dubai, may God preserve him, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed Al Maktum, and members of the UAE Government and people. I salute the General Conference and the team entrusted with preparing and organizing this august event. Special appreciation and commendation go to the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, who is well known for her expertise and competence: she has taken on the educational, cultural and scientific role of the Organization, and endowed it with her own individuality and pioneering spirit in UNESCO's fields of competence. With this substantive transformation, UNESCO has risen anew on the basis of the constants first laid down by the founding fathers, and first and foremost, constructing the defences of peace in the minds of men. This noble message for all humankind aimed at promoting the will of good and constructiveness inherent in humanity, will turn the page of wars, conflicts and confrontations, and will be part of a project aimed at developing peace, the peace of development as a bridge to a future of the most radiant, the most significant, and the most deeply effective humanitarian welfare, prosperity and progress in a world of new universal values.

(8.2) Ladies and gentlemen, in less than one month from now we will celebrate our State, established by its late founding leader, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, God rest his soul, on our 44th national holiday. In what is a relatively short space of time in the life of States and nations, we have adopted the principle of "making possible the impossible". We have proceeded along this path at a steady pace, and we have seen miracles in achievements certified by the relevant international institutions, at various levels. There are those who are visiting the United Arab Emirates, and those who are at home there, making up 200 nationalities working, interacting and coexisting in peace and harmony, admiring the majesty of the stone, and we spare no efforts for the majesty of humanity through the establishment of a knowledge society and investment in education systems that are more involved in the technological era and its wealth. We thank God and praise our wise leadership, as we have acquired pillars of educational infrastructure and educational excellence in innovative equipment and technologies. In this way, we look forward to a better tomorrow for the coming generations, based on the thinking and values of enlightenment and knowledge. We are backing quality and innovation at every stage in the educational process. We are focusing on the pivotal part in the process, namely, teachers and teacher training. Because we look forward to the "knowledge economy", we are sparing neither technical means nor scientific assistance and we have recorded this in the context of programmes, decisions and methods of guidance and education. As a result, we have been able to attract the world's major institutes and universities to establish branches in our country so as to inform thinking and culture throughout. In spite of the adoption of digital technologies and the educational process, and openness to the subjects of the environment, biodiversity and global citizenship, and this is new in our curricula and textbooks, we are focusing on refining the skills of thought and reflection, honing perseverance and initiative, and developing aesthetics and art appreciation. Our first and greatest objective is to consolidate the culture of peace and promote diversity, and disseminate the values of openness and tolerance towards the different religions and races that make up the global village.

(8.3) Distinguished brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, the United Arab Emirates is in line with UNESCO in the field of the tangible and intangible heritage. We hold this sector dear. We have given it everything it deserves in terms of care,

perseverance and attention, because “if you have no past, you have no present or future”, as was often remarked by the founder of the State and the commander of our being, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, God rest his soul. We are a country with an ancient history and ancient civilization. Evidence of tradition is represented in the form of a map of a wide variety of museums, which are a mine of knowledge, collective memory and collective national identity. We urge our future generations to draw lessons therefrom, and draw inspiration from a source that is inexhaustibly giving.

(8.4) Dear attendees, the United Arab Emirates is moving steadily from oil wells to knowledge wells. It has graduated from indoctrination in education to the vastness of thinking and enlightenment. It has adopted communicative reasoning to interact with the obligations of the civilizations in the global village. It adheres to ethical practice in political action. It believes that all attestations lose their meaning if they are not a passport to humane values, as stated in the UNESCO book *The Future of Values*, published in 2004. Accordingly, we call for the work of the Organization to become more effective. Perhaps the world, bogged down in today’s problems and crisis, and the fierce play of interests, needs the wisdom, moderation and initial positions of the leaders of the United Arab Emirates so as to overcome the cycle of conflict and propose solutions and alternative ways of resolving disputes. Thank you for your attention. As-salāmu ‘alaikum wa-raḥmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

9. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Education and Culture of Finland. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

10.1 Ms Grahn-Laasonen (Finland):

Mr President, distinguished delegates, Finland concurs with the European Union statement. Excellencies, human rights matter. Education matters. Gender equality matters. Freedom of expression matters. They are some of the key components of the new sustainable development agenda. I wish to congratulate the Director-General on UNESCO’s active input in the preparatory work.

10.2 In celebrating the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, we must face our challenges with the same determination as our predecessors did in 1945. Finland is committed to supporting UNESCO in its important work. Despite the challenging economic situation, Finland is proud to be able to continue its voluntary contribution to UNESCO.

10.3 Excellencies, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is encouraging. It is holistic and cross-cutting. It is not short on ambition and concerns all of us. It is an immense boost for UNESCO’s future programme. It provides a huge opportunity to re-design the programme and calibrate the expected results and indicators. We hope for action towards even more concrete and applicable policy recommendations. Evaluations are done, but there is still a need for follow-up capacities across the board.

10.4 Today, events are moving at high speed, often outpacing the efforts of organizations built for another age, 70 years ago. A rejuvenated UNESCO must therefore be fit to respond to changes, and efficient governance is key. The external governance audit deserves a holistic and careful study. This is also an area that we hope to promote as a Member of the Executive Board from 2017 onwards.

10.5 Ladies and gentlemen, all of us face inequalities, both within and between our countries. The 2030 Agenda supports a more people-centred approach, one with provisions also for people with disabilities and youth. Young people are not only policy objects – they must be allowed to be active, contributing citizens. I am concerned by the wave of intolerance and the spread of radicalization and violent extremism, to which young men are particularly prone. We need to invest in global citizenship education and education for sustainable development.

10.6 For Finland, education comes first. The education agenda we approved yesterday quite rightly brings learning and quality to the forefront. No one should be denied the right to education, but still girls continue to draw the short straw. More needs to be done to secure the education of women and girls. We are pleased with the commitment to inclusion and equity and the call for well-educated teachers. Equal opportunities are fundamental. Education provides skills for employment, for decent work, and a way out of poverty. Therefore, education is also one of Finland’s priority fields for our voluntary contribution.

10.7 Ladies and gentlemen, technology transfer and water-related questions on the 2030 Agenda are highly relevant for UNESCO’s next programme. Finland strongly supports an integrated science approach. Finland values UNESCO’s work for freedom of expression, press freedom, safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. They are essential for the next programme, as is equal and open access to knowledge and information. The “Connecting the Dots” outcome document provides a solid building block for Internet-related issues. I am pleased to confirm that Finland will continue its support to the Communication and Information Sector. Finland proudly hosts UNESCO’s World Press Freedom Day event next year and I am happy to welcome you all to Helsinki in May.

10.8 We are all terrified by the destruction of cultural heritage. Finland, as a member of the World Heritage Committee, supports UNESCO in this area, including the campaign “#Unite4heritage”. We all have a shared responsibility. To quote the former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan: “Violence is never justifiable, it is not inevitable and where the underlying causes are addressed, violence is entirely preventable.” We have come together to make UNESCO fulfil its global mandate in tandem with the 2030 Agenda. We have the necessary elements and we will all be held to account. What counts now is to move from promises to real change. I thank you all for your attention.

11. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Gustav Fridolin, Minister for Education of Sweden. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12.1 **Mr Fridolin (Sweden):**

Mr President, distinguished delegates, it is an honour for me to address the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Sweden fully aligns itself with the European Union statement. We live in a time of far-reaching transformation. The defining challenge is countering climate change. We need a course of action to create a low-carbon and climate-resilient world economy. The escalating conflicts stemming from drought and climate change show clearly that the world must reach a fair, ambitious and legally binding agreement in Paris in December. It is not a choice, but a necessity for the survival of our civilizations as we know them. UNESCO's work with regards to oceans and freshwater is crucial. Sweden supports small island developing States (SIDS) or more correctly large ocean States, in addressing the specific challenges with which they are faced.

12.2 The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a milestone. It is universal and we all have a responsibility for its realization. UNESCO has an important role in translating the goals into action. We look forward to engaging with all of you in the work ahead of us.

12.3 A sustainable future is impossible without ensuring gender equality. It is time to once and for all get rid of the oppressing structures that prevent women from exercising the right to decide for themselves and to participate in political and economic life. Anything else is an immoral waste of human resources. Equal rights and the right to education are a priority in the Swedish Government's feminist foreign policy. Inclusive and equitable quality education for all girls and boys features prominently in the 2030 Agenda. Education for all is a key driver for change, and education for sustainable development and global citizenship education are key components. Comprehensive sexuality education, as shown by UNESCO's programme, is essential in the work towards both gender equality and sustainable development.

12.4 In order to achieve fair and equal societies, UNESCO always has a vital role in promoting access to information and press freedom. Sweden will continue to engage on the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The upcoming conference with news organizations in February will provide a unique platform for dialogue on journalists' safety. We also welcome UNESCO's recent report on world trends in freedom of expression and media development and we invite more countries to contribute to this. UNESCO must continue to promote human rights, including freedom of expression, online as well as offline. It is unacceptable that journalists are killed and threatened when they do their job. We must speak out on behalf of those who have had their own voices silenced, like the Swedish-Eritrean journalist Dawit Isaak. Our aim is that he should be released.

12.5 Mr President, while we need joint efforts in building a more sustainable future, we also need collective action for the challenges of today. The current refugee situation is a global crisis. It is a human right to seek, and if in need, enjoy asylum. A boy or a girl on the run from war or oppression can seldom be educated. A girl or a boy with a safe new home country can. Sweden is proud that many refugees over the years have made Sweden a second home country. They have contributed to make Sweden richer, as Sweden will continue to take its responsibility. In this situation, more countries need to give help to those in need. Sweden has a clear stand: no State can flee its legal or international obligations. Global crisis demands global responsibility.

12.6 To solve the crisis, the horrors in the Syrian Arab Republic must be stopped. Addressing the root causes of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic is key. That is why all actors, regional as well as international, must intensify their efforts in support of the United Nations-led political track and political solution. The fabric of entire civilizations is torn apart. When artists and journalists cannot work, books are burnt and cultural heritage is destroyed it is a sign of repressive, dark times. It is also the moment when UNESCO's mandate is more important than ever.

12.7 Sweden strongly supports the implementation of the culture conventions and the actions undertaken by UNESCO and the global community to counteract the demolition of and trafficking in cultural objects. A Nordic initiative for enhanced international collaboration will start in Oslo in December this year.

12.8 Distinguished delegates, Sweden has always been a strong supporter of the United Nations, both politically and financially. Over the years, Sweden has stood by those in the world who fight against repression and inequality, and for independence and dignity. We now seek your confidence for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations 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.

12.9 Mr President, we would also like to acknowledge all the hard work carried out by the UNESCO staff and the Director-General, Ms Bokova. Sweden fully supports the Director-General's work for the reform of UNESCO and we are actively engaged for better governance of the Organization. Through further reform, UNESCO will be even more relevant and more focused on its mandate, which will deliver more results. In order to do this, the budget level must match the goals we have set.

12.10 As I said at the outset, we live in a time of far-reaching transformation and the founding ideas and principles of UNESCO are as vibrantly urgent as ever. Sweden stands ready to continue our important joint work ahead to create sustainable, equal and peaceful development. Thank you.

13. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Rodolfo Alarcón Ortíz, Minister of Higher Education of Cuba. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

14.1 **Sr. Alarcón Ortiz (Cuba):**

Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, distinguidas delegadas y delegados: deseo comenzar mi intervención felicitando al señor Stanley Mutumba Simataa por su elección como Presidente de esta 38ª reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO. Hace pocas semanas los Jefes de

Estado y de Gobierno adoptaron en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Lamentablemente, los modestos compromisos definidos en el año 2000 como Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio no se cumplieron. Los avances son insuficientes, persisten problemas que se acumulan y agravan en un mundo expoliado y saqueado, marcado por conflictos en diferentes regiones del mundo donde la paz y la estabilidad necesarias para avanzar hacia el desarrollo sostenible son aún una quimera.

14.2 El subdesarrollo se perpetúa, crece el abismo entre ricos y pobres, aumentan las desigualdades entre las naciones y dentro de las naciones. Parecen indetenibles la destrucción del medio ambiente y la pérdida de la biodiversidad. Suben las temperaturas como consecuencia del calentamiento global y se deteriora el equilibrio natural de los ecosistemas. Es inadmisibles que en la actualidad 757 millones de adultos sigan sin poseer competencias básicas en lectura y escritura, y que el número de niños y adolescentes sin escolarizar continúe aumentando hasta ascender a 124 millones en el mundo.

14.3 Cuba no solo cumplió los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, también brindó apoyo y colaboración a otros países en desarrollo. Eso ha sido posible gracias a la voluntad política del Gobierno, al respaldo indiscutible del pueblo y a su vocación solidaria e internacionalista basada en el principio de compartir los limitados recursos de que dispone y no los que le sobran. La obra de la revolución cubana está en plena correspondencia con los objetivos de la UNESCO. A lo largo de 57 años, el sostenido esfuerzo realizado ha permitido dotar a nuestro pueblo de un sistema gratuito, general y universal de educación, masificar la cultura y el deporte, desarrollar un sistema de salud que exhibe elevados indicadores y desplegar notablemente los potenciales científicos. Todo ello en medio del injusto y cruel bloqueo impuesto por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, que hace apenas unos días recibió una muestra más de abrumador rechazo de la comunidad internacional en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

14.4 Distinguidos delegados: el Marco de Acción Educación 2030 que acabamos de aprobar en la reunión de alto nivel de esta 38ª reunión de la Conferencia General refleja una visión compartida e integral en pos de una educación equitativa para todos. Cuba reitera su compromiso con el Laboratorio Latinoamericano de Evaluación de la Calidad de la Educación y apoya la preservación del Instituto Internacional de la UNESCO para la Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe (IESALC), institución llamada a promover y desarrollar la educación superior en la región. La UNESCO deberá continuar liderando el debate mundial sobre el papel de la cultura como elemento esencial en el desarrollo sostenible de nuestras naciones. Este tema ocupó un lugar preferente en la agenda de la Tercera Reunión de Ministros de Cultura de los países miembros de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC) celebrada en La Habana el pasado mes de septiembre.

14.5 Distinguidas delegadas y delegados, señora Directora General: al cumplir 70 años de creada, la UNESCO deberá seguir desempeñando un papel de vanguardia en la incansable lucha contra el analfabetismo, en la promoción de una educación de calidad para todas y todos a lo largo de toda la vida, en la defensa y preservación del patrimonio y la diversidad cultural, en el desarrollo de las ciencias y la investigación y en el acceso universal a la información y a las comunicaciones más modernas. Hago propicia la ocasión para agradecer la reciente y exitosa visita a nuestro país de la señora Irina Bokova, así como la del Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Hao Ping, a quien felicitamos por el mandato que recién concluye. Cuba continuará comprometida con la UNESCO y sus principios fundacionales. Confiamos en su liderazgo, en su papel de vanguardia dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, en su gestión por hacer realidad el sueño de alcanzar sociedades caracterizadas por un legítimo desarrollo sostenible. Muchas gracias.

(14.1) **Mr Alarcón Ortiz** (Cuba) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much. Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, I would like to begin my statement by congratulating Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa on his election as President of this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. A few weeks ago, at the United Nations General Assembly, Heads of States and Government adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Regrettably, the modest commitments made in 2000 in the form of the Millennium Development Goals have not been honoured. Progress has been insufficient and problems persist, building and becoming increasingly serious in a despoiled and pillaged world, marked by conflicts in various regions where the peace and stability needed to advance towards sustainable development are still a pipe dream.

(14.2) Underdevelopment prevails, the gulf between rich and poor is widening and inequalities between and within nations are increasing. Environmental devastation and biodiversity loss seem unstoppable. Temperatures are rising as a result of global warming and the natural balance of ecosystems is failing. It is unacceptable that 757 million adults today still lack basic reading and writing skills and that the number of uneducated children and adolescents in the world has continued to increase, rising to some 124 million.

(14.3) Cuba not only achieved the Millennium Development Goals but also extended its support and cooperation to other developing countries. This was made possible by the political will of the Government and the clear support of the people, whose solidarity-based, internationalist commitment is based on the principle of sharing what limited resources they have rather than their leftovers. The efforts of the Cuban revolution are fully in line with the objectives of UNESCO. The sustained efforts of the past 57 years have enabled us to provide our people with a free and universal education system; to make culture and sports accessible to all; to build a high-performance health system; and to extensively develop scientific potential. All this has been done amid the cruel and unjust blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America which the international community once again rejected overwhelmingly, barely a few days ago, at the United Nations General Assembly.

(14.4) Distinguished delegates, the Education 2030 Framework for Action that we have just approved at the high-level meeting during this 38th session of the General Conference reflects a comprehensive, shared vision in pursuit of equitable education for all. Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the Latin American Laboratory for the Assessment of Quality in Education (LLECE) and supports the continuation of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC), a body designed to promote and develop higher education in the region. UNESCO must continue to lead the global debate on the role of culture as a core component of the sustainable development of our nations. That theme was high on the agenda of the third meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Havana last September.

(14.5) Distinguished delegates, Madam Director-General, as it celebrates its 70th anniversary, UNESCO must continue to play its role at the forefront of the tireless struggle to combat illiteracy; promote quality lifelong learning for all; protect and preserve cultural diversity and heritage; develop science and research; and ensure universal access to information and the latest means of communication. I take this opportunity to express appreciation for the recent successful visit to Cuba of Ms Irina Bokova, as well as that of Mr Hao Ping, President of the General Conference, whom we congratulate on his recently completed term of office. Cuba remains committed to UNESCO and its founding principles. We trust in its leadership and lead role in the United Nations system, as well as its guidance in realizing the dream of achieving societies characterized by genuine sustainable development. Thank you.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr José Antonio Rodríguez, Minister of Culture of the Dominican Republic. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

16.1 **Sr. Rodríguez** (República Dominicana):

Señor Presidente de la 38ª reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO, excelentísimo señor Stanley Simataa, Viceministro de Información y Comunicación Tecnológica de Namibia, excelentísima señora Irina Bokova, Directora General de la UNESCO, señores jefes de delegaciones, ministros, delegados, honorables embajadores, señoras y señores. “Paz, *peace, paix, mup, salam, héping*”: hace 70 años esta tribuna fue concebida por y para la paz, pero ¿qué razón tiene la palabra si no provoca una reacción? La tesis del Papa Francisco es que el mundo está inmerso en la tercera guerra mundial y que esta se realiza de manera fragmentada, y ¿saben?: tiene razón. ¿O acaso no son guerra el analfabetismo, la pobreza, las diferencias religiosas, el cambio climático, el fanatismo, el hambre, el narcotráfico, el terrorismo, el extremismo, la apatía, y un largo etcétera que nos obliga a colocar la paz como tema central? No pasa un minuto sin que la geografía de las naciones se tiña de sangre humana; nos conmueve el niño Aylan al-Kurdi en aquella remota playa de Turquía porque todos, de alguna manera, somos sus padres. Toda guerra es un insulto a la razón, toda muerte violenta de un ser humano a manos de otro es desprecio rampante del amor. Hoy estamos aquí y el mes que viene estaremos en otro escenario, discutiendo, estampando nuestras firmas en valiosos documentos. Pero ¿de qué nos sirven los encuentros, los tratados, los acuerdos si no tenemos paz? Los acuerdos tienen el valor de la justicia cuando se pueden firmar entre todos. El poder es un artificio inútil si no nos sirve para invitar a nuestros semejantes a beber café, té o vino en torno a una mesa de cooperación. Todos somos ciudadanos del mundo, demos pasos concretos para corregir lo que está mal ahora.

16.2 Demos la milla extra, no por obligación, sino por pasión; desde el corazón del Caribe, les digo: “Observemos la grandeza de la humildad que existe en nuestros corazones y mostremos frutos, que sea visible nuestra acción restauradora de la paz; es tiempo de parar”. La Tierra puede ser mejor si lo decidimos así; provoquemos una ola de paz, una que se eleve por encima de los mares, y arroje de esperanza a los corazones de tantos millones que ahora no tienen vida porque su cotidianidad es el sobresalto y la huida; no somos mejores, somos iguales; lo que me pasa a mí te pasa a ti; lo que te pasa a ti, le pasa al mundo, sé que hablo por todos. Queremos que las futuras generaciones nos recuerden como artífices de paz en cada país del globo. Hagamos que triunfen los abrazos, que en las agendas internacionales los temas solo sean de cooperación, solidaridad, hermandad, provecho mutuo. No tenemos una vida con autocorrección; nuestros silencios son errores, que tienen consecuencias. En estos momentos que hablo a todos, todos y cada uno de ustedes me han entendido, es como si todos hablaran español, si eso es posible gracias a la tecnología y a un o una intérprete, entonces sí es posible la paz, pasemos la paz; enseñemos la paz. Puesto de pie y con una mano en el corazón, les aseguro que sí podemos. Trabajemos ahora por la paz mundial. Muchas gracias, mucha paz.

(16.1) **Mr Rodríguez** (Dominican Republic) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Your Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Namibia, Your Excellency Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, heads of delegations, ministers, delegates, honourable ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, *paz, peace, paix, mup, salaam, héping*. Seventy years ago this forum was conceived through and for peace; but what is the point of that word if it has no response? The world, according to Pope Francis, is immersed in a fragmented third world war and, you know what: he is right. Or are illiteracy, poverty, religious differences, climate change, fanaticism, hunger, drug trafficking, terrorism, extremism and apathy, among many, many issues compelling us to make peace a central theme, not a war? Not a minute goes by without a nation's soil being stained with human blood; we were moved by the child Aylan al-Kurdi on a faraway beach in Turkey because we are all, in some way, his parents. All war is an affront to reason, every violent death of a human being at another's hands utter contempt for love. Today, we are here and next month we will be in another setting, discussing and signing important documents. But what purpose do our meetings, treaties and agreements serve if we do not have peace? Agreements carry the weight of justice only when they can be signed by all. Power is a pointless gimmick if it does not allow us to invite our fellow-humans for a coffee, tea or glass of wine at the table of cooperation. We are all citizens of the world; let us take firm steps to right what is now wrong.

(16.2) Let us go the extra mile, not out of a sense of duty but out of passion; from the heart of the Caribbean, I say: “Let us see the majesty of the humility in our hearts and show the fruits so that our peace-restoring efforts are clear to see; it is time to stop”. The earth can be a better place if we so decide; let us arouse a wave of peace that will rise above the oceans and engulf with hope the hearts of so many millions of people who have no life because everyday life, for them, is fright and flight. We are not betters but equals; what happens to me is happening to you; what happens to you is happening to the world, and I know that I am speaking for all. We want future generations to remember us as peacemakers, in every country on the globe. Let us make embraces victorious and cooperation, solidarity, fellowship and mutual benefits the only topics on our international agendas. Life is not equipped with autocorrect; our silences are mistakes with consequences. In these few moments that I have been speaking each of you has understood me as if you all spoke Spanish; if that is possible, thanks to technology and the interpreters, then peace is possible too. Let us spread peace; let us teach peace. Standing here, hand on heart, I assure you: we can do it. Let us work now for world peace. Many thanks, much peace.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Mountaga Tall, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Mali. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

18.1 **M. Tall (Mali):**

Merci. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations au Président de la Conférence générale qui a été choisi pour diriger les travaux de la 38^e session. Je salue aussi les efforts déployés par le Président du Conseil exécutif, depuis la dernière session de la Conférence générale, pour suivre et orienter les actions de l'UNESCO en vue de la réalisation de ses objectifs. Je voudrais enfin, et particulièrement, rendre hommage au travail titanesque accompli par la Directrice générale et à l'intérêt qu'elle a constamment manifesté pour la promotion de la paix en Afrique et le développement de notre continent dans les domaines de compétence de l'Organisation.

18.2 Mesdames, Messieurs, le monde s'apprête à célébrer, le 16 novembre prochain, le 70^e anniversaire de l'adoption de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. Cet événement marquera 70 ans d'un engagement exceptionnel de notre Organisation pour la paix dans le monde, par les moyens de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture et de la communication. Permettez-moi de saluer à cette occasion la qualité de la coopération entre mon pays, le Mali, et l'UNESCO, pour la réalisation des idéaux de l'Organisation.

18.3 Plus particulièrement, je voudrais mentionner la sensibilisation de l'opinion internationale à la cause du Mali lors de la crise politico-sécuritaire que notre pays a vécue en 2012, la restauration des mausolées saccagés par des groupes armés, la préservation des manuscrits anciens et le renforcement de l'éducation à la culture de la paix et aux droits de l'homme. Dans ce cadre et malgré des conditions difficiles, la Directrice générale s'est rendue à deux reprises sur le terrain, dans le nord du Mali, après la libération de la ville de Tombouctou et des régions du Nord et après la reconstruction des mausolées de Tombouctou. Nul ne s'étonnera donc que j'évoque son engagement personnel et sa solidarité qui ont été jugés à leur juste valeur par notre peuple et par notre gouvernement. Vous me permettrez de mentionner, dans ce contexte, la traduction récente devant la justice internationale d'un des responsables de la destruction des mausolées de Tombouctou. Nul doute que ce geste fort, une première dans l'histoire, aura une portée dissuasive pour ceux qui s'adonnent à travers le monde à la destruction du patrimoine culturel mondial de l'humanité.

18.4 Mesdames, Messieurs, le Mali tout entier se mobilise pour la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de paix et de réconciliation nationale, issu du processus d'Alger, qui vise à amener définitivement la paix dans notre pays. C'est le lieu d'exprimer les remerciements du Gouvernement et du peuple maliens à tous ceux qui se sont investis pour l'obtention de ce résultat. Notre pays a déposé un projet de résolution en faveur de la mise en œuvre de cet accord. Je voudrais profiter de cette tribune pour demander une nouvelle fois à la communauté internationale en général et à l'UNESCO en particulier de nous appuyer dans cette mise en œuvre.

18.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, dans cette même dynamique de paix, de reconstruction et de réconciliation nationale, notre pays met un accent particulier sur la remise en route de l'école sur toute l'étendue du territoire national, en veillant particulièrement à la scolarisation des filles. C'est donc tout naturellement qu'au niveau du grand programme sur l'Éducation, le Mali manifeste son intérêt pour l'éducation à la culture de la paix et aux droits de l'homme. Dans ce cadre, la tenue d'une session de formation des enseignants du Nord à Mopti, au Mali, avec le soutien de l'UNESCO, et d'un forum sur l'éducation à la culture de la paix à Bamako, contribuera certainement à consolider la paix dans le milieu scolaire et, de façon générale, dans notre pays.

18.6 Accordant une grande importance au développement, qui joue un grand rôle dans la consolidation de la paix, notre pays attache beaucoup de prix à l'éducation en vue du développement durable et, de ce fait, à la Déclaration d'Aichi-Nagoya sur l'éducation au développement durable. Enfin, dans le domaine de l'éducation, la formation des planificateurs rentre aussi dans les lignes de priorité de notre pays.

18.7 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Mali porte un grand intérêt au renforcement des capacités des populations en matière de résilience face au changement et à la variabilité du climat, ainsi que l'attestent les résultats des travaux de l'atelier de formation des jeunes sur les négociations internationales de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, tenu les 15 et 16 octobre 2015 à Bamako. Dans le domaine des Sciences sociales et humaines, compte tenu de la situation de notre pays, le Mali appuie tous les programmes sur la paix, la réconciliation et la consolidation de la cohésion sociale. Au titre du grand programme sur la Culture, l'une de nos préoccupations est de mettre la culture au service de la prévention des conflits en plaçant l'accent sur le rôle des langues nationales. Enfin, dans le cadre du grand programme portant sur l'Information et la Communication, la lutte contre la cybercriminalité retient particulièrement notre attention.

18.8 Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi pour terminer de réaffirmer la ferme détermination du Mali à continuer d'œuvrer pour le triomphe des idéaux de notre Organisation, l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Illugi Gunnarsson, Minister of Education, Science and Culture of Iceland. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

20.1 **Mr Gunnarsson (Iceland):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, I would like to express our congratulations to you, Mr President, on your election. We also wish to thank the outgoing President and Chair of the Board.

20.2 Excellencies, in today's international community, nations are engaged in never-ceasing competition where it takes a strong economy and a flourishing society to attract young and dynamic people. Quality education is a key ingredient in the development of any economy or society. In that respect, the point of reference is not necessarily the length of schooling, but the competence individuals have acquired on leaving school and their ability to use it to improve their living standards and contribute to society. There is no question in my mind that education is the key – the key to contributing to lasting peace, the key to contributing to sustainable development and the key to the eradication of poverty. It is my belief that education is a fundamental human right of which nobody should be deprived.

20.3 The world has changed enormously since the establishment of UNESCO 70 years ago. We live in a period of rapid technological development, globalization and natural and societal changes. Regardless of where we think the world is heading, most people agree that a good education is the best asset to bring on to that journey. A solid education makes it easier for young people to find their way in a complex and ever-changing world, besides being the foundation of a strong economy and citizens' well-being.

20.4 Education and gender equality are two key elements in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The balance reached in this universal and integrated 2030 Agenda is an achievement of which we should be proud. We are particularly proud to have been among the proponents of gender equality and empowerment of women as an overarching element, necessary to achieving the other goals of our Agenda.

20.5 Our aims within UNESCO are also to spread knowledge and promote freedom of expression, global citizenship, enhance sustainable development, and to encourage acceptance of cultural diversity, to mention just some areas of great concern. These areas are all addressed first and foremost through better education. We need to invest in this education and are pleased with the framework agenda in its commitment to equality and well-educated teachers.

20.6 One characteristic of a just and humane society is the treatment of its minorities. Iceland is deeply committed to continue its work with others against discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

20.7 Mr President, UNESCO has a unique mandate for safeguarding freedom of expression and of the media, which Iceland strongly supports. Not only is this a fundamental human right, which is vital for open societies, democracy and free market economies, but it is also as a key ingredient in realizing our ambitions in education, science and culture. The potential established by the new media must continue to be harnessed in the same spirit of freedom so that they may best contribute to our goals.

20.8 This brings us to the importance of another important role of UNESCO, for the promotion of linguistic diversity. Language is at the heart of cultural diversity, being one of the strongest components of cultural identity. It remains the most forceful vehicle of the world's intangible heritage. In this regard, our former President, Ms Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, has been, and continues to be, an active participant in UNESCO's work, in her capacities as Goodwill Ambassador for linguistic diversity and with the International Language Centre for multilingualism and intercultural understanding, which is a UNESCO category 2 institute located in Reykjavík. We are convinced that the Institute will contribute in an important way to UNESCO's role and our common objectives in safeguarding linguistic heritage worldwide, and supporting linguistic diversity.

20.9 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO's role as a champion of peace, understanding and tolerance is as urgent and vital as ever. Education for all, gender equality and sustainability must be cross-cutting themes in all our work. Iceland is firmly committed to playing an active role in contributing to UNESCO's role and thereby working towards a common good. The universal nature of our new 2030 Agenda common goals requires each of our States to contribute at the national, regional and global levels. None of us can succeed alone. Iceland is committed to playing its part in reaching these ambitious goals. Thank you for your attention.

21. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Albert Damantang Camara, Minister of Technical Education and Employment of Guinea. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

22.1 M. Camara (Guinée) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, vous permettrez que mes premiers mots à l'adresse de cette auguste assemblée soient un message de paix, de concorde et de gratitude à l'endroit de l'UNESCO qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour accompagner notre pays depuis que celui-ci a souscrit à l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation.

22.2 En prenant part aux travaux de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, la République de Guinée, par ma voix, voudrait tout d'abord apporter aux éminents représentants des États membres de l'UNESCO le salut fraternel et amical du peuple de Guinée, du Gouvernement guinéen et tout particulièrement de S. E. le Professeur Alpha Condé, Président de la République. Il m'est aussi agréable, au nom de la délégation de la République de Guinée, de féliciter chaleureusement le Président pour sa brillante élection à la tête de cette 38^e session de notre Conférence générale. Je suis, d'ores et déjà, persuadé que ses immenses qualités professionnelles et sa riche expérience lui permettront de conduire avec efficacité les travaux de la présente session.

22.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, la multiplicité et la complexité des défis qui interpellent nos États les moins avancés dans le contexte d'un monde globalisé invitent, certes, à une mobilisation des ressources financières, mais aussi, et surtout, à des réformes structurelles et méthodologiques tendant à mieux cerner les problèmes et les réalités à la base. Comme vous le mentionniez lors de la séance inaugurale, les valeurs cardinales de l'UNESCO, et notamment celles de

partage et de solidarité, doivent plus que jamais gouverner notre marche vers les objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. La Guinée se félicite à cet égard de la solidarité de la communauté internationale à l'endroit du peuple de Guinée dans sa lutte contre la fièvre hémorragique à virus Ébola et du précieux soutien qu'elle a apporté en termes d'appui technique et d'accompagnement structurel et financier aux trois pays touchés : la Guinée, le Libéria et la Sierra Leone.

22.4 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, après avoir mis en place toutes les institutions républicaines qui ont permis un meilleur ancrage démocratique du pays, la Guinée a organisé, le 11 octobre dernier, pour la deuxième fois consécutive, une élection présidentielle, qui a permis de renouveler le mandat du Président de la République, le Professeur Alpha Condé. Aussi, en prélude à l'élaboration de nouvelles politiques nationales dans les différents domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, le Gouvernement guinéen envisage d'organiser les États généraux du Secteur de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture et de la communication.

22.5 Dans ce même élan, le Gouvernement guinéen a engagé un vaste programme de consultations de la jeunesse à travers le projet « Nos jeunes ont du talent » dont la réalisation a permis au Ministère en charge de la jeunesse de se mettre à l'écoute des problèmes rencontrés par les jeunes, notamment en matière d'éducation et d'emploi, afin de mieux les accompagner et de les responsabiliser davantage. Tout cela s'inscrit dans la vision prospective du Président de la République visant à promouvoir une refondation et un développement de notre système éducatif dont la mise en œuvre requiert le soutien de tous nos partenaires techniques et financiers, en particulier de l'UNESCO.

22.6 L'éducation est notre priorité, une priorité politique, une priorité de programme. Nous devons continuer à créer une forte dynamique politique autour de l'éducation en faisant valoir les progrès accomplis au cours des dix dernières années et en démontrant sans relâche l'impact positif de l'éducation sur tous les indicateurs du développement. L'ambition des autorités politiques est de faire de la Guinée un pays émergent d'ici 15 à 25 ans, stratégie déclinée dans une vision intitulée « Guinée 2035 » qui rassemble les différentes composantes de la société guinéenne et qui s'appuie sur sa principale force : sa jeunesse, qui représente 43 % de la population.

22.7 Mesdames et Messieurs, le choix de Conakry comme « Capitale mondiale du livre » pour l'année 2017 par un comité international d'experts, le 30 juin dernier, au Siège de l'UNESCO, reste gravé désormais dans les annales de notre histoire. Cet événement promet, d'ores et déjà, d'être un véritable laboratoire d'idées et un espace d'échange sur les grandes questions intellectuelles des décennies à venir. Tout en vous remerciant, Madame la Directrice générale, de ce choix porté sur notre pays et de cette marque de confiance, nous sollicitons l'expertise multidisciplinaire de l'UNESCO pour soutenir les efforts de construction d'une société moderne du savoir dans notre pays. Nous sommes, en effet, convaincus que c'est aussi à travers un savant dosage entre l'éducation, la science et la culture que l'Afrique pourra se doter des ressources humaines dont elle a besoin pour accélérer sa croissance et son développement économique. À ce titre, il serait souhaitable de renforcer l'apport de l'UNESCO au titre de la valorisation des secteurs de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique, de l'enseignement pré-universitaire, de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle et de la création de centres d'excellence.

22.8 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, avant de terminer, je formule le vœu ardent que l'action de l'UNESCO, notamment en Afrique, s'amplifie et se consolide à travers des programmes et projets novateurs porteurs d'espoir et d'espérance pour faire reculer les frontières de l'analphabétisme, de l'ignorance, de l'incompétence scientifique et technique, de l'incompréhension et de l'intolérance, en vue de promouvoir le développement et de consolider la paix. Je souhaite plein succès aux travaux de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Vive l'UNESCO ! Vive la coopération et la solidarité entre les peuples ! Je vous remercie.

23. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Janvière Ndirahisha, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research of Burundi. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

24.1 **Mme Ndirahisha (Burundi) :**

Monsieur le Président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, auguste assemblée, tout protocole observé, nous voudrions d'abord rendre grâce à Dieu Tout Puissant qui nous a guidés tout au long de notre voyage et qui continue d'être à nos côtés durant notre séjour à Paris. Permettez-moi de vous présenter, au nom du Gouvernement du Burundi, au nom de ma délégation et en mon nom propre, les salutations du peuple burundais et de S. E. M. Pierre Nkurunziza, Président de la République du Burundi.

24.2 Monsieur le Président, en ce moment inoubliable, c'est pour nous un grand honneur et un réel plaisir de nous acquitter d'un agréable devoir, celui de vous présenter nos vives et sincères félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Nous ne doutons pas que vous vous acquitterez avec succès des lourdes mais nobles tâches qui vous ont été confiées et nous vous assurons du ferme soutien de la République du Burundi.

24.3 Nous saisissons également cette opportunité pour adresser nos félicitations à l'UNESCO pour son 70^e anniversaire et, en particulier, à Mme Irina Bokova pour la sagesse et la diligence avec lesquelles elle conduit les destinées de notre prestigieuse organisation.

24.4 Monsieur le Président, le Burundi est en train de se relever, difficilement mais courageusement, d'une dure crise politico-sociale de plus d'une décennie, et très dernièrement de violences pré- et post-électorales. Les avancées significatives qu'il est en train d'enregistrer sont dues à la ferme volonté de la population burundaise de se réconcilier et d'œuvrer main dans la main au développement socioéconomique du pays, ainsi qu'aux soutiens multiformes des pays amis et des organisations internationales, dont l'UNESCO. En effet, l'UNESCO a toujours été aux côtés du peuple

burundais au plus fort de la crise en créant, en 1994, la Maison de l'UNESCO pour la culture de la paix au Burundi, qui garde sa dénomination et sa raison d'être encore aujourd'hui. Ceci montre à suffisance que l'UNESCO reste résolument déterminée à accompagner le Burundi dans le processus de consolidation de la paix et l'édification d'une société inclusive, pacifique et résiliente dans un esprit de tolérance mutuelle.

24.5 Le soutien de l'UNESCO à l'État du Burundi s'est aussi manifesté à travers le Programme de participation : les sept projets approuvés pour l'exercice biennal 2014-2015 ont tous été exécutés et leurs rapports viennent d'être déposés. L'on ne saurait passer sous silence le Programme de renforcement des capacités en faveur de l'EPT (CapEPT), qui est fonctionnel depuis 2011 et qui aide le Burundi à améliorer la qualité de la formation et de la gestion des enseignants, alors que le Gouvernement du Burundi a entrepris de réformer son système éducatif avec l'école fondamentale de 9 ans, la formation post-fondamentale et le système Baccalauréat-Mastère-Doctorat au niveau de l'enseignement supérieur.

24.6 Monsieur le Président, le Burundi est une des victimes des effets dévastateurs des changements climatiques. Le 9 février 2014, des pluies diluviennes se sont abattues sur les quartiers Nord de la capitale du Burundi, faisant plusieurs morts et laissant des familles entières dans la désolation. Nous remercions vivement l'UNESCO qui nous a été très proche, notamment en fournissant une aide d'urgence aux écoles victimes de cette catastrophe. D'autres actions de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO à l'endroit du peuple burundais se sont aussi manifestées ces deux dernières années, entre autres, l'octroi de bourses coparrainées et la facilitation de la coopération des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, tant aux niveaux sous-régional et régional qu'international.

24.7 Monsieur le Président, le Burundi se réjouit de l'inscription de l'Afrique et de l'Égalité des genres parmi les priorités de l'Organisation et réaffirme sa ferme volonté de rester fidèle à l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO et à promouvoir ses idéaux de paix et de développement équitable et durable à travers les six programmes phares, profondément intersectoriels, élaborés lors de la consultation d'Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) en juin 2012.

24.8 Avec l'appui de l'UNESCO, du Fonds commun de l'éducation et du Conseil interuniversitaire de l'Afrique de l'Est, le Gouvernement du Burundi a organisé, en décembre 2014, une grande réflexion dans le cadre des États généraux de l'éducation qui ont connu une grande mobilisation des acteurs et partenaires du secteur Éducation. Cette réflexion nous a aidés à faire une évaluation à mi-parcours de notre plan de développement du secteur de l'éducation et de la formation et à produire une série de recommandations – 29 au total – avec une feuille de route pour leur mise en œuvre. Les défis à relever, que ce soit au niveau de l'accès et de la qualité ou du pilotage du secteur Education, nécessiteront l'engagement de tous. Nous appelons donc l'auguste assemblée ici réunie à nous prêter main forte.

24.9 Au vu des défis actuels, qui interpellent notre conscience, l'UNESCO a besoin, aujourd'hui plus qu'hier, que les États membres s'engagent en faveur de la mise en œuvre des projets innovants qu'elle ne cesse de présenter. Ainsi puis-je lancer un appel aux États membres et aux âmes généreuses pour qu'ils contribuent efficacement à la réalisation des objectifs que l'Organisation s'est fixés pour le bien-être de toute l'humanité et la création d'un monde meilleur pour les générations futures.

24.10 Monsieur le Président, auguste assemblée, je ne saurais terminer mon propos sans réitérer mes vifs et sincères remerciements à la Directrice générale et souhaiter plein succès à la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Ali Mariama Elhadj Ibrahim, Minister for Primary Education, Literacy, Promotion of National Languages and Civic Education of Niger. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

26.1 **Mme Elhadj Ibrahim (Niger):**

Merci. Monsieur le Président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, c'est pour moi un réel plaisir de prendre la parole à l'occasion de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO qui coïncide cette année avec le 70^e anniversaire de la création de cette Organisation, pour féliciter l'UNESCO et tous les pays membres et pour vous féliciter également, Monsieur le Président, à l'occasion de votre élection en qualité de président de cette session.

26.2 Permettez-moi aussi de réitérer, de vive voix, à la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mme Irina Bokova, tous les hommages mérités du Président de la République du Niger, Chef de l'État, S. E. M. Issoufou Mahamadou, pour le dynamisme insufflé à cette Organisation qu'elle dirige avec efficacité, en dépit des difficultés d'ordre financier qu'elle rencontre.

26.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, le Niger, faut-il le rappeler, est membre de l'UNESCO depuis 1960 et, à ce titre, a toujours accompagné l'Organisation dans son combat pour la construction de la paix dans le monde par l'éducation, la science, la culture et la communication, et dans sa lutte pour le rapprochement des peuples et des civilisations dans un monde en proie aux crises sociales et aux conflits armés dont l'ampleur grandissante menace chaque jour la stabilité et le développement durable des communautés.

26.4 Aussi le Niger approuve-t-il entièrement l'option choisie par l'UNESCO de faire du patrimoine le véritable levier de la paix dans le monde. Cela est possible à travers le dialogue interculturel et toutes les autres formes d'expressions à même de contribuer à l'équilibre social et à la consolidation de la paix. Au Niger, nous avons la ferme conviction que la culture constitue le véritable levier de l'unité nationale. C'est pourquoi nous avons institutionnalisé un cadre d'expression

culturelle connu sous l'appellation de « cousinage ou parenté à plaisanterie » et nous nous réjouissons de son inscription en 2015 sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel.

26.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la formation, le Niger s'inscrit pleinement dans les orientations de l'objectif 4 des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et se félicite de l'adoption hier, à l'unanimité, du Cadre d'action Education 2030. Il me plaît de rappeler que le Niger a défendu, à Kigali et à Incheon, deux orientations pouvant contribuer au développement du système éducatif. La première concerne le programme d'éradication de l'analphabétisme à l'horizon 2024, et la seconde l'importance des programmes d'alimentation scolaires comme facteurs déterminants de l'accès et du maintien des élèves à l'école et comme vecteurs de développement et de lutte contre la pauvreté à travers les achats d'aliments locaux auprès des petits producteurs.

26.6 Au niveau de l'enseignement secondaire, le Niger salue l'UNESCO et ses partenaires pour leur appui à la mise en œuvre du projet d'électrification des écoles rurales, dont le but est de promouvoir l'utilisation d'énergies locales renouvelables comme l'énergie solaire.

26.7 S'agissant de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, nous saluons les efforts que l'UNESCO déploie dans le cadre du Projet d'appui au développement des technologies de l'information et de la communication (PADTICE) pour la mise en œuvre de la réforme LMD (Licence-Mastère-Doctorat) dans l'espace de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA). Et dans le domaine de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle, le Niger a gagné son pari en portant la proportion des apprenants de 8 à 21 % en cinq ans.

26.8 Dans le domaine de l'hydraulique et de l'assainissement, la mise en œuvre du programme national d'alimentation en eau potable et d'assainissement 2011-2015 a permis de relever significativement le taux d'accès à l'eau potable aussi bien en milieu urbain qu'en milieu rural, et le Niger envisage de développer une planification stratégique et opérationnelle selon deux axes prioritaires correspondant à la Vision africaine de l'eau à l'horizon 2025.

26.9 Sur le plan de l'environnement et de la culture, le Niger dispose d'un important potentiel, avec trois sites déjà classés au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Il s'agit de la Réserve de biosphère de l'Air et du Ténéré, de la Réserve de biosphère transfrontalière du W, et du Centre historique de la ville d'Agadez.

26.10 En ce qui concerne les phénomènes de changement climatique, le Niger a ratifié la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC) ainsi que le Protocole de Kyoto.

26.11 Sur le plan de la communication, le Président de la République du Niger, S. E. M. Issoufou Mahamadou, est le premier homme d'État à avoir adopté la Déclaration de la Montagne de la Table (DTM), qui dépénalise les délits de presse et replace la liberté de la presse au cœur des discussions.

26.12 Mesdames et Messieurs, tous ces progrès ont été réalisés au Niger en dépit de la situation d'insécurité imposée par les actes terroristes perpétrés par Boko Haram, AQMI et le Mujao à nos frontières avec le Niger, le Nigéria, la Libye et le Mali. La gestion de ces crises grève nos ressources, risquant d'entraîner une baisse de nos indicateurs. C'est pourquoi nous lançons un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle soutienne le Niger dans ses combats contre les forces obscurantistes afin de contrecarrer leur velléité de remise en cause de cet important acquis commun qu'est le droit à l'éducation de nos enfants. Vive l'UNESCO ! Vive la coopération internationale. Je vous remercie.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, Minister of State of Federal Education and Professional Training of Pakistan. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

28.1 **Mr Baligh ur Rehman (Pakistan):**

Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate). Honourable Director-General, respected President of the General Conference, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and *as-salāmu 'alaikum* (Peace be upon you). It is indeed a privilege and a great honour to contribute to the discussions at the 38th session of the General Conference. While UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary, Pakistan admires, acknowledges and strongly supports the continued efforts of UNESCO in the critically vital and important sectors of education, culture and science. UNESCO's role in shaping up and finalizing the educational agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda is truly commendable.

28.2 A dynamic and strong organization has to be ever-evolving and should continue reforming itself from within. Pakistan wants to see UNESCO grow stronger and more effective. After finalizing the education agenda and adopting the framework of action for SDGs in the 2030 Agenda, now UNESCO has to prove its relevance and effectiveness through demonstrating results in its strategic areas of intervention, not only by keeping oversight and mapping the progress towards achieving the relevant goals, but also has by being very effective in ensuring financing for development and official development assistance (ODA) targets, without which all of us know that it will remain a shattered dream.

28.3 The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 are human-centred targets. They talk of every child, every human being and our planet Earth without any discrimination. Pakistan stands fully committed to these goals, so much so that we have declared and adopted them as our national development goals for 2030. We have established cells for SDGs which are fully functional now at foreign offices, the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, while remaining relevant ministries are in the process of doing the same. Our national strategy and plans are being aligned with these ambitious goals. The current federal and provincial governments of Pakistan inherited huge problems in education with millions of out-of-school children, high drop-out rates, gender disparity and low literacy rates. Within the first year of the new government, that is in 2013-14, we saw that all the provincial governments were spending one quarter of their entire budget on education. The results were impressive. Within one year, the number of out-of-school

children dropped by 10%. Net enrolment went up by 7%. The literacy rate went up by 3.5%. It is very promising, and speaks volumes about our commitment, resolve and seriousness.

28.4 Ladies and gentlemen, the Director-General in her opening address made an appeal for advancing the education of every child, especially girls. Girls' education is very close to our hearts. Pakistan has seen those terrible times when schools, especially girls' schools, were being blown up by terrorists. All of us know the story of Malala Yousufzai, the courageous daughter of Pakistan who stood up for education. Malala Yousufzai, a Nobel laureate now, is a towering figure and is recognized throughout the globe as an icon for education, especially for girls' education. Pakistan by donating \$10 million has helped create a UNESCO-Malala Fund to be utilized globally for the cause of girls' education. I urge that all nations should contribute to this UNESCO-Malala Fund, no matter how big or small your contribution is. All of us must be supportive of this noble cause.

28.5 Here I must also share with you that besides education, ending extremism has been one of the top four priorities of the Government. After impressive ongoing military operations, legislation and other measures, the extremist elements have either been taken out or are on the run. The incidence of terrorism and bomb blasts has been reduced significantly. The areas where schools were being blown up or evacuated is now witnessing new schools being built. Extremists and terrorists have lost and the Malala mind-set has won. But it is just the beginning.

28.6 Yesterday, I witnessed the impressive ceremony for the awarding of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science. I congratulate UNESCO for duly recognizing and highlighting the importance of ethics in science which is much needed today. I would also like to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for co-sponsoring the Prize. Here, I would like to congratulate the winner of the Prize, Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, who is an accomplished Pakistani scientist, for making us all proud of him and his achievements which are now being recognized globally. Here, I would also like to draw the attention of the House towards weak conventions and legislation regarding stolen cultural artefacts. Pakistan had to run from pillar to post, but we still could not get back our illegally excavated fasting Buddha and other numerous artefacts which are still being illegally held in the United States. We must further strengthen our conventions in this regard.

28.7 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in the end let me emphasize that the very purpose of this august gathering is to streamline international cooperation, bring about solidarity, promote tolerance and understanding and respect other's point of view to share good practices and synergize. These goals of human development cannot be achieved if even a single nation or country or human being is left behind. No one should be allowed to remain behind for the lack of resources or bad governance or anything else. Let us stand united for the common goal of a better future, a better world. Thank you all.

29. **The President:**

Our next speaker on the list is Her Excellency, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation of Namibia.

30.1 **Ms Kandjii-Murangi (Namibia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Ministers, heads of delegations, Excellencies, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate the President of the 38th session of the General Conference on his election to preside over this session. It is an honour for me personally to address the plenary under your Presidency.

30.2. As a country, we are humbled to be accorded the opportunity to preside over the supreme governing body of UNESCO. This session is taking place after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which among other issues, recognizes sustainable human development and poverty eradication as critical. Namibia is committed to eliminating poverty and to promoting peace, tolerance and harmonious coexistence. The 38th session of the General Conference is also taking place against the backdrop of the World Education Forum, which agreed on a common global education agenda. Namibia embraces the Education 2030 agenda aimed at empowering the youth with skills, and promoting equity, access and inclusivity.

30.3 Namibia acknowledges the importance of strategic university collaboration networks that facilitate expertise, knowledge and research sharing. Hence, our desire to see the replication of the "Connect Asia" project in Africa. It is platforms such as these that facilitate internationalization of higher education. Now is the opportune time for UNESCO to re-align its efforts to contribute strategically to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Namibia supports a coordinated approach to the ongoing reforms, and is convinced that this will yield positive results for both UNESCO and the Member States. My delegation is, however, concerned with the results of the outcome of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluation of the field network reform in Africa. We therefore urge the Director-General to take all the necessary steps to ensure the successful completion of the field network reform.

30.4 Culture plays a pivotal role in promoting diversity and social cohesion. Within the culture sector, Namibia supports the protection and promotion of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It is in this context that Namibia will host the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Namibia would like to express gratitude to UNESCO for accepting our offer to host this session. On behalf of our government and the people of Namibia, I warmly welcome you all to the tenth session to be held in our country.

30.5 We value the natural science programmes as the key enablers of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Namibia supports programmes aimed at improving the interactions and relationships between people and their environment. In the same vein, we also acknowledge the need to safeguard our diversity and environmental sustainability, and look forward to the outcomes of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We value the work of UNESCO's expert bodies, such as the International Bioethics Committee, which is vital in informing the interface issues between science and society.

30.6 Namibia promotes freedom of expression as a fundamental human right as proclaimed by the Windhoek Declaration. We therefore appreciate the continued focus of UNESCO on the training of media practitioners and support to community media, including radios, to facilitate and accelerate knowledge and information sharing. Finally, Namibia is fully committed to the ideals of UNESCO and we look forward to our concerted efforts as Member States to deliver on UNESCO's strategic goals. I thank you all for your kind attention.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education of Sri Lanka. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

32.1 **Mr Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. At the outset, I wish to extend the warmest congratulations of my country to His Excellency Stanley Mutumba Simataa, the newly elected President of the 38th session of the General Conference. Sri Lanka would like to express to you our fullest cooperation. I would also like to place on record our sincere appreciation to the outgoing President of the General Conference, His Excellency Mr Hao Ping, for his commendable leadership. I take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to His Excellency Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the Executive Board and his team, for their excellent efforts during the past two years for the upliftment of the work of UNESCO. Under the excellent stewardship of Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO has managed to increase its visibility and contributed to the betterment and sustainability of our planet. At this moment, I wish to express our appreciation to Madam Director-General.

32.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, a new era of democracy and good governance has dawned in Sri Lanka. Today, we are rebuilding our country which suffered the consequences of 30 years of conflict, as a single nation of multiple ethnicities. His Excellency the President, the Honourable Prime Minister and the Government of Sri Lanka have given absolute priority to sensitive issues such as equitable quality education for all, sustainable development, social cohesion and sustainable peace, and right to information.

32.3 Sri Lanka has provided universal free education at primary, secondary and university levels for the past six decades. These sustained efforts in education, health and other social infrastructure sectors have managed to bring about outstanding social development in Sri Lanka, securing the rank of 73 in the Human Development Report (HDR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ahead of other countries in the south Asian region. With the aim of making Sri Lanka a knowledge hub in the region, the Government has decided to increase the investment in education to 6% of its gross domestic product (GDP) in a phased manner within the next three years.

32.4 Distinguished delegates, Sri Lanka will also reiterate the importance of education in promoting human rights, human development, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and aspiration of cultural diversity. The Government is taking steps to set up a strong legal framework through new education reforms in assuring reduction of the barriers to education and improvement of the quality of education at all levels. Initiatives such as the early childhood care and education (ECCE) policy, the programme for the development of 1,000 secondary schools, the "nearest is the best" school programme and the "sanitation first programme" are targeted to improve access to quality primary and secondary education. Development of teacher education and school leadership, improvement of science, and information and communication technology (ICT) are also identified as priority areas. We fully endorse the vision, principles and targets laid down in the overarching goal to "ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030".

32.5 Ladies and gentlemen, we are fully aware of the global challenges of climate change and its consequences. Being an island nation, the impacts are felt severely by us compared to most other countries. The current leadership in Sri Lanka has placed the highest significance on environmental conservation and sustainable development. Special emphasis has been given to preventing the degradation of forest and coastal areas, central highlands and other sensitive ecosystems such as urban wetlands and water bodies.

32.6 Your Excellencies, Sri Lanka commends the UNESCO initiatives in protecting cultural heritage during conflict. It is our responsibility to protect and promote tangible and intangible heritage of our countries for the generations to come. We are in the process of strengthening and building capacities of the institutional setup for that purpose. The subject of history has been made compulsory at the secondary-school level in my country to create awareness and appreciation of these valuable assets among younger generations.

32.7 Distinguished delegates, the Government of Sri Lanka is implementing social protection and social safety-net programmes to ensure social empowerment and welfare. Our special focus is on under-privileged and vulnerable groups. These programmes are not confined to monetary assistance but also include improved accessibility, and capacity building through vocational training to provide equal opportunities to them. It is my great pleasure to report that the Government of Sri Lanka is in the process of enacting a bill to ensure access to information. The introduction of media ethics and ensuring the rights and protection of journalists are new initiatives of the Government.

32.8 Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion I would like to reiterate the importance of collective efforts to save this planet from all the current challenges it faces. Sri Lanka pledges its fullest cooperation to the efforts of UNESCO to realize the noble objective of building peace in the minds of men and women. I wish every success to the endeavours of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference. May the Noble Triple Gem bless you all.

33. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Dr Lazarus Dokoro, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education of Zimbabwe. Your Excellency you have the floor.

34.1 **Mr Dokoro (Zimbabwe):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies and delegates. Mr President, my delegation congratulates you on your election and recognizes the sterling work done by your predecessor, Professor Hao Ping. Your election is historic and is significant in that you are the first president from the southern Africa subregion, and this is a cause for celebration. Mr President and Madam Director-General, you can count on my Government's full support as you execute your onerous responsibilities. The 37th session of the General Conference highlighted the fact that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were an unfinished business. A call was made to complete that business and to transcend those challenges. Thanks to the collective efforts of Member States and the Secretariat under the able leadership of the Director-General there have been significant achievements. These are reflected in the United Nations document "Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", adopted by heads of State and government at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in September 2015.

34.2 Madam Director-General, through your efforts Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 has already been transformed into a framework of action which was adopted yesterday by the Education 2030 High-Level Meeting. Zimbabwe would like to acknowledge the efforts by the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Southern Africa in coordinating the development of the regional and national frameworks of action for Education 2030.

34.3 Mr President, Member States of UNESCO should effectively mobilize resources for the successful implementation of the national and regional frameworks. Zimbabwe has made significant progress from 2000-2015 in promoting education for all. Madam Director-General, at the commencement of the current biennium, Zimbabwe had a mere 90,000 learners at the early childhood development (ECD) level. ECD has been expanded to 451,000 currently and mainstreamed in all primary schools as part of the infant school merger which now stands at 1.2 million. Of the required teacher target of 11,000 by 2017, 3,960 teachers have so far been delivered at the infant school level. Access to primary education throughout the country has been achieved through the establishment of over 1,400 satellite schools in new resettlements and remote rural villages. From infants to high school, the total enrolment is 4.1 million learners. The gender parity index stands at 0.98, and the steady improvement in completion rates at primary and secondary levels stand at 77% and 65% respectively. Zimbabwe recently completed the development of a science- and skills-oriented curriculum for basic education which emphasizes technical and vocational education and training (TVET), information and communication technologies (ICTs) and science, technology, engineering, mathematics and arts – issues which will receive added focus in the period 2016 to 2030. Zimbabwe's literacy rate stands at 92.4% and is currently the highest in Africa and the greater part of the developing world.

34.4 At the tertiary level, females outnumber males at teacher-training colleges, constituting 74% of the enrolment. However, in the polytechnics and universities, female enrolment stands at 40%. Mr President, we have put in place strategies to increase the participation of women in this regard. On average we only have 28.5% women teachers for science and mathematics in the current establishment. Our focus in the next 15 years is to improve quality learning outcomes through teacher capacity development, the provision of housing for teachers, and the use of ICTs and other emerging technologies. To this end, the Government of Zimbabwe greatly appreciates the inclusion of Zimbabwe in the UNESCO Korean Funds-in-Trust for rolling out ICTs in education. The SDGs have embraced science technology and innovation, which resonates well with Zimbabwe's national aspirations to build capacities in science and engineering as contained in its own blueprint "Zimbabwe's agenda for socio-economic transformation"

34.5 Zimbabwe was honoured to host the second edition of the UNESCO-Africa engineering week on the theme "engineering innovation for accelerated infrastructure development for Africa". In line with the aspirations of Africa stated in the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, Zimbabwe seeks to eradicate poverty through promoting well educated and skilled citizens. Both our national constitution and the economic blueprint set the tone for social transformation and the promotion of an inclusive society based on fundamental human rights.

34.6 Mr President, support is needed in the area of scientific research which can contribute to the development of modern infrastructure and modern agriculture for increased production. Since communication transcends all areas of UNESCO's areas of competence, there is need for collaboration with education, science and culture. Mr President, as host of the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Southern Africa, my government will spare no effort to support the Office so it can deliver on its mandate. Mr President, I take this opportunity to promise you that you will not walk alone in the journey you have started. Thank you.

35. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Monica Babuc, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Moldova. Your Excellency you have the floor.

36.1 **Mme Babuc (République de Moldova) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de joindre ma voix à celle de toutes les délégations qui m'ont précédée pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, de votre élection et de la manière avec laquelle vous dirigez cette session. Je souhaiterais également rendre hommage à votre prédécesseur, M. Hao Ping, pour l'excellente manière dont il s'est acquitté de son mandat, mais aussi au Président du Conseil exécutif et à l'ensemble des membres de cet organe, qui méritent tous nos félicitations.

36.2 C'est avec joie que je constate que l'UNESCO, à son 70^e anniversaire, est une des institutions les plus viables du système des Nations Unies, et je suis sûre que l'éducation, la science et la culture continueront à être les principaux catalyseurs pour la paix dans le monde et pour les contacts interhumains. Au cours de ces dernières années, la République de Moldova s'est focalisée, en grande partie, sur les processus liés à l'intégration européenne et sur la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel. En 2014, nous avons adopté une stratégie nationale de développement de la culture, qui définit les voies de développement jusqu'en 2020 et se propose de faire de la culture une priorité nationale à travers la sauvegarde et la mise en valeur du patrimoine culturel et le développement de l'industrie créative. Cette année, une de nos grandes réussites a été l'adhésion de notre pays au programme européen « Europe créative ».

36.3 La coopération de la République de Moldova avec l'UNESCO connaît aussi un développement sans précédent. Avec nos collègues roumains, nous avons fait inscrire un premier élément du patrimoine moldave sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel, le 5 décembre 2013. Il s'agit d'un rituel de Noël, le colindat de groupe d'hommes, répandu en République de Moldova et en Roumanie. Ces deux dernières années, nous avons travaillé intensément sur trois autres dossiers multinationaux, avec la Roumanie, la Bulgarie, la Serbie, la Turquie, l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine et la Croatie.

36.4 Le dossier des « Pratiques culturelles associées au 1^{er} mars » est un dossier multinational incluant certains pays des Balkans qui partagent la même fête au début du printemps et qui souhaitent faire inscrire le « mărtișor » sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel lors de la 10^e réunion du Comité intergouvernemental de la Convention de 2003, qui aura lieu du 30 novembre au 4 décembre 2015 en Namibie.

36.5 En 2014, la République de Moldova a soumis à l'attention de l'UNESCO le dossier sur le paysage archéologique d'Orheiul Vechi, finalisé cette année. Orheiul Vechi est un lieu unique, sans doute le plus représentatif de Moldova, qui associe la beauté de canyons sauvages à l'histoire millénaire des civilisations européennes et asiatiques.

36.6 En ce qui concerne les indicateurs UNESCO de la culture pour le développement, je voudrais évoquer notre collaboration avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Venise en 2015. La République de Moldova fait partie des premiers pays européens à avoir accepté de calculer ces indicateurs, qui permettront de montrer l'apport polyvalent de la culture au développement durable du pays, en commençant par la croissance économique et en terminant par des questions liées à l'égalité entre les sexes et au degré de confiance interpersonnelle. Mis au point dans le cadre de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, ce projet représente pour mon pays une excellente feuille de route pour les années à venir.

36.7 Mesdames, Messieurs, l'éducation est une priorité nationale en République de Moldova. Elle constitue un facteur fondamental dans le processus de transmission et de création de nouvelles valeurs culturelles et humaines, de reproduction et de développement du capital humain, et de formation de la conscience et de l'identité nationales. L'Accord d'association de la République de Moldova avec l'Union européenne signé l'année dernière comporte des volets sur l'éducation, la culture et la science. Les réformes structurelles prévues par le nouveau Code de l'éducation et par la Stratégie sectorielle de développement de l'éducation pour la période 2014-2020 contribueront à l'amélioration du système éducatif moldave et faciliteront les échanges universitaires, sachant que la République de Moldova est déjà activement impliquée dans le programme de l'Union européenne Erasmus+.

36.8 Ces dernières années, la communauté scientifique moldave a également fait partie des bénéficiaires du processus d'intégration européenne du pays. L'Union européenne ayant lancé, en 2014, un nouveau programme-cadre pour la recherche et l'innovation « Horizon 2020 », le Gouvernement moldave, à l'initiative de l'Académie des sciences de Moldavie, a favorisé la création des conditions nécessaires à la poursuite de l'intégration dans l'Espace européen de la recherche.

36.9 Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de saluer les réformes de l'UNESCO, qui viennent anticiper les importantes évolutions du monde contemporain et redéfinissent le rôle de la culture, de l'éducation et de la science. La République de Moldova souscrit à ces tendances auxquelles elle essaye de se rallier depuis quelques années. J'ai la ferme conviction que le rôle grandissant de l'UNESCO dans le progrès de l'humanité permettra, à travers la culture, d'apporter la paix et le bien-être dans le monde entier. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Magele Mauiliu Magele, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture of Samoa. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

38.1 **Mr Magele (Samoa):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am truly honoured to present once again at this significant conference. I wish to extend to UNESCO our heartfelt appreciation for its continuing assistance in multiple ways to ensure the world that we live in is a better place. Your mission to contribute to the building of peace, poverty eradication, lasting development and intercultural dialogue with education as one of the key pillars to achieve this aim needs reiterating. This is why Samoa is committed to UNESCO and I wish to give assurance that we will continue to be proactive in our efforts to contribute to the achievement of our collective vision and fundamental duty for a better world. In my address at the previous session of the General Conference, I highlighted some of our achievements and this included joining the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

38.2 This morning, I am pleased to inform you also that Samoa has signed the instrument of accession to the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Samoa is keen to continue its active involvement in all areas including culture, sport, education, communication, climate change and information technology, to name but a few. On another positive note, I wish to especially thank the Director-General of

UNESCO and all the United Nations family for your invaluable presence and contribution at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) hosted by Samoa in September last year. This conference was an opportunity to launch a significant partnership that will provide in particular our share of the agenda for sustainable development, not just within but beyond the Pacific arena. The adoption of the new set of Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations family of nations calls for united efforts across the world. Samoa is committed to education for sustainable development, not only for the Pacific, but more importantly, the world.

38.3 As highlighted by our Prime Minister at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York this year, there is a dire need for all countries to take concerted action to combat climate change and its impact. This is also a priority goal enshrined in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa) Pathway, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

38.4 Mr President, the small island States of the Pacific region are experiencing the impacts of climate change more than other countries and the risks exposed are a threatening reality we live with on a daily basis. The adverse effects of climate change are real, and as leaders of our global community, the time to act is now. The debates held around the world have been numerous and attest to the urgency of the issues that threaten our existence. I wish to reiterate the point I made earlier, that education is the key, the answer to all the dilemmas we face. This was the key message we all took away from the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in 2014 and the World Education Forum held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in May 2015. Our commitment to climate change, poverty reduction, protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage can only be consolidated and made effective through education. We need to pay more attention to the importance of investing in our youth, natural and social sciences and culture as well. Young people are not just the future – they are the key drivers of change and can make a huge difference if their role is to be taken to another level. I salute UNESCO's initiatives for youth around the world and appeal for more opportunities for young people. They can bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm and vitality which can lead to more innovative development to benefit society and the world at large.

38.5 It is important to bring in more and more of the natural and social sciences as they are also important to our understanding of the world and the use and development of techniques that are essential to life. Culture is our foundation, a means to preserve and nurture cultural heritage and traditions across the globe and must continue to be a big part of our deliberations.

38.6 The Pacific region countries acknowledge the dedicated efforts made by the UNESCO Secretariat, and in particular the UNESCO Office in Apia, to assist our efforts in various initiatives, including the following: literacy and numeracy; teacher quality; school leadership; developing professional standards for teachers; early childhood education; anti-doping in sports; integrating sustainable development, including climate change, HIV and AIDS, and disaster risk management into education. Mr President, the challenges we face across the world are growing by the minute and we can only combat these through united efforts and using education as our tool to bring about positive change, empowering the younger generation and ensuring a better world for them.

38.7 Finally, I wish to close by saying that Samoa is a candidate for election to Executive Board because of the genuine and strong commitment of the people of Samoa and the Pacific to peace and international understanding as well as the Government's commitment to education, science, culture and communication in Samoa, the Pacific and the world. May God bless you all. *Fa'a-soifua ia.*

39. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Khin San Yee, Minister of Education of Myanmar. Your Excellency you have the floor.

40.1 **Ms Yee (Myanmar):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, it is a great honour for me to participate in the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. On behalf of the delegation of Myanmar, I would like to congratulate you Mr President on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. With your capable leadership and guidance, we firmly believe that the General Conference will yield many fruitful insights and reach a successful conclusion.

40.2 Mr President, since March 2011 Myanmar has initiated many reforms based on promoting democratic governance, people-centred development and established a stable basis for peace and continued progress. These reforms have offered the people of Myanmar better, safer and more productive lives and represent an opportunity for the country to resume its place as one of the dynamic economies in Asia. As a result, the estimated growth rate of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has seen a sharp increase to almost 8% per year, coupled with active social-sector development reform projects to address poverty reduction and social welfare for improved livelihoods.

40.3 Mr President, UNESCO, along with other development partners, has actively supported Myanmar's reforms in this historic transition. Over the past three years the education sector has embarked on a promising reform agenda marked by significant increases in education spending, and the first comprehensive education sector review in over 20 years, including the development of a costed national education sector plan.

40.4 In line with the global post-2015 education agenda, the Ministry of Education remains committed to improving access for all to quality learning opportunities. In partnership with UNESCO, we are implementing projects on supporting and developing national education plans, improving quality of teacher training, skills development for youth, information and communication technology (ICT) for education, non-formal education, higher education reform and several other initiatives.

40.5 Along with education, we have achieved substantial gains in culture preservation and environmental conservation, which is at the heart of the sustainable development policy of Myanmar. Last year, Pyu Ancient Cities was inscribed as Myanmar's first site on the World Heritage List, and seven natural heritage sites were also added for the first time to the 14 other sites from Myanmar on the World Heritage Tentative List. Myanmar has initiated the nomination process for the Bagan Archeological Area and Monuments and the Northern Mountain Forest Complex. This year, Myanmar also inscribed Inlay Lake as the first biosphere reserve in Myanmar under UNESCO's Programme on Man and the Biosphere.

40.6 UNESCO and the Ministry of Information and media stakeholders are working closely on promoting freedom of expression and strengthening the media development sector. For the past four years, Myanmar has been commemorating World Press Freedom Day with support from UNESCO, and has been conducting a series of national dialogues for the promotion of a free, fair, transparent and vibrant media. UNESCO is supporting Myanmar in media legislation, safety of journalists, capacity building for journalists, and increasing access to information for marginalized people for better livelihoods.

40.7 Mr President, in a short time span, Myanmar has made great leaps across all sectors, but there are many challenges which Myanmar is actively addressing. For delivery of quality education, more resources will be allocated, and sound national strategic plans will be implemented, with a focus on human resources development through an inclusive approach. As we are going through rapid economic growth and infrastructure projects, cultural preservation and environmental conservation is being given top priority, with the full participation of local communities and stakeholders as key players in this process.

40.8 To conclude, allow me to take this opportunity to thank UNESCO, especially the UNESCO Office in Yangon for its proactive and consistent support to our reform process in all spheres of UNESCO's broad mandate. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with UNESCO to jointly address challenges for the betterment of the lives of the people of Myanmar. I thank you all for your attention.

41. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Eléonore Ladékan, Minister of Pre-school and Primary Education of Benin.

42.1 **Mme Ladékan (Bénin) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser par ma voix et celle de mon collègue en charge de la culture, ici présent, les salutations et les félicitations du peuple béninois et de son chef, le Docteur Thomas Boni Yayi, pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour vous féliciter, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO et toute votre équipe, pour votre dynamisme à la tête de cette prestigieuse institution.

42.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, au sortir de la seconde guerre mondiale, il parut nécessaire à la communauté internationale de créer, avec le Traité de Londres, l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO). La pertinence que revêt notre Organisation aujourd'hui plus qu'hier nous est brutalement rappelée par les grands défis contemporains. En effet, après les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, les chantiers les plus importants auxquels l'UNESCO doit apporter sa précieuse contribution restent prioritairement l'éducation, la culture, les sciences, les mathématiques et les technologies de l'ingénieur, la jeunesse et l'éducation, l'équité des genres.

42.3 Mon pays, le Bénin, se réjouit du rôle prépondérant que l'UNESCO a joué et continue de jouer pour affirmer son leadership aux côtés des autres organisations du système des Nations Unies. Ce leadership, qui s'est traduit par la prise en compte de la dimension culturelle du développement dans l'élaboration des Objectifs de développement durable et par la parfaite organisation et coordination du Forum mondial sur l'éducation – tenu à Incheon, en Corée, du 19 au 22 mai 2015 –, donne des raisons d'espérer que l'UNESCO continuera d'être l'un des bras opérationnels des Nations Unies dans la mise en œuvre des ODD. Je reste persuadée que le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, adopté hier au cours de cette session, constituera la boussole des actions futures qui seront menées en faveur de l'éducation dans nos pays.

42.4 Le Bénin exprime toute son appréciation à l'UNESCO pour ses appuis multiformes en faveur de notre système éducatif, de la sauvegarde et de la promotion de notre patrimoine culturel, de la promotion de la culture de la paix à travers l'organisation du Symposium international sur le dialogue interreligieux et interculturel, tenu à Cotonou du 26 au 28 mai 2015. De même, il me plaît de souligner, ici, la vision prospective de notre Organisation qui a compris qu'en Afrique, le développement de l'éducation en milieu rural est tributaire de la disponibilité de l'énergie électrique et de l'accès aux technologies de l'information et de la communication. L'électrification et la mise à disposition de l'Internet au profit de 15 écoles rurales par pays, au Bénin, au Togo, au Niger, en Mauritanie et à Madagascar, sont à mes yeux la parfaite illustration de cette vision. Cet engagement de l'UNESCO est en totale harmonie avec la politique du Gouvernement du Bénin qui a fait de l'éducation l'un des piliers de la lutte contre la pauvreté, en décrétant la gratuité de l'éducation pour tous les apprenants de la maternelle et du primaire et pour les filles dans le premier cycle de l'enseignement secondaire.

42.5 Je voudrais aussi évoquer les deux priorités auxquelles mon pays est fortement attaché : la priorité Afrique et la priorité Égalité des genres, avec la mobilisation des jeunes. En ce qui concerne la priorité Afrique, j'ose espérer qu'une attention toute particulière lui sera accordée dans les prochains programmes afin que le continent africain cesse d'être une priorité à l'UNESCO. C'est pourquoi mon pays invite l'UNESCO à prendre les dispositions nécessaires, pour qu'en parfaite collaboration avec les communautés économiques régionales et l'Union africaine, l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique

et son utilisation pédagogique ainsi que les projets La Route des pêches et La Route de l'esclave bénéficient de crédits conséquents. Face à un monde en pleine mutation, où la jeunesse, avec les femmes, représente une force productive importante, il serait suicidaire de ne pas créer des espaces d'épanouissement pour cette catégorie de la population qui pourrait constituer à terme, si rien n'était fait, une véritable bombe pour la paix.

42.6 Le 70^e anniversaire de notre Organisation commune est une heureuse opportunité pour mon pays, le Bénin, de réaffirmer avec force son attachement aux idéaux de l'UNESCO, qu'il aurait fallu inventer si elle n'existait pas. Plein succès à nos travaux. Bon anniversaire. Je vous remercie.

M. Sita Nsadisi José (Angola) prend la présidence.

43. **Le Président :**

Merci, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est S. E. M. Rachid Benmokhtar, Ministre de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle du Maroc. Excellence, vous avez la parole.

44.1 **M. Benmokhtar (Maroc) :**

Monsieur le Président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de présenter mes vives félicitations à M. Stanley Mutumba Simataa pour son élection à la présidence de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale, ainsi que mes remerciements les plus sincères à S. E. Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, pour les efforts considérables qu'elle déploie inlassablement afin de donner, à travers l'UNESCO, un plus grand rayonnement aux principes et objectifs de développement, de progrès et de paix.

44.2 Honorable assistance, la mondialisation, avec ses crises et ses enjeux économiques, sécuritaires, environnementaux et sociétaux, nous appelle aujourd'hui à développer une solidarité agissante. La succession des crises, leur fréquence et l'ampleur de leur impact montrent clairement la nécessité de construire une nouvelle gouvernance mondiale basée sur l'écoute, le dialogue, l'inclusivité et la responsabilité commune. De même, il est d'autant plus déterminant d'apprécier la valeur ajoutée du pluralisme culturel que le capital immatériel de chaque pays constitue, de nos jours, la véritable richesse de notre siècle. Désormais, nous nous trouvons tous à un tournant historique, politique et économique qui nous invite à préserver, renforcer, voire même élargir des espaces de dialogue, de paix et de compréhension mutuelle. Jamais nous n'avons eu autant besoin de l'UNESCO. Et c'est en restant concentrés sur nos objectifs, à savoir l'éducation, le rapprochement entre les cultures, le partage des connaissances, que nous pourrions lutter contre le fanatisme et les idéologies extrémistes, que nous parviendrons à assumer nos responsabilités en tant qu'États membres de cette prestigieuse organisation.

44.3 Honorable assistance, le Maroc a érigé l'éducation et la formation en priorités nationales. Il poursuit inlassablement ses efforts de réforme et de modernisation du système éducatif. L'enjeu est de pouvoir mieux former les nouvelles générations, de répondre aux attentes de la jeunesse, d'accompagner le développement durable de notre pays et de contribuer au développement du reste du monde. C'est dans ce contexte que Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI a chargé le Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, de la formation et de la recherche scientifique d'élaborer une feuille de route ambitieuse pour la réforme de l'école marocaine. Cette feuille de route, qui est le fruit d'une approche participative et inclusive et qui a été présentée à Sa Majesté le 20 mai 2015, repose sur la consolidation « d'une école de l'équité, de l'égalité des chances, d'une école de qualité pour tous et pour la promotion individuelle et sociale ». Ainsi, par des actions concrètes et une vision intégrée, le Maroc renouvelle son engagement au sein de l'UNESCO pour « garantir une éducation de qualité et des possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour tous », objectif d'éducation universel de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable. Des mesures concrètes sont en train d'être mises en œuvre pour améliorer la qualité de l'éducation, qui incluent toutes l'approche genre.

44.4 Honorable assistance, le Maroc prône un développement durable intégré qui repose sur le caractère indissociable des dimensions économique, sociale, culturelle et environnementale. En mars 2015, le gouvernement a adopté une stratégie nationale de développement durable dont les objectifs et orientations devront, dès 2017, être intégrés dans toutes les politiques publiques globales, sectorielles et régionales. C'est dans cet esprit que le Maroc s'est orienté vers les énergies renouvelables, qui représenteront 42 % de l'énergie consommée par notre pays en 2030. Par ailleurs, le Centre régional de catégorie 2 pour les énergies renouvelables établi au Maroc travaille pour une coopération Sud-Sud renforcée, notamment avec les pays africains et ceux de la région. C'est également dans cet esprit que le Maroc est un accompagnateur résolu du processus de réduction du réchauffement climatique. Après la COP7 tenue à Marrakech en 2001, le Royaume compte réaffirmer son engagement stratégique en organisant en 2016, une fois encore à Marrakech, la COP22.

44.5 Honorable assistance, Jérusalem, cette ancienne cité, symbole de paix, a toujours constitué un lieu unique dans la mémoire de la coexistence entre les religions et de l'harmonie entre les groupes humains. Naturellement, nous ne pouvons imaginer un règlement du conflit sans le maintien de l'identité historique des aspects particuliers de cette ville, maintien auquel Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, Président du Comité Al-Qods, accorde une attention toute particulière. De même, nous sommes vivement préoccupés par ce que la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO a qualifié « d'épuration culturelle », qui touche particulièrement la région du Moyen-Orient. Nous appelons par ailleurs à une coordination plus importante dans la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels car il s'agit bien d'un pillage inadmissible.

44.6 Mesdames, Messieurs, je conclurai par une citation de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI : « Le Maroc croit intimement que l'affrontement n'existe qu'entre les ignorances. Quant aux civilisations, leur essence est l'interaction, pour le bien de l'humanité, dans le respect des particularités identitaires et culturelles ». Je vous remercie.

45. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est S. E. M. Anies Baswedan, Ministre de l'éducation et de la culture de l'Indonésie.

46.1 **Mr Baswedan** (Indonesia):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). First of all, allow me to congratulate Ms Irina Bokova and the Secretariat for their preparations for UNESCO's Draft Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5) and participation in the post-2015 development agenda, focusing on the overall positioning of UNESCO and its contributions to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indonesia welcomes the 17 SDGs and is committed to strong support of and collaboration with UNESCO and other international agencies in the implementation of these goals. I think our achievement in implementing these goals would be very much in line with the four fundamental principles of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4). I feel honoured that Indonesia is involved in the high-level International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity which was launched by the Norwegian Prime Minister and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Commission, of which the Director-General is a co-convenor together with the Prime Minister of Norway and the Presidents of Chile, Indonesia and Malawi, is expected to invigorate global education financing and identify more effective and better coordinated ways to deploy resources to ensure that all children are in school.

46.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me express Indonesia's concerns relating to all of UNESCO's major programmes. In the field of education, we are committed to the implementation of the Incheon Declaration and Education 2030 Framework for Action which has been adopted and which sets out a new vision for education for the next 15 years. However, Indonesia is a nation of 254 million people living in 6,000 islands. The spread of geographical areas is quite challenging, and therefore we will use advanced technology through information and communication technology (ICT) applications to ensure that we will be able to reach the unreached, and to ensure that every citizen of Indonesia will have access to education.

46.3 In order to improve the quality of education, we have resolved to empower education and cultural actors with three main strategies to be undertaken. First, is to empower actors in the education systems, namely, teachers, school leaders, and parents, and second, to improve the quality of and access to education and culture. The third, which is one of our key strategies, is to boost efficiency and effectiveness in bureaucratic reform as well as to engage and work closely with the public. In addition to this, we have established a new directorate which is focusing on primary education to ensure that we will be partnering with parents to make sure that education is not only in the hands of our schools but also engaging parents to be involved.

46.4 In the field of culture, Indonesia attaches high importance to cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. We have drawn up a new list of national heritage sites to be nominated as world heritage sites. After successfully organizing the World Culture Forum in 2013, we are looking forward to organizing the next World Culture Forum on the theme "Culture of Peace: Towards Global Harmony" which will be held from 3 to 7 September 2016 in Bali.

46.5 In the field of science, under the Programme on Man and the Biosphere, biosphere reserves in Indonesia have multiplied the total area of conservation coverage, reaching over 18 million hectares of biosphere reserves. The research carried out in Indonesia has been directed in the areas and problems related to environmental issues in the terrestrial and marine arena. Under the International Hydrological Programme, we support programme activities related to ongoing research projects in terrestrial ecosystem processes, water issues, landscapes, rivers, flat plains, and wetland reservoirs.

46.6 In the field of communication and information, Indonesia is committed to the issues of the free flow of information and free access to sources of knowledge, which is deeply rooted in our Constitution. With this commitment, Indonesia will celebrate World Press Freedom Day in 2017. In conclusion, we will continue to support UNESCO in its work to achieve world peace in collaboration with all UNESCO Member States. I thank you.

47. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est S. E. M. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-Ministre des affaires étrangères de l'Ukraine.

48.1 **Mr Kyslytsya** (Ukraine):

Thank you Mr President, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished heads of delegations. This session is very special, and this is not only due to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. It is first and foremost because the Organization marks this date while in a state of deep qualitative transformation. The second decade of the twenty-first century has turned out to be extremely rich in new challenges that UNESCO should quickly and adequately respond to. We are so closely and increasingly intertwined with political issues that this sometimes even stirs discussions on whether some burning and urgent issues fall under UNESCO's mandate or whether they are purely political.

48.2 For Ukraine, especially as a newly elected non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, UNESCO is one of the main cornerstones of the United Nations system. If this pillar turns out to be weak, the United Nations building will eventually shatter. We unequivocally support efforts being undertaken by the Director-General and the UNESCO Member States in the context of major reform under current circumstances. We are confident that in order to keep UNESCO up with this phase of history, this strong UNESCO leadership devoted to United Nations values and with outstanding integrity to be able to withstand external influence, this leadership which is able to be ready to face the complex challenges of the new millennium, is imperative and vital.

48.3 Ukraine stands up for the proposals in the relevant decisions of the Executive Board including the establishment of an ongoing government mechanism to be implemented in the intersessional meetings attended by observer States. The new objectives have underlined the special significance of education which is at the heart of the mandate of our Organization. We stand ready to continue our work in accordance with the outcomes of the World Education Forum.

48.4 Ukraine is ready to make a responsible contribution aimed at reinforcing strategy and action for countering violent extremism through education and in the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict. I would also stress the strong commitment of my country to the protection and preservation of the environment, resulting in harmonization of our legislation in order to consolidate and increase our presence in the world network of biospheres reserves and for an assertive policy in renewable energy.

48.5 Excellencies and colleagues, speaking about the noble goals and tasks of our Organization, I cannot avoid mentioning a part of the world where the principles of UNESCO are flagrantly violated and people are deprived of their basic rights due to occupation by a foreign State. The testimonies we hear every day prove that the Russian Federation's temporary occupation of Crimea continues to lead to mass and systematic violations of fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens living on the peninsula. The latest example is the decree of the Russian government by which 220 Ukrainian cultural sites in Crimea were illegally enlisted as the federal property of Russia. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this step was undertaken just three days after the approval of the decision of the Executive Board on the follow-up of the situation in Crimea. This unacceptable situation is further exacerbated by the total information black-out imposed by the occupying authorities that has rendered consistent monitoring by international organizations practically impossible. Taking into consideration the new decision on Crimea, adopted at the last session of the Executive Board, we will spare no effort in order to facilitate the full use of UNESCO's potential in order to prove that the credibility and democratic power of our Organization can overcome the power of violence and injustice currently ruling Crimea. We are looking forward to practical action by the Director-General to establish a monitoring mechanism at the institutional level in line with the decision of the Executive Board.

(The speaker continues in French)

48.6 Chers représentants de notre famille mondiale de l'UNESCO, cette Conférence générale aura à débattre de questions d'importance toute particulière directement liées à l'actualité internationale immédiate. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec la vision de la Directrice générale quant au rôle de notre Organisation, qui existe précisément pour rappeler que c'est dans l'urgence qu'il faut justement ne rien céder sur les droits humains, sur la dignité humaine, sur le respect des libertés fondamentales. C'est lorsque ces droits sont bafoués qu'il faut les rappeler avec davantage de force et de conviction. 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. Merci de votre attention.

49. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est le Docteur Patrick Nkanza, Secrétaire permanent au Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur de la Zambie. Monsieur, vous avez la parole.

50.1 **Mr Nkanza (Zambia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, Zambia congratulates you on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Zambia further congratulates UNESCO on its 70th anniversary. This year, Zambia is also celebrating 51 years of collaborative efforts with UNESCO, during which time UNESCO has provided technical, material and financial support to Zambia in all the key competencies of UNESCO. We recognize the recent work which UNESCO has conducted with us in the area of policy review.

50.2 Zambia has continued to make strides in the areas of education, science, technology and innovation, information and communications and in culture. In the area of early childhood education (ECE), the Government is scaling up the provision of ECE through detachment of early childhood education centres to existing schools, as well as establishing centres in other communities. With respect to general education, Zambia recognizes that a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum is fundamental to reaching learning goals. Thus, Zambia is engaged in an ongoing process of curriculum reforms at all levels, coupled with harmonization of teacher-training curricula.

50.3 With respect to teacher education and training, Zambia wishes to express gratitude to UNESCO for the support rendered in teacher development, particularly with respect to enhancing the teaching of information communication technology (ICT) in general education. The teaching council of Zambia has been established to develop and maintain standards in the teaching profession. With respect to adult literacy the Government is scaling up adult literacy programmes by targeting the marginalized, including those in prisons and in remote areas. The quality of our adult literacy programmes has been enhanced through the development of a national curriculum, materials in various local languages, and training of literacy facilitators. In addition, some educators and curriculum developers underwent training in a programme organised by UNESCO, UNESCO's International Bureau of Education, the Open University of Tanzania, and the Tanzania Institute of Education.

50.4 With respect to technical and vocational education and training, Zambia has introduced a two-tier education and training system which provides a dual pathway between academic and vocational education at lower and upper secondary education levels. To support this system, Zambia has also introduced a three-year vocational secondary teacher diploma programme. In collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Korea, UNESCO has been working with Zambia on skills development through the "Better Education for Africa's Rise – (BEAR)" project. This cooperation brings the experience of the Republic of Korea to Zambia and we look forward to the expansion of this programme.

50.5 In the areas of science, technology and innovation, Zambia has recognized the insufficient research and development infrastructure and the scarcity of scientific human resources capable of harnessing the indigenous knowledge base so as to promote the competitiveness of Zambia's industry. In an effort to mainstream science, technology and innovation, Zambia has planned to construct a science centre or a science complex, an initiative which involves participation of cooperating partners as well as the private sector. Zambia appreciates efforts by UNESCO in the establishment of a national bioethics coordinating committee whose role will, among other things, include coordinating and networking the various bioethics committees in Zambia.

50.6 With respect to higher education, this sector has shown significant expansion with increasing participation of the private sector. The Government has introduced the higher education authority to provide quality assurance to the provision of higher education. In addition, the Government has also established the Zambia qualification authority whose task is to manage and develop the Zambia qualifications framework. These measures are aimed at providing a platform for the formal recognition and portability of our higher education qualifications.

50.7 With respect to information and communication, the Government is also bridging the information gap between rural and urban areas by improving more frequency modulation (FM) transmitters and introducing radio academy programmes at the University of Zambia.

50.8 With respect to culture, Zambia shares the global notion that no society can flourish without the expression and preservation of its cultural heritage. Further, Zambia is committed to the realization of the objectives of the World Heritage Convention. This Convention must help to uplift the standard of life of the local community by encouraging economic activities such as investment in cultural tourism. In doing all this, we also pay tribute to UNESCO's support in providing equity and inclusiveness, and also providing for the development of energy, particularly in our rural areas. We are committed to continuing cooperation with UNESCO and the maintenance of the values and principles which will govern and guide this cooperation. We look forward, Mr President, to the successful completion and conclusion of outcomes of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Thank you.

51. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur Nkanza. Notre prochain orateur est S. E. M. Dato Zainidi Sidup, Ambassadeur et délégué permanent du Brunéi Darussalam auprès de l'UNESCO. Excellence, vous avez la parole.

52.1 **Mr Zainidi Sidup** (Brunei Darussalam):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. Brunei Darussalam strongly supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Brunei Darussalam believes that full access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for accelerating progress towards the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals. In other words, sustainable development begins with education, and UNESCO plays a major role in the implementation of SDG 4.

52.2 In the context of Brunei Darussalam, our priority areas on education are contained in our national vision known as "Brunei Vision 2035". By 2035, we wish to see Brunei Darussalam recognized everywhere for the accomplishments of its well-educated and highly-skilled people. We will seek to build a first-class education system that provides opportunities for every citizen and resident to meet the requirements of our changing economy, and to encourage lifelong learning as well as achievements in the field of sport and the arts.

52.3 The current Ministry of Education Strategic Plan for 2012-2017, which has been formulated in line with the objectives of Brunei Vision 2035, has identified seven grand initiatives which include, among others, Brunei technical education transformation, teacher quality and professionalism, and integrated national education information system.

52.4 Mr President, the establishment of the Institute of Brunei Technical Education is Brunei's effort towards upgrading the technical and vocational education system. It is an expansion of the technical stream in line with the demands of technological and economic development, and responds to various government and industry initiatives. It involves collaboration with government and private industries to create innovative teaching and learning in order to produce a skilled and competitive workforce. Through this transformation, access and opportunities for absorption into technical and vocational education are widened for those who are not eligible to further their studies or for those who have dropped out of school.

52.5 In addition to this, our Ministry of Education and the Energy Department of the Prime Minister's Office have been working very closely with the Ministry of Communication in setting up the Brunei Maritime Academy. The goal of the Academy's establishment is to produce a professional maritime workforce and seafarers accredited by the International Maritime Organization and to meet the country's need for personnel in the maritime industry. Mr President, other initiatives which relate to the transformation of technical education in Brunei Darussalam include expanding apprenticeship options and upgrading the training environment through the development of infrastructure to support more students.

52.6 In August 2014, the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam launched the "Brunei Teachers' Standard" in order to raise education standards and help teachers to do their jobs even more effectively. Teachers are now provided with standards to help them reflect on their teaching practices and aspire towards providing high-quality teaching and learning experiences for their students. Another initiative is the integrated national education information system (INEIS), a centralized and integrated system for school administration, to be used by all Government schools. It is a "one system for all" initiative, where information concerning the progress of a student can be seen across all levels. INEIS integrates all school administration information such as attendance, discipline records and assessment for every student. Through INEIS, information is stored centrally so that it may be readily accessible by authorized personnel. It will provide more

collaboration, transparency, efficiency, better coordination and improve foresight. With that, thank you for your kind attention.

53. Le Président :

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est le Docteur Belio Kipsang, Secrétaire principal du Département d'État au Ministère de l'éducation, des sciences et de la technologie du Kenya. Vous avez la parole, Monsieur Kipsang.

54.1 Mr Kipsang (Kenya):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I join my colleagues, Mr President, in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, which is also celebrating 70 years of the Organization. On behalf of my delegation please accept our best wishes for a successful General Conference. We are confident that you will effectively discharge the business of the 38th session of the General Conference.

54.2 I now wish to congratulate Ms Irina Bokova, the Director-General, for having steered successful reforms in UNESCO and assure her of Kenya's commitment to UNESCO's ideals. My delegation supports the budget as outlined in draft document 38 C/5. We appreciate the current budgetary constraints and hope that more support will be provided through extrabudgetary support.

54.3 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides us with a framework for global action to build the future we want for all. UNESCO has an important role to play in supporting Member States to translate the goals into concrete action through its multisectoral and transdisciplinary approach to programme delivery.

54.4 Mr President, Kenya attaches great importance to education as a means of national development. Towards this end, the Government has integrated early childhood education into primary education. Currently we are reforming our curricula, modernizing teacher training, strengthening education and partnership. A policy framework for education and training to meet the challenges of education, training and research in the twenty-first century has been developed.

54.5 Ladies and gentlemen, quality of education depends on the quality of teachers. Teacher management has been reformed and improved to ensure optimal delivery of the curriculum. In addition, information and communication technology (ICT) integration and continuous professional development have been institutionalized.

54.6 Mr President, science, technology and innovation (STI) is the foundation of socio-economic development. We have reviewed our STI policy to address the challenges in the sub-sector. As a policy, the Government provides at least 2% of gross domestic product (GDP) to STI. Furthermore, we have established a national research fund which annually provides \$4 million for research; prepared policies for the establishment of a national physical science research laboratory; established the Kenya Institute of Nanotechnology, a university research chairs programme and an STI mentorship programme to enhance the participation of girls in science and technology subjects at secondary-school level.

54.7 We appreciate UNESCO's work on biodiversity. However, illegal wildlife trade is one of the critical global issues that deserve special attention to address the challenges. Kenya shares about 54% of our water resources with other countries and is putting measures in place to mitigate the challenges of water scarcity. We thank UNESCO for partnering with the Government in carrying out groundwater mapping to establish actual potential.

54.8 Ladies and gentlemen, Kenya remains committed to the promotion of social cohesion and reduction of inequalities. Towards this end, Kenya has instituted youth empowerment programmes. In sports, Kenya is committed to clean sport. Consequently, the Government has established a national anti-doping organization with a mandate to prioritize education, training, testing and investigation in this field.

54.9 Mr President, Kenya has a rich varied culture which constitutes the foundation of our nation and is the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people. To date, Kenya has six heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and two intangible cultural heritage elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List. Legislative measures have been put in place to preserve and manage the concerned heritage for posterity. The Government is in the process of ratifying the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

54.10 Mr President, Kenya places information communication and technology at the heart of its national development. Kenya has a mobile subscriber penetration of 85.5% and Internet penetration of 70% which will promote a digital learning literacy programme for schools, with special emphasis for people living with disability. The Government also promotes freedom of expression and free media and will continue to create an enabling environment for the growth of broadcasting and media freedom.

54.11 In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to assure you that Kenya remains committed to UNESCO's ideals through our specialized programmes in order to promote global peace and sustainable development. Thank you very much.

55. Le Président :

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur Kipsang. Notre prochain orateur est S. E. M. Patricio Hales, Ambassadeur et délégué permanent du Chili auprès de l'UNESCO. Excellence, vous avez la parole.

56.1 Sr. Hales (Chile):

Permítame, señor Presidente, felicitarlo por su elección y asegurarle la más amplia cooperación del Gobierno de Chile y su delegación en esta reunión de la Conferencia General. Es la primera vez que me dirijo a esta asamblea y quiero decirle que me enorgullece poder hacer un aporte a esta institución que ha sido un faro en la promoción de la

educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la información. Como testigos de nuestra propia historia a veces los episodios negativos presentes nos ocultan los gigantescos cambios positivos que hemos conquistado en este mundo. Y otras tantas veces no vemos la contribución de la UNESCO al desarrollo y avance de la humanidad. Pero ninguna de las amenazas actuales nos tiene que llevar al catastrofismo; el progreso es contradictorio. La misma humanidad que ha sido capaz de grandes avances de la ciencia es la que todavía no es capaz de impedir que millones de personas en el mundo no sepan leer ni escribir. No somos pesimistas; percibimos las contradicciones de nuestro mundo. Grandes progresos materiales de la humanidad nos tienen hoy día enfrentados a la crisis del cambio climático. Los mismos países que hemos sido capaces de reducir la pobreza a más de la mitad, no hemos conseguido resolver nuestras propias desigualdades. Sigue vigente por tanto la razón de ser de la UNESCO y la tarea multilateral. Porque el progreso no es de efectos lineales y en su complejidad la tarea nunca se termina. Con las mismas instituciones que fuimos capaces de detener la amenaza de la guerra nuclear, no hemos logrado aún evitar el terrorismo y hoy día, son moneda corriente las escenas con miles de muertos, familias destruidas, olas de refugiados de magnitudes que habíamos olvidado, sitios patrimoniales arrasados o la destrucción de cientos de escuelas.

56.2 Sin embargo este mismo mundo tiene cada vez más democracia. Todos los éxitos obtenidos nos deben llenar de optimismo para enfrentar estas nuevas amenazas, y sobre todo reafirmar con convicción la importancia de esta institución. La promoción del multilateralismo y la responsabilidad colectiva de los Estados son una misión permanente y el camino para lograr los acuerdos de paz en un mundo en que la resolución de las contradicciones del progreso tiene que ser el foco de nuestra misión. Éxitos y nuevas amenazas van a conformar siempre el mundo que tendremos que enfrentar. Entonces fortalecer a la UNESCO como el organismo especializado de las Naciones Unidas por antonomasia es la tarea para promover la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la información como un imperativo y una obligación moral.

56.3 Es necesario entonces que la Organización persevere en su proceso de reforma: más adaptación a los desafíos de un mundo en constante cambio, estructuras más ligeras, resultados más concretos, y financiamiento debidamente asegurado para cumplir el mandato establecido por los propios Estados Miembros. Mi país tiene en alta estima lo que significa la UNESCO, apoyamos con decisión la iniciativa Unidos por el Patrimonio, ratificamos la Convención sobre las Medidas que deben Adoptarse para Prohibir e Impedir la Importación, la Exportación y la Transferencia de Propiedad Ilícitas de Bienes Culturales, inscribimos los bailes chinos en la Lista Representativa del Patrimonio Inmaterial de la Humanidad y, conjuntamente con nuestros hermanos de la Argentina, el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, Colombia, el Ecuador y el Perú, inscribimos el “Qhapaq Ñan” en la Lista del Patrimonio Cultural. Chile aporta 6 millones de dólares para que la Oficina Regional de Educación de la UNESCO para América Latina y el Caribe, sita en Santiago, contribuya a la tarea educativa de la región, y la reforma educacional de la Presidenta Bachelet se inscribe en los objetivos de la UNESCO.

56.4 Cuatro grandes ejes de acción que guían el proceso de la reforma chilena se entroncan con el Objetivo 4 de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible que, impulsado por la UNESCO, consiste en garantizar una educación inclusiva y equitativa de calidad y promover oportunidades de aprendizaje permanente para todos: hacer de la educación un verdadero bien social, asegurar la educación pública de calidad, poner en marcha una nueva política nacional docente y desarrollar la educación superior para la era del conocimiento. Pronto se enviará al Congreso Nacional de mi país el proyecto de ley que crea el Ministerio de las Culturas y del Patrimonio, uno de cuyos principales objetivos será sistematizar las distintas instituciones de fomento de la cultura y el patrimonio material e inmaterial con la participación de la ciudadanía. Señor Presidente: los valores de la Constitución de la UNESCO están más vigentes que nunca; reafirmamos en esta tribuna el compromiso de Chile con la defensa de la dignidad, la igualdad y el respeto entre las personas y los Estados, con el mismo lenguaje respetuoso con que nos hemos dirigido hoy a esta asamblea, y por el resguardo de la libertad y la paz como cuestiones consustanciales a la dignidad de las personas, que constituyen un deber sagrado. He dicho. Muchas gracias.

(56.1) **Mr Hales (Chile)** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Allow me, Mr President, to congratulate you on your election and to assure you of the fullest cooperation of the Government of Chile and its delegation at this session of the General Conference. I am addressing this body for the first time and I wish to say that I feel proud to be able to contribute to this institution, which has been a guiding light in promoting education, science, culture and information. As we see in our own history, negative chapters can sometimes obscure the enormous positive changes that have prevailed in this world. And we often fail to see how UNESCO has contributed to the development and progress of humanity. None of today's threats must drive us to alarmism. Our progress is full of contradictions: the same humankind that has managed to make great advances in science is still incapable of lifting millions of the world's people out of illiteracy. We are not pessimistic; we are aware of our world's contradictions. Great advances in material terms have confronted us with the climate change crisis. The same countries that have managed to more than halve poverty have been incapable of resolving their own inequalities. Hence the still-valid *raison d'être* of UNESCO and its multilateral work. Progress, in terms of its effects and complexity, is non-linear and the work is never done. The same institutions that have enabled us to stop the threat of nuclear war have not yet managed to prevent terrorism and scenes of deaths by the thousand, families destroyed, waves of refugees on a scale that should have been forgotten, heritage sites razed or the demolition of hundreds of schools are now commonplace.

(56.2) At the same time, however, there is more and more democracy in this world. All the gains made should fill us with the optimism to confront those new threats and, moreover, to reaffirm with conviction the importance of this institution. The promotion of multilateralism and the collective responsibility of States remain an enduring mission, and our mission must focus on the road to peace agreements in a world in need of solutions to the contradictions of progress. The world we have to deal with is always going to be shaped by successes and new threats. That makes the task of strengthening UNESCO as the United Nations specialized agency par excellence in promoting education, science, culture and information a mandatory moral obligation.

(56.3) The Organization therefore needs to continue its reforms, ensuring that it fulfils the mandate established by its Member States by being more attuned to the challenges of an ever-changing world through more flexible structures, more concrete results and duly-guaranteed funding. My country has the highest regard for what UNESCO stands for. We decisively

support the #Unite4Heritage initiative; we have ratified the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; we have inscribed the Baile Chino dances on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and, together with our cousins from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, we have also added the Qhapaq Ñan (Andean Road System) to the World Heritage List. Chile is providing \$6 million to ensure that the efforts of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Santiago, contribute to education work in the region, and President Michelle Bachelet's educational reform is in accordance with the objectives of UNESCO.

(56.4) Four of the main lines of action guiding the Chilean reform process tie in with the Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which, thanks to the efforts of UNESCO, aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, make education a genuine social good, ensure quality public education, launch a new national teaching policy and develop higher education for the knowledge age. One of the aims of a bill drafted by our Ministry of Culture and Heritage and soon to be presented to Parliament is to organize the various institutions promoting culture and tangible and intangible heritage, with civil-society participation. Mr President, the values enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution are more valid than ever and we reaffirm the commitment of Chile to protecting dignity, equality and respect among people and States, with the same respectful language as used in addressing this assembly today, by protecting freedom and peace, which are part and parcel of the dignity of the individual and a sacred duty. That is all. Thank you.

57. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Mesdames et Messieurs, sur ce, nous avons conclu la première partie de notre journée. Permettez-moi d'informer les chefs de délégation et tous les délégués que la plénière reprendra cet après-midi à 15 heures précises, soit 3 heures pm. Nous vous demandons donc un effort pour que l'on débute à temps. Je vous souhaite un agréable déjeuner. *La séance est close.* Merci.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.
La séance est levée à 13 h 10
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.10
Заседание закрывается в 13.10
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١,١٠ بعد الظهر
会议于 13 时 10 分结束*

Sixth plenary meeting

Thursday 5 November 2015 at 3.10 p.m.

President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

later: **Ms Lazaro** (Philippines)

later: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Sixième séance plénière

Jeudi 5 novembre 2015 à 15 h 10

Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

puis : **Mme Lazaro** (Philippines)

puis : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Sexta sesión plenaria

Jueves 5 de noviembre de 2015 a las 15.10

Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

después: **Sra. Lazaro** (Filipinas)

después: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Шестое пленарное заседание

четверг 5 ноября 2015 г. в 15.10

Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

затем: **г-жа Лазаро** (Филиппины)

затем: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة السادسة

الخميس ٥ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٣,١٠ بعد الظهر

الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

ثم: السيدة لازارو (الفلبين)

ثم: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第六次全会

2015年11月5日星期四 1.时10分

主席: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)

随后: **Lazaro 女士** (意大利)

主席: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)

General policy debate (*continued*)

Débat de politique générale (*suite*)

Debate de política general (*continuación*)

Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (*продолжение*)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (*تابع*)

总政策辩论 (*续*)

1. The President:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, can you please take your seats so that we can start the afternoon proceedings. Good afternoon. I declare open the sixth plenary meeting of the General Conference. We will proceed with the general policy debate this afternoon. Given our list of speakers, may I echo my appeal for good time-keeping. I now have the honour of calling on our first speaker of this afternoon, Her Excellency Ms Marta Lafuente, Minister of Education and Culture of Paraguay. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

2.1 Sra. Lafuente (Paraguay):

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, distinguidos ministros, ministras, jefes de delegación, prensa internacional: un especial saludo del Gobierno y del Presidente de la República del Paraguay a las autoridades y a todos los participantes de la Conferencia. Es un año significativo para todos los Estados que formamos parte de la UNESCO, ya que se celebra su 70º aniversario. Sus principios fundacionales siguen vigentes y, si bien hemos tenido avances, el balance de la evaluación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio nos interpela. La humanidad se enfrenta a enormes desafíos: el problema de la desigualdad, la necesidad de la inclusión social, las crisis humanitarias, las migraciones masivas, la destrucción del patrimonio mundial a causa del flagelo del terrorismo, el cambio climático y las desigualdades de género, entre muchos problemas que tenemos que afrontar.

2.2 La tarea de construcción de un futuro mejor para todos nos sitúa ante un reto mayor. Paraguay es un país de niños, niñas y jóvenes. Para que se hagan una idea, el 58% de nuestra población tiene menos de 30 años. Por tanto, nuestro mayor valor es nuestro bono demográfico, probablemente el más privilegiado del mundo. Nuestro país lleva adelante un proceso de transformación de la educación que haga posible el desarrollo infantil temprano en los mil primeros días de vida – los más importantes para el presente y el futuro de la humanidad –, la expansión de la educación inicial de tres, cuatro y cinco años, la atención intercultural en todas las comunidades indígenas, la mejora de la calidad de la educación en todos los ciclos y modalidades educativas, el fortalecimiento de la calidad de la educación superior, el aseguramiento de la calidad de la carrera docente y las innovaciones en el sistema de educación técnica y profesional.

2.3 La agenda de transformaciones del Paraguay es coincidente con el Marco de Acción aprobado ayer. Por ello, nuestros esfuerzos serán sinérgicos con el de la cooperación internacional. El Marco de Acción para 2030 exige nuevos compromisos, profundas transformaciones en la gobernanza, la inversión en educación, la mejora de los sistemas de información y la transparente rendición de cuentas. El desarrollo humano y social sostenible más que nunca requiere de una nueva conciencia mundial sobre la educación como bien común, bien público y derecho humano fundamental. Que nunca la UNESCO renuncie a estos principios. Aprender a ser, aprender a hacer, aprender a conocer y aprender a vivir juntos son retos que necesitamos encarar con cimientos éticos renovados. Nadie puede ser feliz mientras haya niños que van a la cama sin comer, mientras las niñas no vayan a la escuela y no puedan gozar de su infancia jugando, y los indígenas pierdan sus lenguas y sus tierras y sean excluidos y discriminados, y mientras existan barreras para las personas con capacidades diferentes.

2.4 Sin memoria no podemos construir el futuro. Paraguay, como país pluriétnico y pluricultural en el cual convivimos 20 pueblos indígenas y comunidades inmigrantes de todo del mundo, ha aportado recientemente a la UNESCO la designación de patrimonios documentales como los certificados de soltería y la Colección Enrique Solano López de la Biblioteca Nacional. El Gobierno de la República del Paraguay presenta su candidatura al Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO. Esta candidatura demuestra la importancia que tiene la Organización para el Gobierno paraguayo. La presencia de nuestro país en el Consejo Ejecutivo permitirá acompañar más de cerca los programas de la Organización, el debate, así como el proceso de elaboración y de toma de decisiones sobre los diversos temas que abarca su misión.

2.5 Somos signatarios de la Convención sobre la Protección y Promoción de la Diversidad de las Expresiones Culturales de 2005. Paraguay apoya activamente los trabajos en favor de la libertad de expresión y la seguridad de los periodistas en el marco de acción de las Naciones Unidas. Como parte de la UNESCO, compartimos la misión de contribuir a la consolidación de la paz, la erradicación de la pobreza, el desarrollo sostenible y el diálogo intercultural en favor de un mundo centrado en las personas y en la plena vigencia de la democracia y de los derechos humanos. Contrarrestar los dramáticos efectos del cambio climático es un imperativo ético. *Aguije enteroveteva che henduva* (“muchas gracias” en lengua guaraní).

(2.1) Mme Lafuente (Paraguay) (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les journalistes de la presse internationale, je salue particulièrement les autorités et tous les participants de la Conférence au nom du Gouvernement et du Président de la République du Paraguay. C'est une année importante pour tous les États qui font partie de l'UNESCO, puisque l'on célèbre le 70^e anniversaire de l'Organisation. Ses principes fondateurs sont toujours valables et, malgré les progrès accomplis, le bilan de l'évaluation des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement nous interpelle. L'humanité est confrontée à d'immenses défis : le problème des inégalités, la nécessité d'assurer l'inclusion sociale, les crises humanitaires, les migrations massives, la destruction du patrimoine mondial à

cause du fléau du terrorisme, le changement climatique et les disparités entre les sexes comptent parmi les nombreux problèmes que nous devons régler.

(2.2) La mission de bâtir un avenir meilleur pour tous nous place face à un défi majeur. Le Paraguay est un pays composé d'enfants et de jeunes. Pour vous donner une idée, 58 % de notre population a moins de 30 ans. Notre meilleur atout est donc notre dividende démographique, sans doute le plus privilégié du monde. Notre pays mène un processus de transformation de l'éducation permettant le développement de la petite enfance au cours des mille premiers jours de la vie – les plus importants pour le présent et l'avenir de l'humanité -, le développement de l'éducation initiale pour les enfants de trois, quatre et cinq ans, la prise en considération des aspects interculturels dans toutes les communautés autochtones, l'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation dans tous les cycles de l'enseignement et tous les modes d'apprentissage, le renforcement de la qualité de l'enseignement supérieur, l'assurance qualité de la carrière des enseignants et les innovations dans le cadre du système d'enseignement technique et professionnel.

(2.3) Le programme de transformations du Paraguay coïncide avec le Cadre d'action approuvé hier. En conséquence, nos efforts seront déployés en synergie avec ceux de la coopération internationale. Le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030 exige de nouveaux engagements, de profondes transformations de la gouvernance, des investissements dans l'éducation, l'amélioration des systèmes d'information et une reddition de comptes transparente. Plus que jamais, le développement humain et social durable exige une nouvelle conception mondiale de l'éducation comme bien commun, bien public et droit humain fondamental. Que l'UNESCO ne renonce jamais à ces principes. Apprendre à être, apprendre à faire, apprendre à connaître et apprendre à vivre ensemble sont des défis que nous devons relever avec des bases éthiques renouvelées. Personne ne saurait être heureux tant que des enfants iront au lit sans manger, tant que les filles n'iront pas à l'école et ne pourront profiter de leur enfance et jouer, tant que les autochtones perdront leurs langues et leurs terres et feront l'objet d'exclusions et de discriminations, et tant qu'il existera des obstacles pour les personnes dont les capacités sont différentes.

(2.4) Sans mémoire, nous ne pouvons construire l'avenir. Pays pluriethnique et pluriculturel au sein duquel vivent ensemble vingt peuples autochtones et des communautés d'immigrants du monde entier, le Paraguay a récemment fait inscrire à l'UNESCO des biens du patrimoine documentaire tels que les certificats de célibat et la Collection Enrique Solano López de la Bibliothèque nationale. Le Gouvernement de la République du Paraguay présente sa candidature au Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO. Cette candidature montre l'importance de l'Organisation pour le Gouvernement paraguayen. La présence de notre pays au Conseil exécutif permettra d'accompagner de plus près les programmes de l'UNESCO, le débat, ainsi que le processus d'élaboration et de prise de décisions sur les différents thèmes que recouvre la mission de l'Organisation.

(2.5) Nous sommes signataires de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles de 2005. Le Paraguay soutient activement les activités menées en faveur de la liberté d'expression et de la sécurité des journalistes, qui s'inscrivent dans le cadre d'action des Nations Unies. En tant qu'État membre de l'UNESCO, nous partageons la mission visant à contribuer à la consolidation de la paix, à l'élimination de la pauvreté, au développement durable et au dialogue interculturel en faveur d'un monde privilégiant la dimension humaine et le plein exercice de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme. Contrer les effets dramatiques du changement climatique est un impératif éthique. *Aguije enteroveteva che henduva* (« je vous remercie » en guarani).

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Daniel Herman, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

4.1 **Mr Herman (Czech Republic):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. At the outset I would like to congratulate you, Mr President on your election and wish you every success in this important post. Mr President, it is a great honour and pleasure to address this Organization, which will in a few days celebrate 70 years since its foundation. The Czech Republic, still part of Czechoslovakia at the time, was one of the founding members of UNESCO. In the post-war years, the country felt very strongly the need for an international coalition of States that would, as far as possible, prevent new world conflicts by promoting education, developing sciences, safeguarding and supporting culture in all its diversity, and in particular, defending freedom of speech as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of a free society.

4.2 It is a happy coincidence that the Czech Republic will soon celebrate its own important anniversary. On 17 November 1989, the Communist regime fell, and the so-called Velvet Revolution set the future political, economic and cultural course of Czech society and reasserted its adherence to the values of democracy and civil liberties. The late President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, once said: "Indifference to others and to the community opens the door to evil." The truth of this statement is, regrettably, still painfully true, especially today when fanaticism and hatred kill and impoverish thousands of people and force them to flee their homes. At the moral crossroads where the world finds itself today, it is crucial to take action to suppress pernicious violence and let mutual tolerance and respect prevail. What can our Organization do when confronted with these and many other challenges of the contemporary world? As regards culture, the sector for which I am responsible in the Czech Republic, the role of UNESCO is to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions, foster mutual understanding and highlight the value inherent in the multifaceted cultural heritage of the world.

4.3 We witness in horror the shameless destruction of cultural heritage, which forms part of our universal cultural identity and has become hostage to armed conflicts. We commend and stand ready to take an active part in UNESCO's determination to stop this madness, to enhance the protection of cultural heritage during war, conflict and natural disasters.

4.4 The Czech Republic welcomes the recent adoption of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 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 institutions, rule of law and good governance, free of corruption. The 2030 Agenda's emphasis on education is a challenge to which this Organization must be able to rise.

The forthcoming debates on the future Programme and Budget should be guided by the ambition to formulate an appropriate role for UNESCO in its implementation, while keeping faith in our core mandate and respecting our limited means.

4.5 We are pleased that culture has been made an integral element of the 2030 Agenda, which will further strengthen its role not just as a factor of sustainable development, but also as a creative force. If I may once more borrow the words of Václav Havel: "To understand each other does not mean to adapt to each other, but to understand each other's identity." The Prague Quadrennial, a festival of performance design and space with a record number of exhibitors from 78 countries this year, presents an example of a counterbalance to the ever more frequent lack of understanding, while demonstrating the richness of the colourful world of art, the pleasure of fruitful collaboration and the delight one can take in otherness.

4.6 This better understanding of our identity should also be fostered by the adoption of two new legal instruments, on the protection and promotion of museums and collections, and the preservation of and access to documentary heritage, to be considered at this session of the General Conference. The Memory of the World Programme will be legally strengthened as well. The role of memory institutions has grown in recent decades: their traditional task of collection building has been supplemented by educational and social functions, transmitting values to future generations.

4.7 Not only because of the upcoming twenty-first session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), we would like to stress the importance of increasing understanding of climate change, the sustainable use of Earth's natural resources and the empowerment of local and indigenous peoples. In that vein, we welcome the new bond between the Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO, as reflected in the newly refocused International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). Thank you, Mr President.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Kandia Camara Kamissoko, Minister of Education and Technical Education of Cote d'Ivoire. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

6.1 **Mme Camara (Côte d'Ivoire) :**

Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs, les assises de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale m'offrent l'agréable opportunité d'exprimer, au nom du Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, S. E. M. Alassane Ouattara, la reconnaissance du peuple ivoirien à l'UNESCO. Je voudrais adresser mes remerciements à Mme Irina Bokova, la Directrice générale, à M. Hao Ping, le Président de la 37^e session de la Conférence générale, et à M. Mohamed Sameh Amr, le Président du Conseil exécutif. Je voudrais aussi féliciter M. Stanley Simataa qui vient d'être brillamment porté à la tête de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale.

6.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis heureuse de vous apporter la bonne nouvelle de mon pays : la bonne nouvelle de la marche résolue vers la paix. En effet, après une longue crise d'apprentissage de la démocratie, le peuple de Côte d'Ivoire vient d'exprimer, à travers la récente élection présidentielle, sa ferme volonté d'entrer dans l'espérance et la réalité de la paix retrouvée. Mesdames et Messieurs, la persistance des intégrismes et des intolérances, qui entraînent des pertes en vies humaines, des déplacements massifs de populations, la pauvreté et la souffrance, continuent plus que jamais d'interpeller la conscience de l'humanité qu'est l'UNESCO, dont la pertinence de la mission se trouve de la sorte davantage confirmée. La Côte d'Ivoire apprécie, pour cette raison, la décision prise par le Conseil exécutif à sa 197^e session de recommander la création d'une École de la paix à Yamoussoukro. Elle approuve également les décisions figurant dans le document 37 C/5 et le projet de 38 C/5.

6.3 Monsieur le Président, la Côte d'Ivoire, qui aspire à devenir un pays émergent en 2020, adhère à la nouvelle vision de l'Éducation 2030 qui a été définie au Forum d'Incheon, en Corée, et à laquelle elle a pris une part active. Nous souscrivons au plan d'action visant à assurer une éducation inclusive et équitable de qualité et à promouvoir des possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour tous. Pour traduire cette volonté en acte, la Côte d'Ivoire a d'ores et déjà institué l'école obligatoire pour tous les enfants en âge d'être scolarisés. Les conditions de réalisation et les mesures d'accompagnement nécessaires sont mises en place.

6.4 Concernant les sciences exactes et naturelles, il est urgent de traduire les résultats des recherches scientifiques dans les faits en renforçant les capacités humaines et matérielles en matière de science, technologie et innovation (STI). En ce sens, nous apprécions la décision de la 197^e session du Conseil exécutif de recommander la transformation de l'École régionale postuniversitaire d'aménagement et de gestion intégrés des forêts et territoires tropicaux (ERAIFT) de Kinshasa en un centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. Nous voudrions aussi voir aboutir, dans un délai assez raisonnable, le projet de création de l'extension de cette école à l'Afrique de l'Ouest, à Abidjan, en application de la décision 197 EX/38 du Conseil exécutif.

6.5 Concernant les sciences humaines et sociales, l'anthropocène sonne une prise de conscience planétaire face aux menaces et aux dangers de plus en plus pressants du changement climatique. Les effets des activités humaines à cet égard étant avérés, il est temps que les hommes prennent leurs responsabilités. C'est pourquoi nous saluons l'initiative des dirigeants de la planète qui ont décidé de se rencontrer pour la 21^e session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (COP21) qui se tiendra ici même, à Paris, dans quelques jours. Ma délégation apprécie que l'UNESCO ait inscrit à l'ordre du jour un point portant sur l'opportunité d'établir une déclaration de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique.

6.6 Concernant la culture, mon pays est profondément indigné devant les images montrant la destruction de monuments ancestraux et richement porteurs de la mémoire des peuples : bibliothèques de Tombouctou, au Mali, temple de Bêl à Palmyre, en Syrie, etc. En situation de post-conflit, la Côte d'Ivoire porte un projet de création de « zone

culturelle protégée » autour des sites dont la valeur culturelle est reconnue et partagée pour empêcher leur destruction et le trafic illicite de biens culturels.

6.7 Monsieur le Président, la communication et l'information sont centrales pour le maintien de la paix et la cohésion sociale. En Côte d'Ivoire, la liberté d'expression et la liberté de la presse constituent une base essentielle de la démocratie. À cet égard, les 5 et 6 octobre derniers, le Ministère de la communication a organisé à Abidjan un colloque international sur « La liberté de la presse en Afrique : enjeux, défis et perspectives », au cours duquel la double résolution a été prise de mettre en place un observatoire africain de la liberté de la presse et d'instituer le 6 octobre Journée africaine d'autorégulation des médias et de protection des journalistes.

6.8 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO a 70 ans, 70 ans de recherche inlassable de la paix. Pour mon pays, l'UNESCO a une valeur indéniable : elle sert de boussole aux peuples en quête de paix. Les défis dans ce domaine sont encore nombreux, et ils se multiplient. Leur ténacité et leur résurgence doivent non pas être des motifs de résignation mais au contraire constituer du levain pour faire lever, encore plus haut, la pâte de la paix. Je vous remercie.

7. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr George Kronnisanyon Werner, Minister of Education of Liberia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

8.1 **Mr Werner (Liberia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, fellow delegates, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we bring you warm greetings on behalf of the President, Government and people of Liberia. We congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and reaffirm the faith of the Government and people of Liberia in UNESCO and their commitment to its ideals and principles.

8.2 This year, Liberia celebrates 12 years of uninterrupted peace. We thank UNESCO for its contribution to our post-war development agenda. Particularly, we thank UNESCO for its quick Ebola response under your emergency funds. We are also grateful to UNESCO for initiating with Liberia the process leading hopefully to the inclusion of Providence Island on the World Heritage List as one of 68 historical sites presented to the World Heritage Centre.

8.3 My standing here today is to attempt to achieve three things: one, in the context of the African tradition, to tell you a story; two, to link this story to our present challenges; and three, to set out a broad vision for addressing those challenges. First, the story. There once was a town built just beyond the bend in a large river. One day while playing on the shore, children noticed bodies floating in the water. They ran for help and the townsfolk were quick to arrive on the scene and pull the bodies from the river. The first person was dead, and they buried the body. The second was alive but quite ill and was taken to the hospital. The third was a healthy child. The townsfolk, in keeping with African tradition, placed her in a family where she thrived. From that day forward and for a number of years to come, however, more and more bodies came floating down the river each day. The good people of the town became adept at pulling bodies out and taking care of them. Unfortunately, during all the years that passed, at no time, and despite the general efforts on the part of so many, did anyone think of going up the river beyond the bend to find out just why bodies kept coming down the river.

8.4 Our challenge in education is huge. Over 300,000 children between 6 and 11 years-of-age are believed to be out of school. More than 80% of our young people between 15 and 24 are illiterate. One third of our people are not in employment, education or training. Over one third of our teachers are not qualified. Girls are less likely to enrol, stay in school and graduate. Our secondary schools are under-resourced. So we put forth a vision. We see improvement in children's literacy and numeracy in our schools. We want qualified teachers with the skills to improve children's learning outcomes. We want a school infrastructure that meets the needs of children, and improvement in enrolment and retention. We want schools and teachers that have the resources they need to improve learning. We want to lay the foundations for learning in early childhood education beyond 12-plus-1. We want girls' learning outcomes to improve. Young people should have the skills necessary to secure jobs through technical and vocational education.

8.5 Our system should become accountable. Some might say that this is an ambitious agenda. Yes, it is a massive challenge, but we have to be ambitious. As the President of Liberia has said, "If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough." We seek partnerships to help us accomplish our ambitious agenda. We are already taking on the challenge with support from partners such as UNESCO. Ambition is vital and valuable. That is the conviction inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Every single person, every single child, deserves quality education. Thank you.

9. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Annick Girardin, Minister for Development and Francophonie of France. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

10.1 **Mme Girardin (France) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis, une poignée d'hommes et de femmes réunis à Londres à la fin de l'année 1945, marqués par la guerre, ont fait le pari de sortir de la tragédie par l'intelligence. Ils ont inventé une organisation internationale pour l'éducation, la science et la culture. Ils se sont rejoints sur une certitude qui a engendré une architecture originale : celle d'une agence des Nations Unies différente de toutes les autres parce qu'elle parie sur les forces de l'esprit contre les forces du mal.

10.2 Depuis 70 ans, la France a l'honneur d'être le pays hôte de cette Organisation, résolument engagée dans toutes ses grandes réalisations. Ce 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO s'inscrit ainsi dans des circonstances particulières qui rappellent à chacun ses responsabilités. Je pense à l'adoption en septembre, à New York, d'un agenda ambitieux, celui des nouveaux Objectifs de développement durable pour les 15 prochaines années à venir, et ce à quelques semaines du Sommet sur le climat, qui se tiendra à Paris en décembre. À notre demande, l'UNESCO a été associée à la préparation de la COP21 et je m'en réjouis.

10.3 Je pense aussi à la mise en place d'une nouvelle stratégie pour l'éducation à l'horizon 2030, réponse essentielle au défi de la jeunesse, dont la France fait une priorité.

10.4 C'est aussi le 10^e anniversaire de la Convention pour la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, que la France avait soutenue et à laquelle la révolution numérique actuelle donne tout son sens.

10.5 Je pense enfin au contexte géopolitique, qui vient nous rappeler l'importance de la culture de la paix à l'heure où l'on commet des assassinats odieux dans des sites inscrits au patrimoine mondial, comme à Palmyre. J'ai pu mesurer mardi, avec les réfugiés de Boko Haram au nord du Cameroun, les ravages de l'obscurantisme mais aussi la force de la solidarité.

10.6 Sur tous ces fronts, la pertinence du mandat global de cette Maison est donc plus que jamais validée par l'histoire en train de se faire. Je me réjouis que l'UNESCO, sous l'autorité de sa Directrice générale, soit aujourd'hui plus présente, plus visible, sur des sujets qui sont au cœur de ses missions historiques, au cœur de l'actualité internationale, au cœur des priorités de la France.

10.7 Cet anniversaire doit aussi être l'occasion de nous interroger ensemble sur nos attentes à l'égard de l'UNESCO. L'esprit de Londres, en 1945, c'était l'audace d'un geste qui a créé une organisation unique. À nous, à nous tous d'aider l'UNESCO à perpétuer cette ambition et lui donner un nouveau souffle. Et ce, en l'aidant. En l'aidant tout d'abord à se doter d'une gouvernance plus ouverte pour mieux développer des partenariats novateurs avec les grandes collectivités ou les entreprises et leurs fondations. En aidant également l'UNESCO à conforter la légitimité de sa fonction de coordination avec de nombreux autres acteurs, publics et privés. En développant sa mission prospective face aux défis technologiques. En l'aidant, enfin, à élargir son audience, en particulier en direction de la jeunesse et de tous les nouveaux acteurs qu'elle représente, comme d'ailleurs elle vient de le faire en réunissant à Paris près de 800 jeunes venus du monde entier pour débattre du développement durable et de la lutte contre le dérèglement climatique.

10.8 Je propose donc aux États membres que soit constituée une coalition d'États, ouverte à tous ceux qui souhaiteraient s'y engager, afin de préparer pour la Conférence générale de 2017 une initiative stratégique pour l'UNESCO. Cette initiative se donnerait pour objectif d'identifier et de rassembler des propositions de réorganisation de ses missions, en vue de renforcer son attractivité. Ancrée dans un processus de larges consultations, elle pourrait se mettre en place dès le début de l'année qui vient, en totale coopération avec la Directrice générale et le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO. Une telle initiative, si elle est collective, ne pourra qu'accroître la visibilité du travail considérable déjà effectué par le Secrétariat, par la Conférence générale et par le Conseil exécutif. Elle permettrait à l'UNESCO de s'affirmer comme le laboratoire d'un nouveau multilatéralisme, dont bénéficieraient aussi les autres institutions spécialisées et programmes des Nations Unies.

10.9 Vous le voyez, Mesdames et Messieurs, la France a pour l'UNESCO de grandes ambitions, qui sont pour nous tous autant de priorités pour les années à venir. L'UNESCO est attendue sur tous les fronts, dans un monde où les valeurs qu'elle incarne depuis sa création sont loin d'être acquises. Ce mandat et les principes qui le sous-tendent n'ont jamais été aussi pertinents qu'aujourd'hui. À nous de retrouver l'esprit de Londres, avec la volonté partagée de l'actualiser à notre XXI^e siècle. Merci beaucoup.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Giuseppe Maria Morganti, Minister of Education, Culture and University, Scientific Research, Social Affairs and Gender Equality of San Marino. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12. **M. Morganti (Saint-Marin) :**

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, aujourd'hui plus que jamais, les yeux du monde entier sont tournés vers les activités de l'UNESCO. La situation de grave instabilité politique que traversent de vastes régions du monde dévastées par la guerre permet à des groupes terroristes mais aussi à de simples vautours de piller et de détruire sans encombre les témoignages d'anciennes civilisations. Des populations entières sont mises à rude épreuve : leurs droits fondamentaux violés, elles se voient obligées d'abandonner leurs terres, ce qui provoque un exode massif, le pire que l'histoire ait connu. Notre tâche, avant toute autre, est de donner un abri à ces personnes, en leur permettant de se déplacer sans que leur vie soit mise en danger et en les accueillant dans nos pays.

12.2 Les conflits qui ont surgi, notamment dans la région de la Méditerranée, mettent à mal la dignité d'un grand nombre d'hommes et de femmes, et la communauté internationale doit intervenir pour rétablir dès que possible des conditions de paix et de développement tout en protégeant les biens culturels matériels et immatériels des peuples qui risquent de perdre leur identité. Pour cette raison, les attentes à l'égard de l'UNESCO et du rôle qu'elle doit jouer dans les zones de conflit ne sont pas seulement axées sur la protection du patrimoine artistique et monumental, mais dépassent les biens matériels pour aller jusqu'à la protection de l'identité des peuples frappés par des conditions inhumaines.

12.3 En ce moment délicat pour l'avenir du monde, Saint-Marin souligne l'importance d'adopter des politiques qui protègent et améliorent l'ensemble du patrimoine culturel des nations, y compris leur histoire, leurs valeurs et leurs

mœurs, et de choisir une voie privilégiée pour créer des sentiments communs parmi les peuples. Lorsque la connaissance mutuelle et la contamination culturelle qui en découle seront une voix commune dans le dialogue, alors nous pourrons dire que nous avons pleinement joué notre rôle.

12.4 Saint-Marin, bien évidemment, soutient les mesures que l'UNESCO envisage d'adopter pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine archéologique au Moyen-Orient et juge très intéressante la proposition de certains pays de créer une force de police internationale spécialisée dans la protection du patrimoine en vue de sauvegarder non seulement les sites mais aussi les objets et les produits manufacturés et de lutter contre le trafic d'antiquités.

12.5 Cependant, il est tout aussi important que l'UNESCO promeuve des politiques de valorisation culturelle, à partir des zones les plus touchées. En effet, c'est seulement en générant une nouvelle culture créative à partir des racines d'un objet que l'on arrive à saisir sa véritable signification et à le transformer en substance active et donc impérissable. L'investissement dans la conservation du patrimoine et l'investissement dans sa valorisation sont indissociables car seule la connaissance de la pensée créatrice qui a produit un objet peut sauver celui-ci d'un oubli qui est tout aussi délétère que la négligence et dévastateur que le pillage. La valorisation des identités culturelles favorise en outre le dialogue interculturel et favorise la compréhension mutuelle en jetant les bases de la paix et de la stabilité politique. Cette vision dynamique nous permet de promouvoir l'idée d'un patrimoine mondial commun et un nouveau paradigme de développement humain durable au fil du temps, marqué par l'inclusion, le partage et la diversité. Merci beaucoup.

13. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Luis Jorge Ferrão, Minister of Education and Human Development of Mozambique. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

14.1 **Mr Ferrão (Mozambique):**

Thank you Mr President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen. It is an honour and privilege for me to address this assembly on behalf of the Government of Mozambique. Mr President, my delegation congratulates you upon your unanimous election to preside over the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. We commend the excellent work done by the Chair of the Executive Board as well as our Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, in the preparation of this conference.

14.2 As we celebrate 70 years of UNESCO, we are encouraged by the scale of what this Organization has managed to accomplish in its core mission, and we are therefore confident that together we will prevail in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets related to UNESCO's priorities in education, culture, sciences, communication and information that our leaders adopted in New York this year.

14.3 With regard to the education for all (EFA) initiative, our commitment in Mozambique places this endeavour at its highest degree in the agenda of our education system. We are happy to report that Mozambique has made remarkable progress in this area, although the task ahead remains a serious challenge. The Government of Mozambique is placing more focus on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as a strategy to train adequate skilled professionals, particularly young people, to allow them to easily enter the employment market or develop creative initiatives for their self-employment.

14.4 Mr President, in addition to those efforts it is worth noting that the Government of Mozambique is due to introduce a new system of education, embracing new parameters with regard to the number of years of free education, which will be extended from six to nine years. The new system pays special attention to the improvement of methods and strategies with respect to education for girls. We have to deploy every possible means in our reach for the retention of girls at school to allow them to enjoy equal benefits to boys. Equally important is the teacher-training programme, which is of vital importance to the successful implementation of the new education system we are introducing.

14.5 The Government of Mozambique is investing heavily in the culture sector as a source of knowledge and a mechanism to promote social inclusion throughout the country. As a result, the relationship between culture and development programmes has become key to our sustainable growth, taking into account the various materials, values and wealth it has the potential to produce in society. We have a number of projects under way in Mozambique aimed at the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and intangible cultural heritage, cultural industries, and so forth. More support is needed from UNESCO and all our partners to this end.

14.6 Mr President, Mozambique is making a priority of areas like the Programme on Man and the Biosphere, water and oceans. We are well advanced in preparing for the establishment of biosphere reserves. Under UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Mozambique, together with other African Portuguese-speaking countries, has established a technical committee for strengthening water education for sustainable development. Mozambique recently hosted the third Western Indian Ocean planning meeting for the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2)

14.7 As far as information and technology are concerned, one of the goals of the Government is to reduce the digital divide between different regions, genders and ages. To meet this objective, there are programmes to reduce computer illiteracy, to extend infrastructure and services to more communities and to create regulations to facilitate this process. Examples of these efforts include the implementation of community multimedia centres (CMCs) in rural areas, the implementation of computer programmes in schools, and the liberalization of the telecommunications market, which has resulted in the rapid growth in the mobile network and services across the country. The Government of Mozambique is also engaged in the implementation of the e-government strategy, which aims to improve its efficiency and service delivery to the community. *Muito obrigado.*

15. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Neji Jalloul, Minister of Education of Tunisia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

١٦,١ السيد جلول (تونس):

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد ممثل المديرية العامة، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء الوفود، السيدات والسادة، يشرفني أن أستهل هذه الكلمة بتقدم أحر التهاني إلى السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام راجياً له التوفيق في مهمته. كما يطيب لي أن أعبر عن عميق شكري للسيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي وزملائه لما يبذلونه من سعي سخي لتضطلع المنظمة برسالتها السامية التي ما انفكت تقوى وتعزز. كما لا يفوتني أن أعبر للسيدة المديرية العامة عن خالص التقدير لما برهنت عليه من حكمة في قيادة المنظمة في هذه الفترة الدقيقة التي يعيشها العالم. ولن ننسى، شعباً وحكومة، وقوف السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا إلى جانب بلادنا بمشاركتها شخصياً في المسيرة ضد الإرهاب التي نظمت بتونس عقب أحداث باردو الأليمة. فلها منا كل الشكر والتقدير.

١٦,٢ تعلق تونس، ونحن نحتفل بالذكرى السبعين لتأسيس منظمة اليونسكو، آمالاً عريضة على هذه المنظمة لتحقيق الأهداف السامية التي أنشئت من أجلها، وفي مقدمتها "بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر". وما حصول بلادنا مؤخراً على جائزة نوبل للسلام إلا تعبير عن انحياز تونس التام إلى جهود السلام العالمي وجهود صانعي الأمل وفي مقدمتهم منظمة اليونسكو التي طالما دافعت عن هذه القيمة الإنسانية وخصتها بكل الدعم.

١٦,٣ أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، حضرات السيدات والسادة، ينعقد مؤتمرنا هذا في ظل أوضاع عالمية سريعة التغير، كثيرة التعقيد، متعددة المشاكل والمخاطر، تركزت آثاراً بليغة على استقرار أغلب الدول، وهزت المنظومة الاقتصادية الدولية، وأحدثت لتونس الكثير من المصاعب. وليس لنا أمام هذا الوضع المعقد من خيار سوى زيادة تأكيد التزامنا بالأسس الفكرية والأخلاقية التي بنيت عليها المنظمة من أجل تحقيق التعاون والتضامن والتقدم والازدهار، واستنباط الحلول الملائمة لمواجهة ما يتهدد التربية والثقافة من مخاطر تمس السلم الدولي وفي مقدمتها انتشار الإرهاب الأعمى الذي اتخذ من ضرب التربية والثقافة والمتقنين أول أهدافه. وإن برامج اليونسكو الاستشرافية للتفاعل مع المتغيرات المتسارعة التي يشهدها العالم تنفيذاً لالتزام المجتمع الدولي بالتعليم حتى ٢٠٣٠، لتتسجم مع ما تتخذه تونس من تدابير جريئة ترمي إلى تحقيق أهدافنا التربوية الطموح. فلئن راهنت تونس منذ استقلالها على التربية والتعليم، وسخرت لذلك النصيب الأوفر من إمكانياتها، فإن التحولات الأخيرة في بلادنا أبرزت نقائص وجب تداركها، وفرضت متغيرات لا بد من أخذها بعين الاعتبار. ولذلك عملنا على الإسراع بوضع مسار تشاركي لإصلاح المنظومة التربوية بما يتيح مراجعة عميقة لهذه المنظومة، فأقدمنا على إجراء أوسع استشارة وطنية شهدتها البلاد توجهاً فيها إلى المجتمع المدني وإلى المنظمات والأحزاب ورجال التربية. وبدأنا بعد هذه الاستشارة في إصلاح عميق للمنظومة التربوية، كي تعيد بناء العقول وتعيد لأبنائنا ملكة التفكير الحر.

١٦,٤ أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، حضرات السيدات والسادة، إن تونس التي استفادت من ثمار تجربتها التعليمية والثقافية الثرية منذ أكثر من نصف قرن، فأمنت الاستقرار والتحول السلمي، لتعبر عن عميق انشغالها بمصير آلاف الأطفال والشبان اللاجئين بفعل الأزمات المتتالية والحروب في أماكن أخرى من العالم. وإن مصير الإنسانية من مصيرهم، وعلينا أن نسرع بالبحث عن حلول لأوضاعهم الكارثية. ولقد أكدت تونس أيضاً، بما اتخذته من إجراءات لحماية تراثها الثقافي، التزامها الكامل بالمبادئ الأساسية لسياستها الثقافية المتناغمة مع مبادئ منظمة اليونسكو. ونحن نؤيد، من هذه المنطلقات، تركيز برامج اليونسكو على دعم الدور المحوري الذي تضطلع به الثقافة والتراث في التنمية. وكم يحز في أنفسنا أن نرى معالم ومواقع وقطعاً أثرية قامت آلاف السنين شاهداً على عبقرية الإنسان، تتعرض للنهب والتدمير والسلب والاتجار غير المشروع. لقد أضحي الأمر على غاية من الأهمية وعلى غاية من الخطورة. وتونس، التي تعرضت لمثل هذه الانتهاكات، تساند مساندة تامة مواقف اليونسكو وما تتخذه من تدابير وما تدعو إليه من أجنحة عمل لإنقاذ التراث الإنساني. وإني أدعو بالمناسبة إلى تعزيز التربية في مجال التراث، ودعم برنامج المدارس المنتسبة إلى اليونسكو ومساندته بالموارد لتمكين الشباب من التعرف على هذا التراث وتثمينه والمساهمة في صونه. وإننا لنطمح أيضاً في مواصلة الانخراط في برامج المنظمة واستراتيجياتها الرامية إلى تكتيف الجهود لسد الفجوة الرقمية وتمكين المجتمعات من تملك هذه التكنولوجيات وتطويرها وتوظيفها وفق حاجياتها التربوية والتنموية.

(16.1) M. Jalloul (Tunisie) (traduit de l'arabe) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le représentant de la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs les chefs et membres de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de commencer mon allocution en présentant mes sincères félicitations à Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale et en lui souhaitant plein succès dans sa tâche. J'ai également le plaisir d'exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance à Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif et à ses collègues pour leurs efforts de soutien visant à permettre à l'Organisation de s'acquitter de sa noble tâche, qui ne cesse de se renforcer et de s'accroître. Je tiens en outre à dire à Madame la Directrice générale à quel point j'apprécie la sagesse dont elle a fait preuve à la tête de l'Organisation dans cette période sensible que le monde traverse. Le peuple et le Gouvernement tunisiens n'oublieront jamais que Mme Bokova s'est rangée du côté de leur pays en participant en personne à la marche contre le terrorisme qui a été organisée à Tunis à la suite des événements douloureux du Musée national du Bardo – je lui exprime tous nos remerciements et notre appréciation.

(16.2) Alors que nous célébrons le 70^e anniversaire de la fondation de l'UNESCO, la Tunisie nourrit de grands espoirs que l'Organisation puisse réaliser les nobles tâches pour lesquelles elle a été créée et, en premier lieu, « élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes ». L'obtention récente par notre pays du prix Nobel de la paix est la reconnaissance de l'adhésion complète de la Tunisie aux initiatives mondiales en faveur de la paix et aux efforts des bâtisseurs de l'espoir, l'UNESCO en tête, elle qui défend et soutient depuis longtemps les valeurs humanistes.

(16.3) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, notre Conférence se tient dans un contexte de changements mondiaux rapides, extrêmement complexes, comportant de nombreux problèmes et risques, qui ont laissé des traces profondes sur la stabilité de la plupart des pays, qui ont secoué le système économique mondial et qui ont créé beaucoup de difficultés pour la Tunisie. Face à cette situation, nous n'avons d'autre choix que de renforcer notre engagement à l'égard des fondements intellectuels et moraux sur lesquels l'Organisation s'est construite afin de réaliser la coopération, la solidarité, le progrès et le bien-être et d'élaborer des solutions adaptées pour affronter les risques pour l'éducation et la culture affectant la paix internationale, notamment la prolifération du terrorisme aveugle, dont les premières cibles sont l'éducation, la culture et les intellectuels. Les programmes prospectifs de l'UNESCO visant à réagir aux changements rapides qui se produisent dans le monde, grâce à

l'engagement de la communauté internationale pour l'éducation d'ici à 2030, s'harmonisent avec les mesures audacieuses adoptées par la Tunisie pour réaliser ses objectifs éducatifs. Depuis son accession à l'indépendance, la Tunisie a parié sur l'éducation ; elle a investi énormément de ressources pour atteindre cet objectif. Les changements intervenus récemment dans notre pays ont révélé des déficiences qu'il faut corriger et ont imposé des variables dont il faut tenir compte. Voilà pourquoi nous avons cherché à accélérer la mise en place d'une voie participative dans le cadre de la réforme du système éducatif, afin de permettre une révision en profondeur de ce système. Nous avons donc entrepris une large concertation nationale, par laquelle nous nous sommes adressés à la société civile et aux organisations, aux partis et aux personnes travaillant dans le domaine de l'éducation. À l'issue de cette concertation, nous avons entamé une réforme en profondeur du système éducatif afin de reconstruire les cerveaux et de rendre à nos enfants la capacité de penser librement.

(16.4) Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, la Tunisie, qui tire parti de sa riche expérience éducative et culturelle depuis plus d'un demi-siècle et qui a assuré une stabilité et une transformation paisibles, exprime sa profonde préoccupation quant au sort des milliers d'enfants et de jeunes gens réfugiés du fait des crises successives et des guerres dans d'autres parties du monde. Le sort de l'humanité dépend de leur sort ; nous devons donc rechercher rapidement des solutions à leur situation catastrophique. La Tunisie a également réaffirmé, à travers les mesures qu'elle a adoptées pour protéger son patrimoine culturel, son engagement total envers les principes fondamentaux de sa politique culturelle, qui est en harmonie avec les principes défendus par l'UNESCO. Sur ces bases, nous soutenons la focalisation des programmes de l'UNESCO sur le rôle clé de la culture et du patrimoine dans le développement. Nous sommes meurtris de voir des monuments, des sites et des objets archéologiques, témoignages du génie humain qui ont survécu des milliers d'années, devenir victimes du pillage, de la destruction, du vol et du trafic. Le sujet est devenu extrêmement important et grave. La Tunisie, qui a souffert de telles violations, soutient complètement les positions de l'UNESCO, les mesures qu'elle adopte et les plans de travail qu'elle lance afin de sauvegarder le patrimoine de l'humanité. Je saisis cette occasion pour appeler au renforcement de l'éducation au patrimoine, au soutien au programme des Écoles associées de l'UNESCO, par le biais de ressources qui doivent permettre aux jeunes de connaître et d'apprécier ce patrimoine et de contribuer à sa préservation. Nous espérons également continuer d'être associés aux programmes et aux stratégies de l'Organisation visant à intensifier les efforts pour réduire la fracture numérique et permettre aux communautés d'acquérir, de développer et d'exploiter ces technologies selon leurs besoins en matière d'éducation et de développement.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Unity Dow, Minister of Education and Skills Development of Botswana. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

18.1 **Ms Dow (Botswana):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I bring you greetings from the Government and the people of Botswana. I am deeply honoured to address this distinguished meeting of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference. Before I do so, Mr President, let me join others in congratulating you on your election as President. I am convinced that with your leadership and that of the various persons at the helm of the different structures of UNESCO, together we can bring this body to even greater heights. Mr President, allow me to share with you a few of the achievements from my own country, Botswana.

18.2 Botswana continues to allocate over 20% of its annual national budget to education, and will continue to do so. Botswana further continues to review its policies in alignment with international trends and in response to national priorities, one such example being the recent adoption of what we call the education and training sector strategic plan (ETSSP). This plan is underpinned, among others, by a focus on lifelong learning, developing new and alternative pathways for education, strengthening skills development, and improving educational quality, relevance, equity and access. This turnaround strategy will require both financial and technical assistance, and we look to UNESCO and many of our partners for that to happen.

18.3 Following yesterday's adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, I wish to pledge Botswana's commitment to its implementation by aligning our ETSSP strategy with the framework. This alignment, Mr President, will require that we map the various aspects of our strategy to ensure it is implemented across all sectors. The Government of Botswana appreciates both the technical and financial support to the value of \$15,000 it has received from UNESCO in support of the national consultations on education for sustainable development, the national education for all (EFA) review and the launch of the *2015 Education for All Global Monitoring Report*. In addition, Botswana received \$2 million over five years from UNESCO in collaboration with South Korea through the Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR) project, the goal of which is to address the mismatch between skills training and the needs of the labour market.

18.4 Mr President, I am pleased to confirm that the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational (SACMEQ) Coordinating Centre has been relocated from Paris to Botswana, and we will host the 10th session of SACMEQ later this month on 26 and 27 November in Gaborone. I look forward to hosting my fellow ministers there.

18.5 On a related matter, Botswana is still committed to the establishment of a category 2 institute for skills development, and we look forward to UNESCO's support as we work towards concluding this particular aspect. In social and human sciences, Mr President, Botswana is a State Party to the International Convention against Doping in Sport. In this regard, we have received financial support worth \$14,000 from UNESCO to implement the clean sport project. This project aims to educate young athletes on key anti-doping issues. To this effect, Mr President, a good number of sports teachers and student athletes have been reached. This has greatly assisted us in raising awareness of the hazards of doping and the importance of clean competitiveness in sport.

18.6 In culture, Mr President, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is the conviction of the Government of Botswana that the culture of a people is central to a country's development. Hence, the preservation of culture and habitat is one of our key national priorities. The founding President of our country, Sir Seretse Khama, has been credited as having said, "a nation without a past is a lost nation, and a people without a past is a people without a soul". In this regard,

Mr President, we are actively pursuing the implementation of UNESCO conventions on cultural heritage, which has led to the listing of the Okavango Delta as the 1,000th site on the World Heritage List. I pause here to invite all of you, ladies and gentlemen, to come to Botswana and behold that particular wonder of nature. Lastly, ladies and gentlemen, to deepen our relationship with UNESCO, we offer you a candidate for the Executive Board who we believe, with your blessing, will strengthen and deepen the relationship of Botswana with this august body. I thank you, Mr President.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Asadullah Hanif Balkhi, Minister of National Education of Afghanistan. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٢٠,١ السيد بلخي (أفغانستان):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، معالي رئيس الجلسة والمؤتمر، معالي الوزراء المشاركين، أخصائيي التربية والتعليم والمشاركين من القطاع الخاص، نشطاء المجتمع المدني، الإعلاميين الأفاضل، السيدات والسادة، يسرني ويشرفني أن أتحدث باسم وفد جمهورية أفغانستان الإسلامية في اجتماعات المؤتمر العام لليونسكو وذلك بخصوص التقدم الحاصل في مجال التربية والتعليم والدور المميز للمرأة بجمهورية أفغانستان الإسلامية. إن هذا المؤتمر لهو فرصة جيدة لتبادل الخبرات والتجارب الموفقة لاستنتاج أفضل السبل والوسائل المؤثرة للوصول إلى أهداف التعليم للجميع والأهداف السامية لعام ٢٠٣٠. وأود هنا كذلك أن أنتهز الفرصة لأتقدم بخالص الشكر والامتنان إلى القائمين على ترتيب وإنجاح هذا المؤتمر، متمنياً للجميع مزيداً من التوفيق والسداد.

٢٠,٢ السيدات والسادة، مع إغراق مجتمعتنا الأفغاني تحت كومة مشاكل جراء الحروب المفروضة علينا لثلاثة عقود متتالية، فإن أفغانستان حصلت في السنوات الأربع عشرة الأخيرة على تقدم ملموس في تقوية وتنظيم المؤسسات الأمنية، وتوسيع المشاركة السياسية بإدخال الفئات المختلفة من الأحزاب السياسية والشعب في خدمة الوطن، والتطور الاقتصادي والازدهار في تقدم الخدمات الأساسية. إن التقدم في مجال التربية والتعليم وكذلك مشاركة المرأة في جميع القطاعات، وعلى مستوى أفغانستان، ملموس وواضح. وإن المرأة الأفغانية تشارك اليوم بشكل فعال ومثمر في مختلف المجالات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية، فسبع وعشرون بالمائة من نواب البرلمان الأفغاني وأربعة من الوزراء هم من الإناث، كما تشاركنا بفرد جمهورية أفغانستان الإسلامية بهذا المؤتمر وزيرة التعليم العالي.

٢٠,٣ وتعمل وزارة التربية والتعليم بأفغانستان على بسط خطط التعليم الشامل ومتابعة تنفيذها. فقد ازداد التحاق الأطفال بالمدارس بشكل غير مسبوق إلى أن وصل إلى ٩,٢ مليون تلميذ وتلميذة، تشكل الإناث منهم نسبة ٤٠٪. كما أن دورات محو الأمية ازدادت وهي تركز على تعليم وتثقيف المرأة. وتم تعديل المناهج الدراسية كذلك حتى تتماشى مع طرق التعليم المؤثرة الجديدة، وهي في طور التطبيق العملي. وهناك اهتمام خاص بالتعليم والتدريب المهني الخاص بتدريب المعلمين، تصل نسبة المعلمات منهم إلى ٣٣٪. كذلك تم أخذ خطوات هامة في سبيل التساوي الجنسي في مجال التعليم، فاستناداً إلى نتائج تم الحصول عليها بمساعدة مؤسسات في مجال التربية والتعليم، فإن التقدم في مجال التربية والتعليم في أفغانستان يسير بشكل مرض ولكن هناك المزيد من الإجراءات التي يجب اتخاذها للوصول بالتعليم إلى المستوى المنشود. ويؤدي التعليم العالي دوراً أساسياً في توفير الإطار التعليمي المتخصص والمطلوب لسوق العمل، فحالياً هناك ثلاثمائة ألف طالب وطالبة، تشكل الإناث منهم ١٩٪، يدرسون في ١٦٠ من الجامعات والمعاهد العليا الحكومية أو الخاصة. وهناك كذلك برامج مختلفة للرقى بمستوى التعليم العالي وكذلك برامج تطوير إدارة الجامعات والمعاهد التعليمية.

٢٠,٤ إن الأهداف السامية لعام ٢٠٣٠ للأمم المتحدة المرسومة بناء على أبحاث ومشاورات مشتركة تشكل الأسس الواضحة والشاملة للعمل والتقدم في المجالات والقطاعات ذات الأولويات العالية. وإن حكومة جمهورية أفغانستان الإسلامية واقفة على ضرورة مشاركة المرأة وتطوير قطاع التربية والتعليم، ومتعددة باتخاذ الخطوات اللازمة للوصول إلى الأهداف السامية. وإن ميثاق المواطنة قيد التدوين، وهو المعني بتطوير كيفية عرض الخدمات ومشاركة عامة الشعب في سبيل ذلك. وبلغت الخطط الاستراتيجية للتعليم العام والتعليم العالي للفترة ما بين ٢٠١٦-٢٠٢٠ آخر مراحل تدوينها، وهي تركز على تسهيل الحصول على التعليم وتحسين جودته، وتقوية المساواة بين الجنسين وكفاءة الاستفادة من المصادر ومواجهة التحديات الموجودة. وإن خطة العمل الخاصة بالمرأة الأفغانية قيد الإعداد والتنقيح بغية تمديدها إلى عام ٢٠٢٠، فهي توفر الأساس لتقدم وتطوير دور المرأة في مختلف القطاعات.

٢٠,٥ أيها الحضور الكرام، نحن متيقنون بأن شركاءنا الدوليين، كما حدث في السابق، سيواصلون تقديم دعمهم الكامل لبرامج وخطط وزارة التربية والتعليم وأنهم لن يبخلوا في المستقبل عن مواصلة تقديم مساعداتهم للوفاء بعهودهم ومسؤولياتهم. وإن حكومة جمهورية أفغانستان الإسلامية متعددة بعمل كل ما في وسعها، بطريقة شفافة وبالتنسيق مع شركائها المحليين والدوليين وبمساعدهم، لمواجهة التحديات الموجودة على طريق التعليم ورفي المرأة ودورها في المجتمع حتى تمهد الطريق للوصول إلى الأهداف السامية للأمم المتحدة. وشكراً لحسن استماعكم.

(20.1) **M. Balkhi (Afghanistan) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président de la séance, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs les ministres, chers collègues spécialistes de l'éducation du secteur privé, militants de la société civile, distingués journalistes, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de parler au nom de la délégation de la République islamique d'Afghanistan au cours des séances de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO et de décrire les progrès accomplis dans le domaine de l'éducation et le rôle particulier de la femme en Afghanistan. Cette conférence nous offre une bonne occasion d'échanger sur notre expertise et nos expériences réussies, afin d'en déduire les meilleures méthodes et façons d'atteindre les objectifs de l'éducation pour tous (EPT) et de l'agenda Éducation 2030. J'aimerais également saisir cette occasion pour exprimer mes remerciements et mon appréciation sincères aux responsables de l'organisation de cette session de la Conférence générale et pour souhaiter à tous plein succès.

(20.2) Mesdames, Messieurs, malgré le déferlement sur la société afghane d'un flot énorme de problèmes en raison des guerres qui nous ont été imposées pendant trois décennies, l'Afghanistan, au cours des 14 dernières années, a fait des progrès considérables dans le renforcement et l'organisation des institutions de sécurité, dans l'élargissement de la participation à la vie politique, dans l'implication de diverses catégories des parties politiques et du peuple au service de la patrie, dans le développement économique et le bien-être et dans la fourniture des services de base. Les progrès dans le domaine de l'éducation et l'implication de la femme dans tous les secteurs à travers tout l'Afghanistan sont palpables et patents. La femme afghane participe aujourd'hui de façon active et productive à divers domaines sociaux et économiques.

Ainsi, 27% des députés au Parlement afghan et quatre des ministres sont des femmes, et la Ministre de l'éducation de la République islamique d'Afghanistan fait partie de notre délégation à cette Conférence générale.

(20.3) Le Ministère de l'éducation de l'Afghanistan fait tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour mettre en place des stratégies d'éducation globales et pour suivre leur mise en œuvre. Le taux de scolarisation des enfants a augmenté de façon inédite, pour atteindre 9,2 millions d'élèves, dont 40% sont des filles. Les cours d'alphabétisation ont également augmenté, privilégiant l'éducation des femmes. Les programmes scolaires ont été modifiés et ont été harmonisés avec les méthodes efficaces modernes ; ils sont actuellement en cours d'application pratique. Un intérêt particulier est prêté à l'éducation, à la formation professionnelle et à la formation des enseignants, dont 33% sont des femmes. Des mesures importantes ont été adoptées pour parvenir à l'égalité entre les sexes dans le domaine de l'éducation. Sur la base des résultats obtenus à l'aide des institutions éducatives, les progrès dans le domaine de l'éducation en Afghanistan sont satisfaisants ; cependant, davantage de mesures doivent être prises afin d'amener l'éducation au niveau recherché. L'enseignement universitaire joue un rôle fondamental dans la mise à disposition d'un cadre éducatif spécialisé nécessaire pour le marché du travail. Actuellement, on dénombre 300 000 étudiants, dont 19% de femmes, qui étudient dans 160 universités et instituts d'État ou établissements privés. Il existe également divers programmes visant à promouvoir l'enseignement supérieur et des programmes en faveur du développement de l'administration des universités et des instituts éducatifs.

(20.4) Les nobles objectifs des Nations Unies pour 2030 ont été élaborés grâce aux recherches et consultations conjointes constituant les bases claires et globales de l'action et du progrès dans les domaines et les secteurs de haute priorité. Le Gouvernement de la République islamique d'Afghanistan est bien conscient qu'il est nécessaire de développer le secteur de l'éducation et de permettre aux femmes d'y participer, et il s'engage à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour atteindre ces objectifs. Une Charte de la citoyenneté est en cours d'élaboration ; elle concerne les modalités de prestation de services et de participation des gens ordinaires. Les plans stratégiques en faveur de l'enseignement général et de l'enseignement supérieur pour la période 2016-2020 sont en voie de finalisation ; ils sont axés sur la facilitation de l'accès à l'éducation et l'amélioration de sa qualité, le renforcement de l'égalité entre les sexes, l'accès aux ressources, ainsi que les moyens de relever les défis existants. Un plan d'action pour la femme afghane est en cours d'amélioration et sera prolongé jusqu'en 2020 ; il fournit une base pour le progrès et le développement du rôle de la femme dans divers secteurs.

(20.5) Chers auditeurs, nous sommes persuadés que nos partenaires internationaux, comme par le passé, continueront d'apporter leur soutien total aux programmes et aux plans du Ministère de l'éducation et qu'ils ne ménageront aucun effort pour continuer de fournir leur assistance afin de tenir leurs promesses et d'assumer leurs responsabilités. Le Gouvernement de la République islamique d'Afghanistan s'engage à faire tout ce qui est en son pouvoir, dans la transparence et la coordination avec ses partenaires locaux et internationaux et avec leur aide, pour relever les défis existants dans le domaine de l'éducation et pour promouvoir la femme et son rôle dans la société, afin de baliser le chemin qui mène à la réalisation des nobles objectifs des Nations Unies. Je vous remercie de votre écoute.

21. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Robert Lewis, Minister of Education of Saint Lucia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

22.1 **Mr Lewis (Saint Lucia):**

Thank you, Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished representatives of Member States, esteemed delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Mr President, permit me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. By the same token, I wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Mr Hao Ping, President of the 37th session, and the hard work of the Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Sameh Amr. I wish also to congratulate Montserrat on becoming an Associate Member of UNESCO and welcome the territory to the UNESCO family.

22.2 Mr President, we meet at a very important moment in our history, at a time when the Organization celebrates 70 years of contribution to peace and the development of humanity. This session also comes on the heels of the adoption by our respective governments of a new sustainable development agenda, and a commitment to pursue 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is also being held just weeks prior to the twenty-first session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), which will be held right here in Paris, where our governments will seek consensus on the future of our planet as it relates to climate change. The vulnerability of small island developing States (SIDS) in the face of climate change is well documented, and the fact that we are disproportionately affected, despite being the smallest contributors to the phenomenon, is well known.

22.3 Mr President, we note that the 17 SDGs are quite ambitious. They give our Government, education sector and stakeholder community ownership in achieving SDG 4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Government of Saint Lucia supports the SDGs, and it is the responsibility of my Ministry to now work at achieving the targets under the SDGs, even with our limited resources. The Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour, on 17 September this year, launched its education sector development plan for 2015-2020. This plan brings renewed focus and new emphasis on the Government of Saint Lucia's drive in education. We see education as the main vehicle for economic and social change. All our efforts must be driven by a desire to give our people, Saint Lucia's most abundant resource, the best educational opportunities.

22.4 Providing our youth with quality education opportunities for technical and vocational training and employment (TVET) opportunities is the only way to seriously address poverty, and is still and always will be the best way to fight violence and extremism. Teacher quality, as recognized by UNESCO, has a positive effect on global citizenship. My government reaffirms its commitment to raise teaching standards and to work towards ensuring that teachers play a significant role in building a culture of peace and security among citizens and communities. Mr President, with assistance from UNESCO, the Government of Saint Lucia has embarked on the development of a TVET policy. It is hoped that this policy will provide impetus to the renewal of competency-based instruction in our schools and the certification of persons in critical employment in the country.

22.5 Mr President, culture is an important part of the development agenda. We believe its contribution is best achieved through the implementation of the culture conventions. Saint Lucia continues to derive tremendous benefit from the work done through these conventions, most notably the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. We call for continued support to the Secretariat for these conventions.

22.6 Mr President, we have all been appalled by the destruction of cultural heritage around the world. The advocacy campaign launched by UNESCO for the protection of heritage has raised expectations and the Organization must deliver in order to meet them.

22.7 Mr President, Saint Lucia has consistently called for the increased recognition of SIDS as a UNESCO priority. We recognize the efforts made over the years in response to this request. However, we believe that more needs to be done. SIDS cannot remain a priority group on paper only. All Member States recognize the vulnerability of SIDS in the face of the adverse effects of climate change that can disrupt infrastructural development and impact negatively all sectors of activity. The SIDS Action Plan cannot rely only on extrabudgetary funds. We believe that its budget must be fully integrated into the upcoming Programme and Budget (39 C/5) and complemented by extrabudgetary funds, and not the reverse.

22.8 Saint Lucia takes tremendous pride in our two Nobel laureates, Sir William Arthur Lewis and the Honourable Sir Derek Walcott, and their contributions to the fields of economics and literature respectively. The centenary of the birth of our first Nobel Prize winner, Sir William Arthur Lewis, was marked in January this year. The General Conference, at its 37th session, adopted a resolution to associate UNESCO with this important anniversary. We are pleased to announce that through the collaboration of the Participation Programme and Fellowships Section, the Human and Social Sciences Sector and the UNESCO Office in Kingston, this anniversary was celebrated through a number of high-level and high-profile events during the year, including the Sir Arthur Lewis Global Centennial Forum and a panel discussion on his life and work at the recent World Social Science Conference 2015 in Durban, South Africa.

22.9 Mr President, my Government notes with great concern the diminished capacity, both in terms of financial and human resources, of the UNESCO Office in Kingston, the cluster office for the Caribbean. We urge that closer attention be paid to it. This is critical, especially with respect to its capacity to deliver on the SIDS Action Plan, as well as its ability to assist us in achieving the SDGs related to UNESCO's fields of competence. We also call for greater synergies and increased collaboration between the UNESCO Office in Kingston and the other regional offices in meeting these objectives. Mr President, I wish to end by reiterating my Government's commitment to UNESCO and pledging our continued support to our esteemed Organization in the pursuit of its mandate. Thank you.

23. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Gilles Tonelli, Minister of External Relations and Cooperation of Monaco. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

24.1 **M. Tonelli (Monaco) :**

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre récente élection. Soyez assuré de la confiance que Monaco vous porte pour appréhender avec efficacité et perspicacité la nouvelle période charnière qui s'ouvre pour notre Organisation.

24.2 Comment ne pas espérer aujourd'hui l'aboutissement de la réflexion sur les perspectives de l'UNESCO alors que nous célébrons cette année son 70^e anniversaire ? La période troublée que nous traversons nous rappelle la responsabilité qui nous incombe d'assurer la paix et la sécurité internationales ainsi que la protection des droits de l'homme et de notre patrimoine commun. Nul ne peut ignorer, en effet, que l'Europe connaît actuellement l'une des plus graves crises migratoires de son histoire contemporaine.

24.3 De fait, en Syrie et en Irak notamment, la menace terroriste n'a jamais été aussi forte et présente qu'aujourd'hui. Daech progresse dans de nombreuses zones, bafouant les droits de l'homme et détruisant notre héritage culturel. Notre patrimoine, bien commun de l'humanité, est menacé. Comment ne pas considérer comme une perte considérable pour le peuple syrien et pour l'humanité toute entière la disparition du site de Palmyre, inscrit au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO ?

24.4 En outre, une véritable marchandisation d'objets antiques s'est mise en place, alimentant, par là même, le circuit du financement du terrorisme. Ces destructions et ces pillages ne peuvent rester sans réponse de notre part. C'est dans cette optique que Monaco vous apporte son plein soutien, Madame la Directrice générale, dans vos efforts pour lutter contre le « nettoyage culturel ». Je salue, à cet égard, le lancement par l'UNESCO de la campagne de sensibilisation #UnisPourLePatrimoine, ainsi que la proposition d'une stratégie de renforcement de son action en matière de protection de la culture et de promotion du pluralisme culturel en cas de de conflit armé.

24.5 Monsieur le Président, tous les États, qu'ils soient situés ou non en zone de conflit, sont concernés par la propagation du terrorisme. L'Europe, notamment, a connu cette année une vague d'attentats sans précédent. Certaines de ces attaques, perpétrées contre des organes de presse, symboles de la liberté d'expression, font valoir toute l'importance du mandat de l'UNESCO. Permettez-moi ainsi de réitérer le plein soutien de Monaco à la mission confiée à l'UNESCO en cette matière et de saluer son important rôle de coordinateur dans le cadre du Plan d'action des Nations Unies sur la sécurité des journalistes et la question de l'impunité.

24.6 Il va de soi que la prévention du terrorisme est indissociable de l'éducation, et je me réjouis à cet égard du lancement ici même, hier, du Cadre d'action Education 2030. Enfin, Monaco se félicite de l'adoption par le Conseil

exécutif de la décision concernant le rôle de l'UNESCO dans la promotion de l'éducation comme outil de prévention de l'extrémisme violent.

24.7 Monsieur le Président, les chefs d'État et de gouvernement ont adopté, en septembre dernier à New York, un nouvel agenda de développement dont les objectifs visent à éliminer la pauvreté et à rendre à chaque individu sa dignité afin que tous puissent jouir de leurs droits et libertés fondamentaux. Je tiens à souligner ici le rôle prépondérant joué par l'UNESCO dans la définition des Objectifs de développement durable et plus précisément de ceux consacrés à l'éducation, à l'accès à l'eau, au partage des connaissances ou encore aux océans. À cet égard, vous connaissez l'engagement de mon pays en faveur de la protection des océans et des mers : ne sont-ils pas la clef de notre survie, des régulateurs du climat, des moteurs de croissance et des réservoirs d'énergies et de ressources ?

24.8 Monsieur le Président, les efforts de la communauté internationale ne doivent pas faiblir car les défis liés à la durabilité environnementale et au climat n'ont jamais été aussi importants. Aussi, la Conférence de Paris doit-elle s'inscrire dans une dynamique collective afin d'aboutir à un accord global sur le climat, condition *sine qua non* de la pleine mise en œuvre du programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Il m'importe de rappeler ici que, dans la perspective de la COP21, la Principauté de Monaco s'est engagée à réduire ses émissions de gaz à effet de serre de 50 % à l'horizon 2030 par rapport à 1990. En adoptant un tel objectif, Monaco a la volonté de prendre pleinement part au processus collectif. Malgré sa faible responsabilité dans les émissions globales, Monaco s'implique dans le déploiement de modes de déplacement et de consommation énergétique innovants.

24.9 Monsieur le Président, l'UNESCO traverse actuellement une crise financière qui déstabilise son fonctionnement alors même que sa mission, toujours aussi actuelle et essentielle comme nous avons pu le constater avec les thèmes abordés, doit être poursuivie et dynamisée. Pour qu'elle puisse s'acquitter efficacement du mandat qui lui est confié, il est impératif d'engager une profonde réforme de notre Organisation. Je réitère à cette occasion le plein et entier appui de Monaco à la mise en œuvre des mesures devant permettre à l'Organisation de surmonter les difficultés auxquelles elle est confrontée, d'améliorer ses performances et de renforcer sa place dans le monde. A cet effet, la Principauté a apporté, dès le début de la crise financière, plusieurs contributions au Fonds d'urgence multidonateurs spécial pour les programmes prioritaires et les initiatives de réforme et souhaite poursuivre son aide au Fonds si celui-ci est reconduit par cette session.

24.10 Soyez assurés que la Principauté ne cessera, comme elle le fait depuis son adhésion à l'UNESCO en 1949, de contribuer activement à la concrétisation des politiques de notre Organisation. Dans le prolongement de cet engagement continu, un accord-cadre de coopération a été signé, le 13 février dernier, formalisant le soutien du Gouvernement princier aux actions menées par l'UNESCO. Ainsi, Monaco appuie le travail de terrain de l'Organisation visant à promouvoir la scolarisation des enfants vulnérables, en particulier des filles, au Burundi. La Principauté alloue également chaque année des contributions volontaires aux fonds des conventions culturelles auxquelles elle est Partie et soutient actuellement un projet pour la préservation du patrimoine culturel et archéologique en Mongolie.

24.11 En ce qui concerne la défense de l'environnement marin, sujet cher à notre Prince, mon pays est très impliqué dans les travaux de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale (COI), qui se doit d'apporter assistance et protection aux petits États insulaires en développement, en raison de leur vulnérabilité.

24.12 Enfin, sous l'impulsion de son Prince Souverain, dont l'attachement aux valeurs multidimensionnelles du sport n'est plus à démontrer, le Gouvernement princier s'est mobilisé pour permettre la modernisation de la Charte internationale de l'éducation physique et du sport de 1978. Je vous remercie.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Dace Melbārde, Minister of Culture of Latvia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

26.1 **Ms Melbārde (Latvia):**

Thank you, Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. The distinguished Latvian poet, Rainis, whose 150th anniversary has been included in the official commemoration of UNESCO, once said: "The sea is a collection of drops; humankind is a collection of individuals". Following the idea of the poet, and celebrating the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, I call on us all to remember that any organization is only as strong as its members. There is no peace in the minds of men and women if it is not in the minds of every individual. We should recognize that, in spite of numerous decades of UNESCO work, today we are facing unprecedented instability in the idea of peace in the minds of humanity again. The rapid changes in global geopolitics, widespread xenophobia and different forms of racism and intolerance, and a lack of true and simple signposts have forced a clash of values instead of a peaceful coexistence. Again, as never before, this is a time when the idea of a culture of peace should be taken forward to flourish. Ten years ago, the Organization published a text entitled "60 Women contributing to the 60 years of UNESCO". Today, I would like to invite the Organization to prepare one more inspirational text, which could be called "70 outstanding examples contributing to peace in the minds of men and women", and in that way, pay tribute to the people who have worked in favour of a culture of peace within the framework of UNESCO. Today, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we see that every idea and every activity is a small step in the history of humanity.

26.2 Moreover, in the twenty-first century, the concept of knowledge highlights the principle that only personal experience that is visibly put into practice becomes the knowledge of humankind. Knowledge has its ownership and is possessed by a particular person or institution. Therefore I wish to call for the strengthening of all UNESCO's intergovernmental and international collaborative networks as a key element of its work at the grassroots level. These networks serve as the backbone of UNESCO, as the key for a stronger culture of peace in the world.

26.3 Mr President, being the Minister of Culture of Latvia, I would like to point out the new role of culture in the twenty-first century. Every man and woman is a creator of culture. If we feel strong and safe about our culture, it should be much easier for us to understand other cultures and accept diversity as valued. In particular, the practising and safeguarding of local cultures, traditions and all forms of creativity, tangible and intangible, should be promoted. Culture cannot be overestimated as a means of integration, participation and expression. Throughout Latvian history, culture has played a crucial role in the preservation of the nation and its self-esteem. The Baltic tradition of song and dance celebrations inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and the Baltic Way, a human chain linking the three Baltic States in the drive for freedom, inscribed in the Memory of the World Register, indicate that culture has been an indispensable resource for building a culture of peace in a non-violent way. I emphasize these examples because I would like to reaffirm that world culture today must be seen as a way to meet various international constraints, and I am highly confident that UNESCO should be a leading organization that facilitates this process by all possible means.

26.4 Mr President, UNESCO's mandate of promoting the free flow of ideas by word and image is more relevant than ever. The importance of access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms has been recognized in the new 2030 Agenda. In this context, Latvia places freedom of expression and media freedom, both online and offline, high on our agenda. Without freedom of expression and independent quality journalism, there can be no truly democratic society of meaningful dialogue. This is exactly why Latvia is hosting World Press Freedom Day this year and why we remain actively engaged in the World Summit on the Information Society's 10-year review process. Concluding, I would like to make another reference, to the Latvian poet Aspazija, who said, "Every man is an artist, and the substance to be developed by him is life." I would be very sad if people left their lives as unused potential, and did not create from them something bigger, more beautiful and nice. I urge everyone to create something bigger than a simple life, something more beautiful than daily reality, and something that can be always called nice – the culture of peace in the minds of men and women.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Sonia Marta Mora Escalante, Minister of Public Education of Costa Rica. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

28.1 **Sra. Mora Escalante (Costa Rica):**

Honorable Presidente, estimados colegas: es un honor representar a Costa Rica en esta Conferencia General y referirme a algunos de los desafíos de nuestro país en educación, patrimonio, ciencia y tecnología. Desde los albores de la conformación de nuestra identidad, estos ámbitos han marcado la ruta costarricense. Nuestros primeros líderes y lideresas estaban convencidos de su relevancia para construir una nación soberana de justicia y libertad. En la consecución de estos objetivos, la historia reciente documenta a la UNESCO como un actor clave, riguroso observador del compromiso nacional con la educación y la cultura, áreas de alta prioridad para el Presidente Solís Rivera.

28.2 Actualmente en Costa Rica la educación preescolar, general básica y diversificada son obligatorias y costeadas por la nación. Para el cumplimiento de ese fin se garantiza constitucionalmente que la inversión pública no será inferior al 8% anual del PIB. Este esfuerzo nos ha permitido superar la mayor parte de los objetivos de la Educación para Todos, entre ellos la escolarización universal de niñas y niños en edad de primaria. También se atiende el aprendizaje de jóvenes y adultos y la creciente incorporación de las mujeres. Pero nos quedan grandes desafíos. Seis ejes transversales atraviesan nuestro quehacer: calidad, equidad e inclusión, sostenibilidad, innovación e internacionalización. Nuestra ruta de trabajo es clara y se resume en el lema "Educar para la nueva ciudadanía".

28.3 Una meta central es fortalecer las estrategias para la permanencia y el éxito estudiantil. La novedosa y ambiciosa estrategia "Yo me apunto" busca favorecer la construcción de un modelo de gestión educativa que permita institucionalizar innovaciones en el combate contra la exclusión escolar. "Yo me apunto" promueve el valor de la educación como un compromiso de toda la sociedad e incorpora al sector privado, la sociedad civil, universidades, gobiernos locales y todos los actores que pueden hacer una diferencia. En el marco del compromiso país con un modelo de desarrollo cimentado en la sostenibilidad, hemos convertido la educación para el desarrollo sostenible en uno de los ejes de la reforma curricular, igual que la formación en derechos humanos y para una ciudadanía mundial fundada en la conciencia intercultural. Ampliamos las metas relativas a la conectividad y conferimos alta prioridad a la educación en la temprana infancia. Desde un enfoque de derechos, trabajamos en la ampliación de su cobertura, calidad y capacidad innovadora. También la educación de jóvenes y adultos está siendo sometida a transformaciones con miras a su mayor pertinencia, calidad y flexibilidad. Adoptamos en educación una política de género y promovemos mediante el programa "Con voz" espacios de aprendizaje orientados a una cultura de paz que destierre la violencia y el acoso escolar. Es urgente sensibilizar a la comunidad internacional sobre este flagelo. Por ello, Costa Rica ha decidido promover la declaratoria por parte de la UNESCO de una jornada internacional contra el acoso escolar y la violencia en los centros educativos. A ello dedicaremos nuestros esfuerzos en el seno de este organismo, cuyo papel puede contribuir a aliviar el sufrimiento de muchos niños, niñas y jóvenes. Respetuosamente pedimos el apoyo a esta iniciativa.

28.4 En lo que tiene que ver con la ciencia, tecnología e innovación, el Plan Nacional 2015-2021 establece una hoja de ruta que guía la aplicación de las políticas orientadas a impactos socio-productivos en determinados sectores de la sociedad y la economía. El Plan orienta la inversión hacia grandes prioridades nacionales en educación, ambiente y agua, energía, salud, alimentos y agricultura. Somos un país con una sólida historia de conservación ambiental, que ha decidido sumar a este compromiso la protección de su patrimonio cultural. La fusión entre lo natural y lo cultural es, así, un binomio que nos identifica en el siglo XXI. Costa Rica cuenta con cuatro sitios inscritos en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial. A nuestros parques nacionales y reservas biológicas sumamos la gestión cultural de sitios que destacan por su singularidad. Las esferas de piedra, símbolo del complejo desarrollo cognitivo de nuestros pueblos indígenas, también nos identifican con orgullo.

28.5 Costa Rica es además sede la Universidad para la Paz, institución de las Naciones Unidas. En el aniversario de su creación, hacemos un llamado a todos los Estados Miembros de la UNESCO para que apoyen su funcionamiento. En el programa MOST hemos ejercido un papel de promoción de la investigación para políticas públicas y en ese espacio queremos seguir aportando. Para concluir, quiero mostrar nuestra complacencia por la aprobación del Marco de Acción para 2030 y reiterar el apoyo de Costa Rica al trabajo valiente y lúcido de la UNESCO y de su Directora General, orientado a la transformación de la vida de millones de personas mediante la educación inclusiva y de calidad para todos y para todas. *Thank you very much for your attention. Merci beaucoup, mesdames et messieurs.* Muchas gracias por su atención.

(28.1) **Mme Mora Escalante** (Costa Rica) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, j'ai l'honneur de représenter le Costa Rica devant cette Conférence générale et d'aborder quelques-uns des défis rencontrés par notre pays en matière d'éducation, de patrimoine, de science et de technologie. Dès les débuts de la formation de notre identité, ces domaines ont marqué la route costaricienne. Nos premiers dirigeants et dirigeantes étaient convaincus de leur utilité pour construire une nation souveraine de justice et de liberté. Dans la réalisation de ces objectifs, l'histoire récente montre l'UNESCO comme un acteur clé, observateur attentif de l'engagement national en faveur de l'éducation et de la culture, domaines hautement prioritaires pour le Président Solís Rivera.

(28.2) Au Costa Rica, à l'heure actuelle, l'éducation préscolaire, l'enseignement général de base et l'enseignement diversifié sont obligatoires et pris en charge par l'État. À cette fin, il est inscrit dans la Constitution que l'investissement public ne doit pas représenter moins de 8 % du PIB par an. Cette mesure nous a permis de dépasser la majorité des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous, notamment celui de la scolarisation universelle des enfants en âge de fréquenter l'école primaire. De même, nous travaillons à l'apprentissage des jeunes et des adultes et à l'intégration croissante des femmes. Cependant, il nous reste de grands défis à relever. Notre action cible six axes transversaux : la qualité, l'équité et l'inclusion, la durabilité, l'innovation et l'internationalisation. Notre plan de travail est clair et peut être résumé par la devise « Éduquer à la nouvelle citoyenneté ».

(28.3) Un objectif central consiste à renforcer les stratégies visant la poursuite des études et la réussite des élèves. La nouvelle stratégie ambitieuse « *Yo me apunto* » (je m'inscris) cherche à favoriser la construction d'un modèle de gestion éducative qui permette d'institutionnaliser les innovations dans la lutte contre l'exclusion scolaire. « *Yo me apunto* » promeut la valeur de l'éducation en tant qu'engagement de toute la société et englobe le secteur privé, la société civile, les universités, les autorités locales et tous les acteurs qui peuvent avoir une influence. Dans le cadre de l'engagement du pays en faveur d'un modèle de développement basé sur la durabilité, nous avons fait de l'éducation en vue du développement durable l'un des axes de la réforme du programme scolaire, de même que la formation aux droits de l'homme et à une citoyenneté mondiale fondée sur une conscience interculturelle. Nous développons les objectifs relatifs à la connectivité et nous accordons un degré de priorité élevé à l'éducation de la petite enfance. S'agissant des droits, nous nous efforçons d'en élargir la portée, la qualité et la capacité d'innovation. En outre, l'éducation des jeunes et des adultes fait l'objet de transformations pour gagner en pertinence, en qualité et en souplesse. Dans le domaine de l'éducation, nous adoptons une politique tenant compte des problématiques de genre et nous encourageons, par le biais du programme « *Con voz* », des espaces d'apprentissage axés sur une culture de la paix capable d'éliminer la violence et le harcèlement à l'école. Il est urgent de sensibiliser la communauté internationale à ce fléau. C'est pour cela que le Costa Rica a décidé de soutenir la proclamation par l'UNESCO d'une journée internationale contre le harcèlement scolaire et la violence dans les établissements éducatifs. C'est à cela que nous consacrerons nos efforts au sein de cette organisation, dont le rôle peut contribuer à alléger la souffrance de nombreux enfants et de nombreux jeunes. Nous vous invitons respectueusement à appuyer cette initiative.

(28.4) S'agissant de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation, le Plan national 2015-2021 définit une feuille de route qui guide l'application des politiques visant des impacts socio-productifs dans des secteurs précis de la société et de l'économie. Le Plan oriente l'investissement vers les grandes priorités nationales dans les domaines de l'éducation, de l'environnement et de l'eau, de l'énergie, de la santé, de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Notre pays a une longue histoire de conservation de l'environnement, et a décidé d'ajouter à cet engagement celui de la protection de son patrimoine culturel. La fusion entre le patrimoine naturel et le patrimoine culturel forme un binôme qui nous représente au XXI^e siècle. Le Costa Rica compte quatre sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. À nos réserves biologiques et nos parcs nationaux, nous ajoutons la gestion culturelle de sites qui se démarquent par leur singularité. Les sphères mégalithiques, symbole du développement cognitif complexe de nos peuples autochtones, constituent aussi un symbole de notre identité dont nous sommes fiers.

(28.5) D'autre part, le Costa Rica est le siège de l'Université pour la Paix, une institution du système des Nations Unies. À l'occasion de l'anniversaire de sa création, nous appelons tous les États membres de l'UNESCO à soutenir son fonctionnement. Dans le cadre du Programme MOST, nous avons exercé un rôle de promotion de la recherche sur les politiques publiques et nous souhaitons poursuivre ce travail. Pour conclure, j'aimerais vous faire part de notre satisfaction concernant l'approbation du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, et réitérer le soutien du Costa Rica au travail courageux et lucide mené par l'UNESCO et sa Directrice générale, travail qui vise à transformer la vie de millions de personnes par le biais d'une éducation inclusive et de qualité pour toutes et pour tous. *Thank you very much for your attention. Merci beaucoup, Mesdames et Messieurs. Muchas gracias por su atención.*

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Hiroshi Hase, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

30.1 **Mr Hase** (Japan)

(*address delivered in Japanese; English text provided by the delegation*):

Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, let me express my sincere congratulations on your appointment, Mr President. Mr President, as UNESCO commemorates its 70th anniversary this year, the 38th session of the General Conference is extremely important for UNESCO's future. Japan would like to provide all possible support for the ongoing reform initiatives advanced by Madam Director-General Bokova.

30.2 Mr President, the Japanese Government is firmly determined to ensure that everyone should enjoy access to inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as opportunities for lifelong learning. We hope that the Education 2030 Framework for Action, adopted yesterday, will be implemented steadily from now on. This September, the Japanese Government announced a new strategy on education cooperation entitled "Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth". In line with this strategy, we will promote quality education for all, sustainable development and human resources development, which is the foundation for the potential growth of Member States. The Japanese Government hosted the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) last November, at which the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development was adopted. We hope that UNESCO and the Member States will make further efforts in implementing ESD in line with the Global Action Programme on ESD with its five priority action areas.

30.3 Mr President, we believe that it is important to promote "sustainability science", an integrated approach for addressing global challenges by harnessing the power of the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities in order to build a sustainable society. We hope that UNESCO and the Member States will pursue further deliberations on promoting sustainability science.

30.4 Mr President, on this occasion, we should reflect on the aspiration that it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed, the motto of UNESCO. Whatever we say or do here at UNESCO, it should be in line with this basic spirit. In this sense, protecting world heritage, intangible cultural heritage and documentary heritage, and transmitting such heritage to the next generation is at the forefront of building the defences of peace. It should be pointed out that such activities in the field of culture must lead to integration, not separation, as Madam Director-General Bokova emphasizes frequently, and must also lead to mutual understanding and solidarity among the Member States. Particularly in regard to the Memory of the World Programme, it is necessary for all Member States, as they exercise their due responsibility to UNESCO, to deliberate together on the reforms in order to improve governance and transparency. We hope that Madam Director-General Bokova will continue to provide strong leadership for materializing such reforms.

30.5 Mr President, all people have the right to enjoy their daily lives with happiness and satisfaction through sports. With this understanding, the Japanese Government established the Japan Sports Agency on 1 October. In the near future, we will be holding a series of memorable international sporting events such as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the 2019 Rugby World Cup. We see these events as opportunities for promoting social development all over the world, and we will make further contributions through sports together with UNESCO.

30.6 Mr President, on the occasion of UNESCO's 70th anniversary, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO is honoured to submit a statement emphasizing the importance of respecting diversity and valuing the role of UNESCO for building a sustainable society. This statement also proposes that UNESCO should assume the role of an intellectual leader in this new era of the international community. I would like to conclude by expressing my high expectations for UNESCO's further development and contributions to the international community, under Madam Director-General Bokova's strong leadership. The Japanese Government is fully committed to making further efforts to promote UNESCO's activities. Thank you for your attention.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Octave Nicoué Broohm, Minister of Higher Education and Research of Togo. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

32.1 **M. Broohm (Togo):**

Merci. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, distingués délégués, c'est un honneur et un privilège certain pour moi de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée pour vous délivrer le message de paix des plus hautes autorités togolaises et réaffirmer l'attachement du peuple togolais aux nobles valeurs de notre Organisation.

32.2 Je voudrais avant tout vous féliciter à mon tour, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la tête de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale. Ma sincère gratitude va ensuite à votre prédécesseur, M. Hao Ping, pour sa contribution aux avancées des objectifs de notre Organisation durant son mandat.

32.3 Je saisis enfin cette opportunité pour féliciter la Directrice générale et son équipe pour le travail abattu à la tête de l'UNESCO depuis déjà six ans, marqué par de nombreuses initiatives empreintes d'une vision positive de paix et de la conviction que, pour être durable, la paix doit s'établir sur le fondement de l'égalité, de la dignité humaine et de la compréhension entre les peuples.

32.4 Monsieur le Président, la présente session se tient à une période-clé pour les Nations Unies. En effet, les huit objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD), qui constituaient depuis l'an 2000 la feuille de route du développement, ont stimulé les efforts de tous pour répondre aux besoins des plus pauvres dans le monde. Au Togo, comme dans plusieurs autres pays, le bilan reste mitigé. Bien que des avancées importantes aient été réalisées dans l'amélioration de certains indicateurs, notamment dans le domaine de l'éducation, de la promotion de l'égalité des sexes dans le système éducatif et de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition, les efforts doivent se poursuivre dans tous les secteurs. L'échéance étant arrivée, de grandes conférences internationales ont été organisées pour redéfinir les objectifs et préparer l'agenda post-2015. Je voudrais rappeler la rencontre de Corée, à Incheon, le sommet d'Oslo, la rencontre d'Addis-Abeba et celle de New-York en septembre 2015. Le programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 doit tirer le meilleur parti de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture, de la communication et de l'information.

32.5 En matière d'éducation, les acquis de la gratuité des frais de scolarité dans le primaire seront renforcés. Tout est mis en œuvre pour relancer la formation initiale des enseignants aux niveaux du primaire et du secondaire. L'accent

est désormais davantage placé sur les formations techniques et sur la valorisation de l'apprentissage. L'objectif ultime est de promouvoir l'auto-emploi et l'employabilité qui sont des exigences auxquelles le système éducatif classique ne peut plus répondre.

32.6 C'est le lieu de remercier l'UNESCO, qui accompagne mon pays dans la mise en place des technologies de l'information et de la communication dans l'éducation pour atteindre l'objectif d'une éducation équitable et inclusive de qualité ainsi qu'un apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour tous. Mon pays souscrit à la Déclaration d'Incheon « Éducation 2030 » et demande à l'UNESCO de s'efforcer d'accompagner les États membres dans la mise en œuvre de son cadre d'action, au plan national.

32.7 La revitalisation récente dans notre pays du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB) et du Programme hydrologique international (PHI), à travers la restructuration de leurs comités nationaux, est un gage de l'importance que le Togo accorde à la science au service du développement.

32.8 S'agissant du développement culturel, le gouvernement va veiller à ce que ce secteur puisse bénéficier de l'attention requise. Il s'agit de la protection du patrimoine culturel, du développement des infrastructures culturelles et de l'appui à la production cinématographique et à l'action culturelle. L'objectif ultime est de jeter les bases d'une véritable industrie culturelle.

32.9 Dans le domaine social, le gouvernement va accroître sa politique de développement à la base. Celle-ci consiste à favoriser l'accès des couches et des catégories les plus vulnérables à un minimum vital commun.

32.10 Enfin, dans le domaine de la communication et de l'information, le gouvernement continuera de promouvoir la liberté d'expression et d'information et de renforcer les capacités des médias libres, indépendants et pluralistes au service du développement durable.

32.11 Monsieur le Président, je terminerai en déclarant que mon pays accorde son appui au projet de budget 2016-2017 et souhaite un joyeux anniversaire à notre Organisation qui célèbre, comme vous le savez, ses 70 ans au cours de cette session. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

33. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Adão Ferreira do Nascimento, Minister of Higher Education of Angola. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

34.1 **Mr do Nascimento (Angola):**

(Discours prononcé en portugais ; texte français fourni par la délégation) :

Excellences, mesdames, messieurs, au nom du Gouvernement angolais, permettez-moi de présenter aux distingués membres de la présidence de cette Conférence mes vives salutations, ayant la certitude que, sous votre conduite, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès.

34.2 Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, cette année, l'UNESCO célèbre les 70 ans de son existence, tout comme l'Organisation des Nations Unies, dont les Etats membres ont adopté l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, pendant la réunion des chefs d'État qui s'est tenue récemment dans le cadre de la 70ème session de l'Assemblée générale. C'est ainsi qu'ont été retenues comme priorités absolues: l'éradication de la pauvreté, la protection et la promotion des droits de tous les citoyens, l'égalité du genre, l'autonomie des femmes et une attention particulière à tous les groupes vulnérables. Il est important de souligner que les priorités en question sont intimement liées aux domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, compte tenu de leur importance dans le processus de la construction des défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes. Dans cette perspective, à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, l'Angola a assumé l'engagement d'interpréter et de mettre en œuvre l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable en pleine conformité avec sa législation et les priorités nationales de développement ainsi qu'avec les valeurs éthiques, culturelles, religieuses de la société angolaise et en conformité avec les droits de l'homme internationalement reconnus. En tant que membre non-permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies pour l'exercice 2015-2016, l'Angola cherche à être un partenaire engagé dans la promotion de la paix, de la stabilité et du développement dans la région où il est implanté, notamment en Afrique centrale, dans les Grands Lacs et dans la SADC. Il nous plaît de souligner qu'en co-organisant avec l'UNESCO et le l'Union Africaine en 2013 le Forum panafricain sur la culture de la paix, Sources et Ressources pour la Culture de la Paix, l'Angola se propose d'abriter à partir de l'année prochaine, la Biennale sur la Culture de la paix en Afrique.

34.3 Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, dans les divers domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, l'Angola s'est toujours efforcée d'impliquer divers acteurs dans le cadre des initiatives publiques et privées avec des partenaires nationaux et étrangers. Dans ce contexte, on peut souligner la valeur ajoutée que la coopération internationale et l'assistance de l'UNESCO à l'Angola représentent. Je suis heureux d'informer qu'a eu lieu en 2014 le IIe Festival national de la culture – FENACULT 2014, lequel a été le plus grand moment de la fête et de l'exaltation de la culture angolaise, avec l'objectif de préserver et de développer les arts, la culture et les traditions de différentes communautés, ainsi que de créer une plate-forme d'interaction, d'échange et de la diffusion du patrimoine culturel riche et diversifié du pays. En dehors de cela, en mai de cette année, s'est tenue la Rencontre nationale des Directeurs des Musées de l'Angola, sous le thème: "Musées de l'Angola: Réhabilitation, Rénovation des Expositions - Nouvelles tendances pour la modernité», qui visait essentiellement le partage et l'enrichissement de la vision sur la politique muséale du pays, notamment concernant l'intention du renforcement de la capacité de gestion des musées sur toute l'étendue du territoire national.

34.4 Parallèlement à cela, se poursuivent en ce moment les actions d'inventaire, de l'étude, de la diffusion, de la mise en valeur et de la protection de l'immense patrimoine culturel du pays. Dans ce contexte, se réalisent actuellement

les actions finales du projet d'inscription de la ville historique de Mbanza Kongo au patrimoine de l'Humanité. Les exercices de consultation étendue aux jeunes et à la femme rurale, réalisés en 2013 et en 2014 respectivement, ont servi de base pour l'ajustement des politiques et pour adopter des plans d'action dont la mise en œuvre, dans toute l'extension du territoire national, ont progressivement permis de couvrir les besoins des jeunes et des femmes dans les différents domaines et ainsi que d'améliorer leurs conditions de vie. Les lignes de force de plans d'action en question sont, entre autres, la formation et la qualification professionnelle, l'emploi, le logement, en ce qui concerne les jeunes et le renforcement du pouvoir, la protection contre la violence, la sécurité alimentaire, en ce qui concerne la femme rurale. D'autre part, continueront à être renforcées des actions qui contribuent à l'élargissement de la pratique de l'éducation physique et du sport au niveau national comme base pour consolider et encourager la réussite et l'excellence dans les différentes modalités.

34.5 Le système d'éducation a connu un développement quantitatif notable, dépassant les objectifs énoncés dans les plans du gouvernement. Malgré ces résultats encourageants, et conscients du fait qu'il y a encore beaucoup à faire, mon Pays s'est doté d'un plan national de formation de cadres, de techniciens et de main-d'œuvre spécialisée, dont la mise en œuvre mobilise différents acteurs et partenaires pour répondre aux besoins de tous les secteurs de l'économie nationale et pour rendre durable le plan national de développement. D'autre part, se réalise actuellement la révision de la Loi-cadre du système éducatif afin de renforcer les bases pour un développement qualitatif et en faire l'un des facteurs décisifs du développement national. Cette révision valorise les leçons et les acquis de la réforme déjà achevée, ainsi que les meilleures pratiques consacrées au niveau international. Dans cette perspective, constituent des lignes de force, l'éducation et l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie, l'élargissement de l'offre éducative de qualité, la promotion de l'accès, de l'équité, de l'inclusion et de la réussite scolaire dans l'enseignement primaire et secondaire, l'intensification de l'alphabétisation et le renforcement de l'enseignement technique et professionnel.

34.6 En plus, la révision de cette Loi-cadre privilégie pour l'enseignement supérieur, la consolidation de la vision stratégique du développement, le renforcement de la base juridique et normative, l'amélioration des ressources humaines, matérielles et financières, ainsi que l'organisation du réseau des institutions d'enseignement, des activités académiques et scientifiques selon les plus hautes exigences de qualité. L'équilibre de la performance de l'Angola au cours des 40 dernières années révèle que la production scientifique par million d'habitants est passée de 1,4% entre 1995 et 2005 à 18,8% entre 1995 et 2013. Une de recommandations de la 4e Conférence nationale sur la science et la technologie encourage la recherche appliquée comme la meilleure forme de relever les défis et les préoccupations de la société angolaise et de favoriser l'intégration du pays dans les réseaux de recherche régionaux, continentaux et internationaux. Compte tenu de l'importance que revêt cette question, l'Angola espère obtenir le soutien de l'UNESCO pour l'élaboration de politiques appropriées dans le cadre du renforcement de l'accord déjà existant avec l'organisation.

34.7 En Angola, sont régulièrement menées des actions visant la promotion de la liberté d'expression, le développement des médias et l'accès à l'information, en particulier pour les citoyens et les professionnels de la classe journalistique. Ce sont des publications de propriété publique et privée. Le réseau de diffusion de signaux de radio et de télévision continue de s'étendre et la circulation des journaux à travers le pays est toujours en augmentation, en vertu du respect du droit fondamental d'accès à l'information, tel que stipulé dans la Constitution de la République d'Angola.

34.8 Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi saluer les efforts de l'UNESCO faisant appel à la communauté internationale pour le soutien nécessaire à la lutte contre la destruction délibérée de biens du patrimoine de l'humanité, tel qu'il arrive malheureusement en de nombreux endroits. Permettez-moi finalement de m'adresser aux Etats membres: premièrement, pour solliciter leur soutien pour la candidature de l'Angola au Comité du patrimoine mondial; deuxièmement, pour demander votre attention au projet de résolution (DR) présenté sur la réalisation de la Biennale de la Culture de la Paix prévue pour l'an prochain, à Luanda. Cette Biennale est l'un des moyens pragmatiques pour la réalisation de la mission séculaire de l'UNESCO: "les guerres naissent dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent s'élever les défenses de la paix". Je vous remercie.

35. **The President:**

Obrigado Your Excellency. Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Professor Maria Böhmer, Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

36.1 **Ms Böhmer (Germany)**

(address delivered in German; English text provided by the delegation):

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. On 16 November 2015, it will be 70 years since the UNESCO Constitution was signed. At that time, UNESCO was still a manageable community, along the lines of a small house with 37 residents. Now the UNESCO family has 195 members who gather under one roof. The family has expanded, and will continue to grow. The house has been extended. UNESCO's responsibilities have also increased. This development says a great deal about UNESCO's appeal. The Organization has evolved into a place that brings together almost the entire family of States to help promote peaceful co-existence through culture, education and science. The past 70 years have seen remarkable achievements, ranging from the restoration of schools, libraries and museums in the wake of the Second World War, through literacy campaigns and the protection of biological diversity – for instance through the Man and the Biosphere Programme – to the protection of cultural diversity, embodied in the exceptionally successful Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

36.2 The 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn sent a clear message. The unanimous inscription of the controversial Japanese nomination of the sites of Japan's Meiji industrial revolution not only marked a success for diplomacy, but above all was a success for the basic idea of the World Heritage Convention to find joint solutions even to contentious issues. This demonstrates the power UNESCO has. The unanimously adopted Bonn Declaration on world heritage condemns the destruction of cultural heritage in no uncertain terms as a war crime that needs to be subject to

criminal prosecution. Anyone who robs people of their cultural identity and history also robs them of their future. We must always ensure that people have a future. We want to continue to help ensure that this is the case. The German Bundestag has proposed that more funding for the Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office be made available in order to be able to provide more emergency aid, to enable us to be even quicker in providing assistance when cultural property is under threat from terrorist acts or when it is destroyed by natural disasters, as recently occurred in Nepal. However, the Bonn Declaration also reveals the vast scope of the challenges currently facing us: 60 million displaced people worldwide, destroyed monuments, plundered cultural heritage sites, 60 million boys and girls without access to basic education and in some regions fewer than 60% of girls attending school. If half of the population is excluded from basic human rights – and that includes access to education – no society will achieve long-term peace.

36.3 One month ago, the international community succeeded in reaching a milestone with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNESCO plays a central role in achieving these ambitious post-millennium goals when it comes to facilitating high-quality education, biological and cultural diversity, and inclusion and gender equality. This is UNESCO's core area of activity. This is what UNESCO needs to concentrate on. We need a UNESCO with the ability to act. However, it will only be able to act if the Member States are willing to cooperate and provide the necessary financial support. We have to continue our reform efforts. UNESCO can cite many positive achievements in this area, whether they be the reforms within the World Heritage Committee or the reform of UNESCO's financing instruments, even though we undoubtedly still have plenty of work to do. Germany is prepared to continue its active engagement in the future. Ladies and gentlemen, let us build the UNESCO house of the future together. Let us make this House storm-proof so that it can continue to offer protection and peace for humanity for the next 70 years. Thank you very much.

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Fernanda Marques, Minister of Education and Sports of Cabo Verde. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

38.1 **Mme Marques (Cabo Verde) :**

Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, nous vous adressons nos félicitations les plus distinguées pour votre leadership à la tête de l'UNESCO. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, nous vous félicitons pour votre élection à la présidence de cette prestigieuse assemblée, qui honore notre continent.

38.2 Honorable assistance, Mesdames et Messieurs, mes premiers mots seront pour féliciter notre Organisation, l'UNESCO, à l'occasion de ses 70 ans. Elle a accompli un beau parcours, marqué par d'importantes avancées pour l'humanité mais aussi par d'immenses défis, anciens et nouveaux, des défis dont la bonne gestion requiert un partenariat global effectif, en soutien renforcé au mandat de l'UNESCO.

38.3 C'est un grand honneur pour moi que d'être ici à exprimer le ferme engagement du Cap-Vert en faveur de l'initiative « Repenser l'éducation : vers un bien commun mondial », qui fait du développement durable une préoccupation centrale et réaffirme une approche humaniste. Le Cap-Vert est un petit État insulaire, un archipel sahélien, qui a atteint les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, en particulier l'objectif 2 (Assurer l'éducation primaire pour tous) et qui s'engage désormais en faveur des objectifs de développement durable. Les petits États insulaires en développement doivent continuer de bénéficier de l'attention soutenue de l'UNESCO. La même année où l'UNESCO fête ses 70 ans, le Cap-Vert célèbre ses 40 ans d'indépendance. Depuis son accession à l'indépendance, il a toujours privilégié l'éducation. A ses débuts, le 5 juillet 1975, il comptait 63 % d'analphabètes. Aujourd'hui, le taux d'alphabétisation est de 89 %.

38.4 Le Cap-Vert a entrepris plusieurs réformes de son système éducatif – en 1975, 1990 et 2010 – qui lui ont permis d'obtenir un taux de couverture préscolaire de 85 %, d'assurer une éducation de base universelle de huit ans avec un taux de scolarisation de 98 %, suivie de quatre années d'enseignement secondaire général et technique, et d'avoir un fort investissement dans l'enseignement supérieur. La troisième réforme du système éducatif, qui porte la durée de la scolarité de base à huit ans, est en cours, avec la reformulation des programmes d'enseignement et des manuels scolaires, la formation des enseignants et un accent très fort sur le renforcement de l'apprentissage de la langue et en langue maternelle – la langue capverdienne –, des langues, des mathématiques, des sciences et des technologies.

38.5 Le souci de repenser l'éducation comme un bien commun est déjà incorporé dans la gouvernance du pays, qui a un programme gouvernemental intégré avec des objectifs de développement transversaux, imposant une action coordonnée des différents secteurs/ministères. Ce programme repose sur le Document de stratégie pour la croissance et la réduction de la pauvreté – III, un outil opérationnel dans le cadre des dépenses à moyen terme et une carte de politique intégrée éducation-formation-emploi, permettant une budgétisation glissante annuelle avec un horizon programmatique de quatre ans.

38.6 Amílcar Cabral, le chef de notre nation, nous a interpellés en nous incitant à penser par nous-mêmes et à apprendre sans relâche, avec les livres, avec les autres et avec le monde. Nous estimons donc que la tâche consistant à relever le grand défi du développement durable à laquelle le monde a entrepris de s'atteler à l'horizon 2030 peut être facilitée si chacun d'entre nous parvient à assurer une planification et une coordination étroites des différentes politiques transnationales et nationales, en s'appuyant sur un réseau d'opportunités créées par les associations régionales et locales. De fait, si nous arrivons à accélérer la communicabilité entre le Glonacal (global, national et local) et ce que nous appelons le Lonabal (local, national et global) pour une utilisation plus efficace des ressources, nous gagnerons la bataille du développement durable.

38.7 Le Cap-Vert est en train de finaliser son processus d'adhésion au partenariat mondial pour l'éducation et de terminer l'élaboration d'un plan stratégique pour l'éducation à l'horizon 2025. Nous réaffirmons notre détermination à

repenser l'éducation comme un bien commun mondial, avec le développement durable comme préoccupation centrale et la réaffirmation d'une approche humaniste de l'éducation pour le XXI^e siècle, en construisant une école entreprenante, citoyenne et républicaine qui puisse être un vrai outil de développement dans la communauté où elle s'insère. Je vous remercie. *Muito obrigado a todos y a todas !*

Ms Lazaro (Philippines) takes the Chair.

39. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Chuon Naron Hang, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia. You have the floor Excellency.

40.1 **Mr Hang (Cambodia):**

Madam President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa on his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference, and thank His Excellency Mr Hao Ping for his dedicated work as the President of the 37th session of the General Conference. I would also like to thank His Excellency Mohamed Sameh Amr for his commendable efforts as the Chair of the Executive Board. It is my pleasure to congratulate the Director-General of UNESCO for her report and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 submitted to us.

40.2 I wish to share with you the efforts of the Government of Cambodia during the last two years under the leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen. Cambodia appreciates the reforms engaged by the Director-General to transform UNESCO into a more innovative, effective organization ready to implement the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

40.3 On behalf of the Government of Cambodia and as Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, I wish to congratulate and thank UNESCO and all stakeholders for the Education 2030 Framework for Action. I reaffirm Cambodia's strong commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Incheon Declaration and the new Framework for Action, which fully reflects the education reform efforts that Cambodia has undertaken over the last two years. I am proud to inform the international community that Cambodia has successfully attained the education for all (EFA) and education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With 98.5% enrolment rates, we have achieved universal access to primary education with gender parity. We are now focusing our efforts on improving the quality of education and eliminating all forms of exclusion and marginalization. We have launched reform initiatives, focusing on teachers, national exam reforms, a review of curriculum and textbooks, school inspections and learning assessments, and the school environment and quality assurance in order to address the skills mismatch and promote economic diversification while ensuring that basic and higher education are relevant for the development aspirations of Cambodia. We have started implementation of an ambitious teacher policy action plan to make teaching an attractive profession. We value and appreciate UNESCO's continued technical support for the education sector in Cambodia and note the active role of UNESCO as Chair of the Education Sector Working Group, in particular, the Capacity Building for Education for All (CapEFA) programme.

40.4 I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Cambodia is continuously working towards improving freedom of expression, democratic governance and inclusive civic participation, with the drafting of the first access to information legislation in close cooperation with the media and civil society. In the field of science, the Ministry of Environment and UNESCO have been working together to establish the new management plan for the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve and to find out the best option to promote the Reserve as a learning site in terms of biodiversity. On the eve of the twenty-first session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), Cambodia considers it important to support the attention given to the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem to mitigate climate change and ensure food safety for local communities.

(The speaker continues in French)

40.5 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Gouvernement du Cambodge estime que la culture est un élément essentiel de la reconstruction et des efforts de réconciliation de notre nation. Le Cambodge a, à cet égard, intégré ces notions dans sa nouvelle politique culturelle récemment adoptée qui vise non seulement à protéger son vaste patrimoine archéologique, urbain et immatériel mais également à promouvoir la créativité et les industries culturelles telles que le cinéma.

40.6 En ce qui concerne le patrimoine mondial, le Cambodge souhaite vivement remercier le Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO pour avoir soutenu l'année dernière la création du Comité international de coordination pour la sauvegarde et le développement du site historique de Preah Vihear (CIC-Preah Vihear), co-présidé par la Chine et l'Inde. Le Cambodge s'honore d'accueillir, à la fin du mois de novembre, le 1^{er} Forum régional des jeunes pour le patrimoine mondial en Asie et invite chaleureusement les États membres de la région à y envoyer leurs représentants.

40.7 Le Cambodge souhaite également féliciter la Directrice générale pour avoir dénoncé sans relâche les destructions les plus abjectes du patrimoine culturel du Moyen-Orient. Il soutient sans réserve son initiative #UnisPourLePatrimoine et appelle de ses vœux le renforcement du Secrétariat des Conventions de 1954 et de 1970.

40.8 Comme vous le savez, le Cambodge est un pays d'une grande richesse patrimoniale, et je m'engage, en tant que Ministre de l'éducation et conformément aux priorités du prochain exercice biennal, à dispenser aux enfants et aux jeunes le minimum de connaissances requises en matière de conservation et de valeurs du patrimoine culturel, y compris grâce à un programme intégré d'éducation au patrimoine à l'école qui pourrait s'intituler : « Une école est un monument ». Je vous remercie de votre attention.

41. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Alena Kupchyna, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus. You have the floor, Your Excellency.

42.1 **Г-жа Купчина (Беларусь):**

Уважаемый г-жа Председатель, уважаемая г-жа Генеральный директор, Ваши Превосходительства, дамы и господа. Позвольте мне поблагодарить Его Превосходительство г-на Хао Пина за отличную работу в течение его председательствования, а также поздравить г-на Стэнли Мутумба Симатаа с избранием на пост председателя 38-й сессии. Уверена, что под его умелым руководством, Генеральная конференция успешно выполнит поставленные задачи.

42.2 Нынешняя 38-я сессия Генеральной конференции знаменательна тем, что ее проведение совпадает с 70-летним юбилеем ЮНЕСКО – одной из самых многочисленных по составу и самых авторитетных организаций семьи ООН.

42.3 С каким багажом подошла наша Организация к этому юбилею, чего достигла, что нужно сберечь и сохранить, что отбросить, от чего отказаться? Вот главные вопросы, которые нам предстоит решить в ближайшей перспективе.

42.4 Нынешняя напряженная ситуация в мире все чаще ставит вопросы о возможном столкновении цивилизаций, все чаще нам приходится присоединяться к словам тревоги и осуждения Генерального директора в ответ на насилие и вандализм. В таких условиях роль ЮНЕСКО трудно переоценить. ЮНЕСКО – та организация, которая своей повседневной работой показывает, что на самом деле мы все принадлежим к одной цивилизации – человеческой. Находясь в центре Европы, наша страна, Беларусь, осуществляет последовательную стратегию толерантности как в проблемах национальной и миграционной политики, так и гендерного равенства, неприятия насилия. Мы стремимся к решению всех противоречий через межкультурный диалог, и за последнее время Беларусь не раз доказала свою состоятельность в этом вопросе.

42.5 Мы рассматриваем нашу Организацию как уникальную платформу международного многовекторного сотрудничества в областях образования, науки, культуры и коммуникации. ЮНЕСКО – это лаборатория идей и инструмент наращивания потенциала для искоренения нищеты посредством образования, для межкультурного диалога, для устойчивого развития и укрепления мира.

42.6 Беларусь приветствует новые инициативы ЮНЕСКО по основным направлениям ее деятельности, включая План действий в области образования в контексте целей устойчивого развития на период до 2030 г., Стратегию действий по борьбе с насильственным экстремизмом с помощью образования. Мы готовы участвовать в обсуждении возможных мер, направленных на обеспечение защиты культурных ценностей и поощрение культурного плюрализма в случае вооруженного конфликта.

42.7 Дамы и господа, являясь одним из основателей Организации Объединенных Наций и будучи более 60 лет членом ЮНЕСКО, Беларусь, тем не менее, является достаточно молодым независимым государством, и во многом благодаря ЮНЕСКО, ее программам и проектам название Беларусь приобрело новое звучание: не только как суверенное государство на карте мира, но и как страна - хранитель объектов всемирного наследия, как часть европейской и мировой культуры.

42.8 Беларусь придает большое значение сотрудничеству с ЮНЕСКО. Мы поступательно движемся вперед в своем развитии, прочно занимая место среди стран с высоким уровнем развития человеческого потенциала и лидируя по этому показателю среди стран Содружества Независимых Государств. Важнейшими приоритетами Беларуси в рамках сотрудничества с ЮНЕСКО являются сохранение культурного материального и нематериального наследия, обеспечение качественного образования, развитие и поощрение науки и новых технологий.

42.9 Беларусь достигла значительных успехов в данных направлениях. Мы досрочно выполнили пять из восьми Целей развития тысячелетия Организации Объединенных Наций. Беларусь активно участвует в образовательных программах по ассоциированным школам и кафедрам ЮНЕСКО. В стране действуют восемь кафедр ЮНЕСКО по естественным, гуманитарным и точным наукам и десять ассоциированных школ ЮНЕСКО. Белорусская ассоциация клубов ЮНЕСКО является одной из самых авторитетных молодежных организаций в стране и пользуется заслуженным уважением на уровне Всемирной Федерации клубов и центров ЮНЕСКО. В октябре 2015 г. в Бухаресте на сессии Исполсовета Европейской и Североамериканской Федерации клубов, центров и ассоциаций ЮНЕСКО принято решение о проведении следующего Конгресса Европейской и Североамериканской Федерации в 2016 г. в Минске.

42.10 Благодаря поддержке ЮНЕСКО Беларусь активно использует возможности современных технологий для сохранения и совместного использования документального наследия. Одним из примеров такого использования является архив Михала Клеофаса Огинского, который вернулся в Беларусь в виде электронных копий.

42.11 Высокий авторитет ЮНЕСКО в Беларуси связан с тем, что главной отличительной чертой Организации является учет интересов каждого из государств-членов, осуществление конкретных проектов, рациональное использование ресурсов для выполнения поставленных задач. Надеемся, что связь ЮНЕСКО и ее государств-членов будет в дальнейшем только укрепляться. Мы высоко ценим усилия Генерального директора, направленные на сохранение и усиление ЮНЕСКО и готовы оказывать Организации любую посильную помощь в этом благородном деле.

42.12 Уважаемые дамы и господа, мы убеждены – сегодня ЮНЕСКО, которую в Беларуси по праву считают одним из интеллектуальных и моральных лидеров в укреплении международного сотрудничества, нужна своим госу-

дарствам-членам и всему международному сообществу не меньше, если не больше, чем в годы ее создания. Благодарю за внимание.

(42.1) **Mme Kupchyna** (Бéларус) (*traduit du russe*) :

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice générale, Vos Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs. Permettez-moi de remercier M. Hao Ping pour l'excellent travail qu'il a accompli au cours de son mandat, et de féliciter M. Stanley Mutumba Simataa pour son élection à la fonction de président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale. Je suis certaine que sous son habile direction, la Conférence générale s'acquittera des tâches qui lui ont été assignées.

(42.2) Cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale revêt une importance particulière, car elle coïncide avec le 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, l'une des organisations les plus prestigieuses et les plus importantes en nombre de la famille des Nations Unies.

(42.3) Avec quel bilan notre Organisation célèbre-t-elle cet anniversaire ? Qu'a-t-elle accompli ? Que faut-il conserver et maintenir ? Que faut-il supprimer, à quoi faut-il renoncer ? Voilà les grandes questions auxquelles nous devons répondre dans un proche avenir.

(42.4) La situation mondiale tendue qui prévaut actuellement soulève de plus en plus de questions sur un possible choc des civilisations, et, de plus en plus souvent, nous devons nous associer aux mises en garde et aux condamnations exprimées par la Directrice générale en réponse à la violence et au vandalisme. Dans ces circonstances, l'UNESCO a un rôle crucial à jouer. Elle montre, par le travail qu'elle accomplit au quotidien, que nous appartenons en réalité à une seule et même civilisation, celle de l'humanité. Notre pays, le Bélarus, est situé au centre de l'Europe. Il met en œuvre une stratégie cohérente de tolérance pour aborder aussi bien les questions de politique nationale et migratoire que celles de l'égalité des genres et de la lutte contre la violence. Nous aspirons à la résolution de tous les antagonismes par le dialogue interculturel, et dernièrement, le Bélarus a prouvé à maintes reprises son efficacité en la matière.

(42.5) Nous considérons notre Organisation comme une plate-forme unique de coopération multilatérale et internationale dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture et de la communication. L'UNESCO est un laboratoire d'idées et un instrument de renforcement des capacités pour l'élimination de la pauvreté par l'éducation, pour le dialogue interculturel, le développement durable et la consolidation de la paix.

(42.6) Le Bélarus salue les nouvelles initiatives lancées par l'UNESCO dans ses principaux domaines d'action, notamment le plan d'action pour l'éducation dans le cadre des objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et la stratégie de lutte contre l'extrémisme violent par l'éducation. Nous sommes prêts à participer à l'examen des mesures possibles pour assurer la protection des biens culturels et la promotion de la diversité culturelle en cas de conflit armé.

(42.7) Mesdames et Messieurs, bien qu'il soit l'un des fondateurs de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et un membre de l'UNESCO depuis plus de 60 ans, le Bélarus est un pays indépendant plutôt jeune, dont le nom a acquis une consonance nouvelle en grande partie grâce à l'UNESCO et à ses programmes et projets, non seulement comme État souverain figurant sur la carte du monde, mais aussi comme gardien de sites du patrimoine mondial et composante de la culture européenne et mondiale.

(42.8) Le Bélarus accorde une grande importance à la collaboration avec l'UNESCO. Nous avançons progressivement dans notre développement, mais nous tenons fermement notre rang parmi les pays qui ont un niveau élevé de développement humain, et sommes en tête des pays de la Communauté d'États indépendants dans le classement établi à partir de cet indicateur. Les principales priorités du Bélarus, dans le cadre de sa collaboration avec l'UNESCO, sont la conservation du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel, la fourniture d'une éducation de qualité, le développement et la promotion de la science et des nouvelles technologies.

(42.9) Le Bélarus a obtenu d'importants succès dans ces domaines. Nous avons atteint cinq des huit objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement avant l'échéance prévue. Le Bélarus participe activement aux programmes éducatifs des écoles associées et des chaires UNESCO, et compte huit chaires UNESCO en sciences humaines, naturelles et exactes et dix écoles associées. L'association bélarussienne des clubs UNESCO est l'une des organisations de jeunesse les plus prestigieuses du pays, et jouit d'un respect mérité au sein de la Fédération mondiale des associations, centres et clubs UNESCO. En outre, le Conseil exécutif des fédérations européennes et nord-américaines des associations, centres et clubs UNESCO a décidé, à sa session d'octobre 2015 tenue à Bucarest, que le prochain Congrès des fédérations européennes et nord-américaines serait organisé à Minsk en 2016.

(42.10) Grâce au soutien de l'UNESCO, le Bélarus a exploité activement les possibilités offertes par les technologies actuelles pour la conservation et le partage du patrimoine documentaire. Ainsi, les archives de Michał Kleofas Ogiński ont été remises au Bélarus sous la forme de copies numériques.

(42.11) La prestige dont jouit l'UNESCO au Bélarus est lié à la marque distinctive de l'Organisation, à savoir la prise en compte des intérêts de chacun des États membres, la mise en œuvre de projets concrets, et l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources pour la réalisation des objectifs fixés. Nous espérons que les liens entre l'UNESCO et ses États membres ne feront que se renforcer à l'avenir. Nous apprécions grandement les efforts déployés par la Directrice générale pour préserver et renforcer l'UNESCO, et nous tenons prêts à apporter toute l'assistance possible à l'Organisation dans cette noble entreprise.

(42.12) Mesdames et Messieurs, nous sommes convaincus que les États membres de l'UNESCO et la communauté internationale dans son ensemble ont besoin de notre Organisation, qui est à juste titre considérée au Bélarus comme un chef de file sur le plan intellectuel et moral du renforcement de la coopération internationale, et ce aujourd'hui tout autant qu'au moment de sa création, sinon plus. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

43. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Ioannis Amanatidis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece. You have the floor Your Excellency.

44.1 **Mr Amanatidis** (Greece):

Madam Director-General, Madam President, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, 70 years since the establishment of UNESCO and one year before the celebration of the 2,400th anniversary of the birth of Aristotle, Greece is looking forward to participating in the next Executive Board of the Organization. After taking stock of past and current achievements, let me outline our vision and perspectives for UNESCO in the “new age of limits” humanity is already experiencing. Global climate change, natural disasters, economic upheavals, rising tensions within nationalism and extremism, famine, inequality, illiteracy and xenophobia, together with the current cultural and humanitarian crisis in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, are testing the resilience of the existing international system. In this changing global environment, we are compelled to further strengthen the important role of UNESCO on the global stage. In particular, the ongoing refugee crisis represents a major challenge that affects the entire international community. Greece considers the protection of refugees and human life in general to be a fundamental element of our civilization and our common system of values. The Greek people have welcomed refugees and have shown their solidarity in many ways. We are determined to continue treating the hundreds of thousands of refugees in the most humane way. We believe that the only way to tackle the refugee crisis is to address its root causes - war and conflict - and promote sustainable growth and development. We must step up our efforts to resolve the conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, as well as to tackle religious and cultural extremism. To this end, Greece took the initiative of organizing and hosting, last October, an international conference on religious and cultural pluralism and peaceful coexistence in the Middle East.

44.2 Madam President, over the past decade, the increase in deliberate attacks on cultural heritage has been associated with a strategy of extremists to use the destruction of culture as a weapon of war and a means to rewrite history by erasing thousands of years of ancient civilizations. This strategy is associated with the use of new technologies and communication tools in order to spread hatred far beyond the borders of existing battlefields. The persecution of individuals on cultural or religious grounds combined with the deliberate destruction of their heritage can be described as cultural cleansing. Greece holds the Chair of UNESCO's Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which is the monitoring body of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954. Within this context, and following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), the Committee, acting in cooperation with the Director-General of UNESCO, has issued three consecutive statements condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

44.3 Furthermore, Greece holds the Chair of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The operational guidelines of the Convention, for which we worked so hard, established new standards for the preservation of cultural heritage: a certificate for every cultural object and the obligation for whoever owns cultural property to prove that it is owned legally. Last May, during the Third Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention, 130 States adopted the declaration, at the initiative of Greece, to stop trafficking. Cultural heritage, be it tangible or intangible, forms the backbone of cultural diversity, which in turn feeds intercultural dialogue. Once again, we commend UNESCO for its laudable efforts to permanently safeguard world cultural heritage. I note, in particular, the Memory of the World Committees recent decision to inscribe the Derveni Papyrus, the oldest book in Europe, on the Memory of the World Register. Furthermore, promoting links between monuments or sites to be registered and the real educational, research or recreational needs of local populations, could be a strategy. At last, professing these principles, UNESCO, as an international specialized agency, should indeed be assigned the role of strategic supervisor of the dialogue of civilizations worldwide. Thank you for your attention.

45. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Henryka Moscicka-Dendys, Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. You have the floor.

46.1 **Ms Moscicka-Dendys** (Poland):

Madam President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the 38th session of the General Conference is a special one as it coincides with the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, and I would like to take this special opportunity to reaffirm my country's faith in the Organization and its Constitution. We need UNESCO to be strong, responsive and able to contribute to peace and security by promoting international cooperation through education, science, culture and respect for the rule of law and human rights. Ladies and gentlemen, the 70th anniversary of UNESCO is also a good moment not only to stock of what has been achieved in the last 70 years, but more importantly, to identify new challenges. In September, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, a major achievement of the whole United Nations family. The goals contained therein, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, underpin all UNESCO's strategies and actions, and the Organization has an important role and responsibility in translating these goals into deeds. Therefore, we note with satisfaction the adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, an important milestone in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

46.2 Ladies and gentlemen, the continued destruction of cultural heritage, often of unique importance for humanity, affects us all. Such acts constitute nothing less than a war crime. They also constitute another challenge for the international community, and Poland fully supports UNESCO and the global community in actions aimed at countering these barbaric acts, as well as widespread trafficking in cultural objects. We thank once again the Director-General for her personal involvement in addressing these problems. As expressed by the President of Poland in his statement during the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations: “In the face of those beastly acts, the international community should take more decisive steps in order to stem the practice of destroying and looting the world heritage.”

46.3 Ladies and gentlemen, in this context, the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq are very much in the focus of the international community today. But we should not forget about cultural heritage which is deliberately destroyed in other parts of the world or exposed to destruction during military operations. Poland supports initiatives aiming to create a global movement to protect heritage in areas where it is threatened by extremism. We support UNESCO's planned strategy on reinforcing the Organization's action for the protection of culture in the event of armed conflict, which will be discussed at this very session. We call on all Member States to adopt the relevant document swiftly and to implement it in full. Contributing to these international efforts, my own country, Poland, has established a special training programme for experts to help other countries to enhance their capacity to better protect endangered cultural heritage. As we speak, the city of Krakow is simultaneously hosting an international conference devoted to the protection of cultural heritage against special threats and the safety of historical buildings. Pondering on the role UNESCO plays in the contemporary world, we cannot forget that this Organization is an inherent part of a wider United Nations strategy of sustainable development and, more importantly, peace-building in the world. In this very context, the importance of creating a culture of peace through education should be emphasized. Therefore, we look forward to discussions and to the outcome of a high-level side event on education to prevent and counter violent extremism.

46.4 Ladies and gentlemen, one of our priorities is to strengthen the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. Documentary heritage constitutes a major part of the memory of the peoples of the world and reflects the diversity of peoples, languages and cultures. We look forward to the adoption of the draft UNESCO recommendation concerning the preservation of and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form.

46.5 Ladies and gentlemen, as I said before, Poland attaches great importance to the activity of the World Heritage Committee, which still proves its particular significance for the preservation of world heritage. Poland is ready and will be honoured to host its 41st session in Krakow. The former Polish capital, the City of Polish Kings, whose Old Town was one of the first sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, seems to be ideal for the meeting of the Committee. We welcome you all to Krakow. Distinguished delegates, in concluding, let me assure you of Poland's clear support for UNESCO and its mission. It is our deep belief that it is by working together, and only working together, that we will be able to respond to all the challenges with which the Organization is confronted in this globalized world. Thank you very much for your attention.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr José Filipe Mendes Moraes Cabral, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Portugal to UNESCO. Your Excellency.

48.1 **M. Cabral (Portugal):**

(Discours prononcé en portugais ; texte français fourni par la délégation) :

Madame la Présidente, Madame la Directrice Générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil Exécutif, je tiens à féliciter monsieur le Président de la Conférence Générale pour son élection, et je formule des vœux de succès pour la conduite de nos travaux. J'exprime aussi notre reconnaissance pour le travail développé par Madame la Directrice Générale, à une période où les défis sont divers. Mais c'est dans les moments difficiles que nous devons savoir identifier les opportunités. Soyez assurée que vous pourrez continuer à compter avec le soutien du Portugal.

48.2 L'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 est un jalon dans l'histoire des Nations Unies. C'est une opportunité de travailler ensemble pour un monde plus juste et plus digne, dans lequel l'éducation est un bien universel, et dans lequel la science, l'innovation, ainsi que la recherche scientifique sont des outils indispensables au développement durable. Ce nouveau partenariat global doit être un moyen de combattre l'inégalité et la pauvreté, et un instrument pour la défense et pour la promotion constantes des droits humains et de sociétés plus justes. Dans cet effort, nous avons bien présente à l'esprit la menace que représentent les changements du climat. Le Portugal demeurera engagé en vue de l'obtention d'un accord global et équilibré pendant la COP 21, dans lequel tous les pays puissent se reconnaître. Permettez-moi de souligner l'importance que le Portugal accorde aux océans et à la Commission Océanographique Intergouvernementale, ainsi qu'au besoin de renforcer ses capacités dans le respect de son autonomie fonctionnelle.

48.3 Madame la Présidente, nous vivons une époque troublée. Les menaces violentes dirigées contre nos principes et nos valeurs fondamentaux atteignent une fréquence et des niveaux jusqu'il y a peu inimaginables. De même, les attaques du patrimoine culturel de l'humanité et de notre mémoire collective sont d'une barbarie effroyable. Il est indispensable de trouver les moyens de lutter efficacement contre ce fléau sous toutes ses formes et de donner des réponses adéquates aux causes qui conduisent au radicalisme et à l'extrémisme violent. Je crois que le pouvoir de l'éducation dans la création d'une culture de paix, de tolérance et de respect mutuel demeurera un facteur inestimable dans cette bataille incontournable, et devra par conséquent être constamment mis en valeur. Ferme défenseur d'un multilatéralisme efficace, le Portugal continuera de voir dans les Nations Unies le principal promoteur de ces efforts. Le flux croissant de réfugiés provenant de la Syrie, de la Libye et de l'Irak, nous rappelle également que des valeurs telles que la solidarité entre pays et la coopération sont d'autant plus essentielles que sont dramatiques les situations où la dignité de la personne humaine est profondément atteinte.

48.4 Madame la Présidente, dans l'année de son 70ème anniversaire, le message de l'UNESCO a un écho spécial au Portugal. Permettez-moi d'exprimer l'engagement constant de mon pays dans la promotion de ses objectifs, aussi bien sur le plan interne qu'en collaboration avec d'autres pays, notamment avec ceux qui partagent avec nous une langue et une histoire communes. La Communauté des Pays de Langue Portugaise, qui compte plus de 250 millions de personnes, en Afrique, en Amérique, en Asie, et en Europe, est un important partenaire de l'UNESCO. Nous nous réjouissons du partenariat qui existe entre les deux organisations, que nous souhaiterions voir renforcé. Je saisis cette occasion pour rendre encore une fois hommage, dans cette maison, à la personnalité de José Mariano Gago, qui nous a

quittés en avril. Pédagogue, chercheur et homme de science, il a apporté sa contribution à l'UNESCO, notamment dans le cadre du Programme SESAME, et contribua de manière générale à la promotion de la science au service de la paix.

48.5 Dans le domaine de la science, le Portugal a, d'ailleurs, été un des principaux promoteurs de la création du « Programme international des Géosciences et Geoparks de l'UNESCO », déjà approuvé par le Conseil Exécutif, et que nous espérons voir adopté par cette Conférence Générale. Nous continuerons engagés dans notre travail de membre du Comité du Patrimoine Mondial, avec la ferme intention de contribuer à une application efficace de la Convention de 1972 dans un contexte difficile, où les ressources se font rares. Malgré les contraintes financières que nous vivons encore sur le plan national, je me réjouis du soutien que mon pays continue à accorder au Centre du Patrimoine Mondial. Permettez-moi également de mettre en valeur le rôle important que la Convention de 1970 assume dans la protection du patrimoine en zones de conflit et dans le combat contre le trafic illicite de biens culturels, en étroite liaison avec d'autres organismes et dans le cadre de la Résolution 2199 du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies. La sauvegarde de la culture est aussi garantie par la promotion du patrimoine immatériel, des expressions et de la diversité culturelles. Les conventions de 2003 et de 2005 sont des outils indispensables à la poursuite de ces objectifs. Nous soutenons également les efforts de l'UNESCO dans la promotion de la liberté d'expression et de l'accès universel à l'information.

48.6 Madame la Présidente, dans un contexte de sérieuses contraintes financières, dans lequel le Plan de Dépenses de l'UNESCO, pour des raisons que nous connaissons, est lamentablement bien en deçà de la somme des contributions obligatoires de ses Etats Membres, plusieurs réformes ont été mises en œuvre. Nous nous réjouissons des efforts de la Directrice Générale dans ce domaine. Nous saluons aussi l'effort des Etats Membres afin de garantir, de diverses formes, que les programmes sont mis en œuvre au bénéfice de ceux qui en ont le plus besoin. Cependant, nous savons qu'il faudra faire d'avantage. Nous savons qu'il faudra faire d'autres réformes afin de garantir une utilisation plus efficace des ressources et une gouvernance efficiente et transparente. En effet, les difficultés que l'UNESCO traverse mettent à l'épreuve la capacité d'accomplir l'essence de son mandat, mais aussi de se réinventer face à de nouveaux défis. Cet équilibre est d'autant plus difficile que la concrétisation d'une partie croissante de ses activités dépend de contributions extrabudgétaires. Ainsi, une gestion efficace doit aussi passer par la répartition équilibrée et diversifiée des ressources disponibles entre les cinq secteurs programmatiques de l'Organisation.

48.7 Madame la Présidente, dans l'année où les Nations Unies et l'UNESCO célèbrent 70 ans, permettez-moi de conclure en réaffirmant l'engagement continué du Portugal dans la défense des valeurs et des principes qui sont au coeur du système multilatéral : la paix, la sécurité internationale, le développement durable, la justice et la défense intransigeante des droits humains. Je vous remercie beaucoup.

49. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Jean-Marie Adoua, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Congo to UNESCO. Your Excellency.

50.1 **M. Adoua (Congo) :**

Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, prenant la parole à cette tribune, je voudrais d'abord joindre ma voix à celles de ceux qui m'ont précédé pour exprimer à M. Simataa mes vives félicitations pour sa brillante élection. Le Congo vous offre son soutien.

50.2 Je voudrais apporter ici l'appui de ma délégation à la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, qui, dans un contexte de crise financière persistante, a réussi à maintenir le leadership de l'Organisation dans ses domaines de compétence, tout en tenant compte de contraintes budgétaires drastiques. À propos des contraintes budgétaires, nous apprécions les efforts de suivi et de recadrage fournis par le Conseil exécutif, et souscrivons à sa recommandation portant sur un plafond budgétaire de 667 millions de dollars et un plan de dépenses basé sur une trésorerie de 518 millions de dollars pour l'exercice biennal 2016-2017.

50.3 Madame la Présidente, le monde s'achemine vers la fin de la période de l'EPT 2000-2015 avec un bilan mitigé puisque seuls un tiers des pays ont pu atteindre l'ensemble des objectifs fixés en 2000, à Dakar. Grâce aux efforts de l'UNESCO qui a su insuffler une forte volonté à la communauté internationale, une période de 15 ans va s'ouvrir avec la promesse de parvenir, à terme, à assurer une éducation équitable, inclusive et de qualité et un apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour tous. Le Congo, mon pays, voudrait s'inscrire dans cette volonté mondialement partagée et faire de l'éducation une grande cause nationale et régionale.

50.4 Le Gouvernement du Congo, sous l'impulsion du Président Denis Sassou N'Guesso, dans le cadre de son programme de société « Le chemin d'avenir », a fourni ces dix dernières années des efforts sans précédent en matière de construction et de modernisation des infrastructures scolaires et universitaires, ainsi que pour l'acquisition d'équipements pédagogiques. Ces efforts d'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation sont malheureusement mis à mal par la pénurie persistante de personnel enseignant de qualité, à tous les niveaux. Cette pénurie persistante est induite par une demande toujours plus importante, liée à la forte croissance démographique. En effet, s'il est relativement aisé pour un gouvernement de programmer des ressources limitées dans le temps pour réaliser des investissements en infrastructures éducatives, il est plus compliqué de recruter en masse des enseignants, avec l'accroissement irréversible de la dépense publique que cela entraîne. Le problème de la pénurie des enseignants est un phénomène mondial, comme le reconnaît le thème de la dernière Journée mondiale des enseignants. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons la priorité budgétaire en faveur du renforcement de l'Institut international de planification de l'éducation (IIPÉ) et du financement des enseignants de la région Afrique ainsi que de leur perfectionnement continu.

50.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, les politiques congolaises dans les domaines des sciences de la culture, de l'information et de la communication ont été fortement réorientées dans le cadre du projet de société « Le

chemin d'avenir » en vue de leur donner plus de cohérence et de les focaliser vers les besoins concrets du développement et le soutien à l'industrialisation au bénéfice du pays. En matière de recherche scientifique, le Gouvernement congolais s'est doté d'une stratégie sectorielle qui met l'accent sur le renforcement des capacités et la gouvernance. À ce titre, le programme sur la gouvernance de la science introduit par la Directrice générale, ainsi que les moyens sollicités dans le scénario fondé sur l'hypothèse d'une croissance nominale zéro, reçoivent tout notre soutien.

50.6 Dans le domaine culturel, l'ambition de mon gouvernement est de réaliser une véritable renaissance culturelle dans notre pays. En effet, après avoir reconnu au développement culturel, dans sa globalité, son rôle de dimension essentielle du développement national, le Gouvernement congolais a entrepris ces dernières années des actions de valorisation du patrimoine culturel et de création d'infrastructures qui ont façonné de manière significative le visage culturel des villes du Congo. La construction dans tous les départements du Congo d'infrastructures sportives modernes favorisant non seulement la pratique du sport mais également la pratique des arts du spectacle, le renforcement des capacités d'infrastructures culturelles publiques en matière de formation comme l'École de peinture de Poto-Poto, l'École nationale des Beaux-Arts ou le Centre de formation en art dramatique, le projet de réalisation d'inventaires du patrimoine national, avec la perspective de l'inscription de la rumba congolaise au Patrimoine immatériel : tout ceci procède de la volonté de faire de ce début du XXI^e siècle le moment de la renaissance culturelle du Congo. À cet égard, l'organisation à Brazzaville des 11^{èmes} Jeux africains, correspondant au 50^e anniversaire de ces jeux, a été pour le peuple congolais un élément marquant de son histoire.

50.7 Madame la Présidente, au regard des tumultes qui secouent l'Afrique sur fond de revendication des libertés politiques, qu'il me soit permis de dire combien le gouvernement de mon pays attache de prix à la liberté d'expression et au développement de médias libres, à la liberté et à la sécurité des professionnels des médias et plus particulièrement des journalistes. C'est dire combien nous soutenons l'action de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de l'information et de la communication, et nous la félicitons pour son appui à la création d'un institut de formation des professionnels des médias, avec le concours du PIDC.

50.8 Après avoir connu, près d'une décennie durant, les affres des affrontements armés fratricides, le Congo a fait de la paix le leitmotiv de tout projet politique. C'est ce qui fonde ce que nous avons appelé ces derniers mois le « projet d'évolution des institutions ». Parfois mal compris de l'extérieur parce que jugé selon les canons théoriques de la démocratie, ce projet bien compris par la majorité des Congolais, surtout des jeunes, ne vise que le dépassement d'un régime politique en vue de la consolidation de la paix et de la construction d'une véritable nation moderne. Que ce projet soit identifié à un homme reconnu comme un leader charismatique, cela n'est pas en soi un acte inédit. La délégation congolaise vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

51. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Jacques Kabale, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Rwanda to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. You have the floor Your Excellency.

52.1 **M. Kabale (Rwanda) :**

Excellence, Madame la Présidente; Excellence, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif; Excellence, Madame la Directrice générale; Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation; Mesdames et Messieurs, au nom du Gouvernement rwandais et en mon nom propre, je souhaite me joindre aux autres chefs de délégation pour féliciter M. Simataa de son élection à la présidence de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais aussi remercier la Directrice générale et toute son équipe pour le travail remarquable réalisé, et saluer tout particulièrement les efforts qu'elle a déployés pour diriger et faciliter la coordination des États membres et des partenaires en vue de l'adoption de l'agenda Éducation 2030.

52.2 Soixante-dix ans après la création de l'UNESCO, s'ouvre la 38^e session de la Conférence générale, avec de nombreuses opportunités, telles que la révolution numérique, mais aussi, malheureusement, certains défis comme l'expansion du terrorisme international. Fort de sa Vision 2020, le Rwanda a poursuivi ses efforts en faveur du développement, de la croissance, de la diffusion des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication, de la santé publique, et de l'éducation. Aujourd'hui, le Rwanda a atteint, voire dépassé certains objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

52.3 Madame la Présidente, entraîné par une croissance soutenue de 7 %, le Rwanda continue de réduire significativement la pauvreté et les inégalités. Le développement socioéconomique du Rwanda se fonde sur la politique inclusive du Gouvernement rwandais, la parité et l'éducation pour tous. Avec 64 % de femmes au Parlement, le Rwanda confirme sa priorité sociopolitique de l'égalité des genres.

52.4 Le Rwanda se félicite des progrès significatifs réalisés pour chacun des six objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT). L'éducation de base universelle a été soutenue à travers plusieurs initiatives, notamment l'abolition des frais de scolarité et l'introduction de subventions de captation, l'extension de 9 à 12 ans de la durée du programme d'éducation de base gratuite, et l'exécution des programmes d'alimentation scolaire. Monsieur le Président, distingués invités, depuis 1995, le Rwanda a créé un environnement favorable à l'expansion de l'enseignement supérieur, en s'efforçant d'en faciliter l'accès et de développer sa qualité et sa pertinence. Le secteur de l'éducation au Rwanda est un secteur qui a enregistré des progrès considérables au cours de deux dernières décennies.

52.5 Madame la Présidente, le Rwanda souscrit à la Déclaration d'Incheon et soutient la mise en place de l'agenda Éducation 2030. Pour stimuler pleinement la jeunesse, le Rwanda a investi massivement dans les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication. Grâce à la fibre optique, présente dans 80 % des villes du pays, le Gouvernement a permis le développement d'un environnement technologique haut débit favorable aux jeunes, aux start-up, aux investisseurs et à la révolution numérique.

52.6 La délégation rwandaise exprime sa profonde considération à la Directrice générale pour son soutien au Rwanda, particulièrement à travers son approbation des différents projets soumis au titre du Programme de participation, l'aide apportée en faveur de l'établissement d'un centre d'excellence en biodiversité au Rwanda, l'appui au projet de centre régional de catégorie 2 pour la recherche fondamentale en Afrique de l'Est, et l'assistance technique fournie pour préparer l'inscription des sites mémoriaux du génocide des Tutsi sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

52.7 Pour conclure, le Rwanda s'engage à redoubler d'efforts, comme État membre de l'UNESCO, en agissant activement au sein des organes de l'Organisation dans tous les domaines de sa compétence, notamment pour la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable. Je vous remercie.

53. **The President:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Mahamat Saleh Adoum Djérou, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Chad to UNESCO. You have the floor Your Excellency.

54.1 **M. Djérou (Tchad) :**

Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres et chefs de délégation, Excellences, Messieurs les ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs les conférenciers, c'est pour moi un grand honneur et un réel plaisir de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée à l'occasion de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation. À cet égard, permettez-moi de m'associer à ceux qui m'ont précédé pour adresser toutes mes félicitations à M. Stanley Simataa pour sa brillante élection comme président de cette session. J'adresse les mêmes félicitations au Président sortant, M. Hao Ping, à la Directrice générale et au Secrétariat général de la Conférence générale pour la qualité du travail consacré à la préparation de cette session.

54.2 Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, distingués conférenciers, la 38^e session de la Conférence générale se déroule dans un contexte particulièrement difficile, avec la persistance des extrémismes politico-religieux qui font chaque jour des milliers de morts et jettent sur les routes des centaines de milliers d'autres victimes cherchant désespérément des terres d'asile.

54.3 Mon pays subit également, depuis quelques mois, les assauts meurtriers des terroristes de la secte Boko Haram. Mais ces attaques aveugles n'entameront en rien la détermination du Tchad et de son Président, S. E. M. Idriss Deby Itno, à prendre une part active à l'éradication de ce mal absolu du XXI^e siècle.

54.4 Malgré les adversités de toutes sortes liées à la chute du prix du pétrole, au changement climatique, à la lutte contre le terrorisme et à l'afflux des réfugiés venant des pays voisins, le Tchad tient le cap de son développement, en particulier dans les domaines des infrastructures routières, scolaires et sanitaires, mais également et surtout dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, les deux mamelles de l'économie nationale.

54.5 Dans le domaine de l'éducation, le Tchad, avec l'appui de ses partenaires techniques et financiers, a entamé une nouvelle réforme qui commence à porter ses fruits, avec notamment une amélioration de la fréquentation des filles et de meilleurs résultats au baccalauréat. Deux documents de stratégie, sur l'introduction des TIC dans l'enseignement et sur la formation technique et professionnelle, ont également été élaborés et attendent leur mise en œuvre.

54.6 Malgré ces efforts, les défis demeurent nombreux car l'école tchadienne reste encore tributaire d'un enseignement peu performant dans le primaire à cause de la présence d'une frange importante d'enseignants non qualifiés, héritage de la longue période de troubles que notre pays a traversée. C'est pourquoi, le Tchad, avec l'appui technique de l'UNESCO, a élaboré et mis en œuvre, pour la période 2013-2015, une stratégie intérimaire pour l'éducation et l'alphabétisation, qui est financée par le Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation à hauteur de 47 millions de dollars et par le Qatar pour 13 millions de dollars. Que ceux-ci en soient vivement remerciés. Cette stratégie a pour objectifs une scolarisation primaire universelle, la construction d'infrastructures scolaires, le développement de l'alphabétisation et de l'éducation non formelle. Dans le cadre de la poursuite de la réforme de l'éducation, notre pays a entamé l'élaboration d'un Plan décennal de développement de l'éducation et de l'alphabétisation pour la période 2017-2026. À cet égard, le Tchad souscrit entièrement à la Déclaration d'Incheon et au Cadre d'action Éducation 2030 issus du Forum mondial sur l'éducation 2015 auquel notre pays a pris une part active.

54.7 Dans le domaine de la culture, le Tchad, après le classement des lacs d'Ounianga en 2012, poursuit la mise en œuvre de la Convention pour la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel. Un autre défi, et non des moindres, guette le Tchad. Il s'agit des effets désastreux du changement climatique qui accélèrent l'assèchement du lac Tchad, dont la surface est passée de 250 000 km² dans les années 1960 à 2 500 km² aujourd'hui. Si cet écosystème venait à disparaître, c'est la vie de plus de 30 millions de personnes qui serait directement menacée.

54.8 Pour finir, je voudrais, à l'occasion du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, et au nom du Gouvernement, exprimer la solidarité du Tchad et sa volonté d'accompagner notre Organisation dans toutes ses initiatives pour la promotion de la paix dans le monde. *Choukran.*

Mr Simataa resumes the Chair.

55. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Joshua R. Kalinoe, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Papua New Guinea to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

56.1 **Mr Kalinoe (Papua New Guinea):**

Thank you Mr President, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Firstly, I would like to extend an apology from the Minister for Education of my country who could not be present today. On his behalf, let me express my delegation's sincere congratulations to you, Sir, on your election to

preside over the 38th session of the General Conference. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, His Excellency Mr Hao Ping, for his excellent and committed leadership in the past two years. As UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, Papua New Guinea also celebrates its 40th anniversary of independence. My delegation joins other distinguished delegations in reaffirming our commitment to the founding principles of UNESCO and its programmes, which are aimed at bringing peace, security and prosperity to the societies of the world.

56.2 Mr President, 70 years of committed efforts and achieving desired outcomes is worth celebrating indeed. I would like to therefore congratulate all of us, including past and present Director-Generals and staff of UNESCO for our combined achievements. The next 70 years are also vitally important, especially considering, among others, the following challenges: we are transiting from the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to that of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); we are faced with the negative impacts of climate change, which particularly affect our smaller developing Member States, including the small island developing States (SIDS) because of their vulnerability; cultural and heritage sites have become targets of destruction by extremism; human dignity and prosperity is being impacted by extremism engineered by players outside of normal sovereign control, and we are faced with slowdown in the economic performance of major developed and developing economies, which has the potential to adversely disrupt the economic viability and sustainable development ambitions of resource-rich, export-dependent small nations, like ours. These challenges require focus and innovative strategies. They also require UNESCO to be well resourced, and that is the qualitative responsibility of Member States.

56.3 Mr President, the recently approved United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide the basis for Member States to also take stock of national progress, renew efforts, realign strategies and move forward in our journey of development. In the case of Papua New Guinea, the education for all (EFA) strategy under the Millennium Development Goals will be refined and re-aligned to Goal 4 of the SDGs, where the current policy of free basic education is expected to cover lifelong learning as well. In its 2016 budget proposals, my Government has estimated expenditure of a total of 1.6 billion Kina in the education sector alone. This is about 7% of the entire national budget. Since this policy was introduced three years ago, we have seen a dramatic increase in annual enrolments. The total population of children attending school in 2014 was 1.5 million, compared to 750,000 in 2012, of which, I must add, a large number are girls. Yesterday, UNESCO and co-convening agencies and leaders of Member States launched the Education 2030 Framework for Action for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4. Papua New Guinea welcomes the new framework, as it will provide guidance to enhance our national efforts.

56.4 Mr President, my delegation notes the progress on the SIDS Action Plan and thanks Madam Director-General for including SIDS as a priority target group in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy. Papua New Guinea would like to see that the Action Plan also address the issue of effective mediums of delivery so that education, including e-learning, is available to children and communities in the most remote and isolated parts of SIDS Member States. I thank you, Sir, and all of you for your attention.

57. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Mrs Hanna Simon, Ambassador of Eritrea to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

58.1 **Ms Simon (Eritrea):**

Honourable President of the General Conference, Honourable Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen. I feel greatly honoured to represent the Government of Eritrea at this 38th session of UNESCO's General Conference, which, at the same time, is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the adoption of UNESCO's Constitution. On this occasion, my Government wishes to recognize and congratulate the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her tireless work, excellent leadership and vision in steering this renowned Organization towards building a sustainable, peaceful and equitable future.

58.2 The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly is most welcome for Eritrea, as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are in line with its own development vision and priorities. UNESCO's mandates and ideals, as well as the quest for global cooperation, have become more relevant and significant today, since we are facing an increase in major challenges, such as global warming, terrorism, human trafficking, intolerance, and above all, the destruction of irreplaceable human heritage and masterpieces. We can only respond to those challenges by giving the highest priority to education, which is key to the development of nations and societies. Member States must galvanize political commitment to advance education and accelerate efforts to ensure that every citizen receives basic education and to invest in the quality of education at all levels.

58.3 The year 2015 has witnessed the profound engagement of Member States in assessing the education for all (EFA) movement and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The EFA journey has brought to light the immense experience gained, the challenges ahead, and now at this stage the foundation for a new vision in education. Eritrea fully endorses the Incheon Declaration and has already started the necessary preparations for the implementation of the Education 2030 Framework for Action. We entirely agree with the central aim of Education 2030, according to which the implementation modalities will support country-led action.

58.4 Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, Eritrea appreciates UNESCO's cooperation in the area of both tangible and intangible heritage. Over the last two years, my country has taken significant steps towards raising awareness of, and implementing conventions, in the area. It has already embarked on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to which it adhered in 2010. The Cultural Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Education has laid out the framework for implementation in coordination with the regional UNESCO Office in Nairobi, and extensive research is being conducted on oral traditions. Currently, Eritrea is working on

the inscription of the historic urban landscape of the city of Asmara on the World Heritage List. The final nomination dossier is scheduled to be submitted in January 2016. In line with this, Eritrea has promulgated, in September this year, a legal instrument for the protection and promotion of its heritage as a result of a lengthy consultation process with stakeholders and a workshop organized in collaboration with UNESCO.

58.5 Mr President, Eritrea acknowledges and appreciates the decades-long commitment of UNESCO to raising awareness of the need for sustainability in development for the sake of future generations. I would like to commend UNESCO for providing the scientific knowledge, capacity and policy advice for efficiently managing the most precious resources such as water. UNESCO's financial and technical support to programmes related to computerization, audiovisual technologies, and renewable energy are invaluable to Member States in need. Their reinforced continuity should be secured. Our participation in capacity-building forums has encouraged us to formulate and implement effective science and technology policies and strategies. UNESCO's dedication and support has allowed our libraries, as well as our research and documentation centres, to shift to the digital age, thanks to support from UNESCO's Participation Programme, especially in the preservation of manuscripts and parchments.

58.6 As signatory to the International Convention against Doping in Sport, Eritrea has established a national committee and has been implementing activities such as an awareness-raising campaign, training and capacity building to enhance educational and ethical dimensions of sports. Furthermore, Eritrea attended in May this year the international conference on information and communication technology (ICT) in China. The Qingdao Declaration on ICT and Post-2015 Education outlines how technology can be used to achieve educational targets for equity, access, quality and lifelong learning in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Eritrea urges UNESCO to continue its support to developing countries so that they can achieve the overarching Sustainable Development Goal 4.

58.7 Mr President, Eritrea supports the ongoing process of deep reform and innovation and is fully committed to working closely with UNESCO and Member States for the success of the ambitious Education 2030 Framework for Action and post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In conclusion, I would like to remind you all that we need to join hands to pursue together the noble goals and objectives of UNESCO, and move forward to create a better, serene and peaceful world.

59. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Ms Georgette Florence Koyt-Deballe, Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO of the Central African Republic. Madam, you have the floor.

60.1 **Mme Koyt-Deballe (République centrafricaine) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs, en vos rangs, grades et qualités – tout protocole respecté –, je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de la République centrafricaine, saluer les diverses délégations des pays qui sont représentés à cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je saisis cette occasion pour témoigner toute notre gratitude aux responsables de cette Organisation qui nous donnent l'occasion de prendre la parole. Le Ministre de l'éducation nationale aurait été honoré de prendre la parole lui-même mais étant donné les rebondissements de la crise en République centrafricaine, je dois prononcer le discours à sa place.

60.2 La République centrafricaine est un pays de 623 000 km², faiblement peuplé, avec 5 millions d'habitants environ. Cette population est répartie de façon inégale, la densité étant moindre dans l'est et le nord-est du pays. Depuis le coup d'État du 24 mars 2013, suivi, à partir du 5 décembre 2014, par la révolte des Antibalakas, la nation centrafricaine traverse une crise sans précédent qui a plongé l'État dans un marasme profond, au point que la mise en place d'un régime de transition s'est imposée et que le soutien de la communauté internationale s'est avéré nécessaire. Ce soutien s'est traduit par l'intervention de forces armées sous la direction de l'Union africaine d'abord, puis de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de l'Union européenne, à travers les missions MINUSCA et EUFOR.

60.3 La guerre civile opposant des factions rebelles rivales s'est cristallisée en une opposition entre sujets musulmans et sujets autochtones. Elle est toujours en cours et a fragilisé une économie qui était déjà à l'agonie depuis les crises militaro-politiques récurrentes qu'a connues le pays à partir des années 1990. Jugez-en plutôt. En 1996, il y a eu des mutineries à répétition. De 2001 à 2003, il y a eu une crise interne qui s'est terminée par un coup de force, « le coup de force du 15 mars 2003 », suivi par la chute du régime et la mise en place de la Mission interafricaine de surveillance des Accords de Bangui (MISAB), transformée ensuite en Mission des Nations Unies en République centrafricaine (MINURCA), puis en Bureau des Nations Unies pour la consolidation de la paix en République centrafricaine (BONUCA), et enfin en Bureau intégré de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en Centrafrique (BINUCA). De 2003 à 2013, il y a eu l'émergence et l'activation progressive de nombreux mouvements de rébellion dans le pays. De 2013 à 2015, le coup d'État, suivi de la guerre civile et de rébellions diverses, avec l'intervention de la MISCA – c'est-à-dire la Mission internationale de soutien à la Centrafrique, sous conduite africaine –, remplacée ensuite par la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République centrafricaine (MINUSCA), qui travaille de concert avec les forces françaises de la mission Sangaris et la mission européenne EUFOR. Ce petit rappel montre combien cette crise a été longue et donc combien ses conséquences sont désastreuses. À titre d'illustration, je vais vous présenter en six points un résumé de la crise au regard des objectifs de l'UNESCO.

60.4 En ce qui concerne la situation sécuritaire, la majeure partie du territoire est contrôlée par des bandes armées, ce qui rend très hypothétique la circulation des hommes et des biens. Le cluster protection estime à 2 430 000 environ le nombre de personnes ayant besoin de protection dans le pays, soit près de la moitié de la population.

60.5 La démocratie est en régression. Les élections peinent à s'organiser pour revenir à la régularité constitutionnelle faute de moyens financiers mais surtout à cause de l'insécurité qui règne sur le territoire et qui ne permet pas de faire campagne et de circuler librement.

60.6 En matière d'Éducation pour tous, nous connaissons une régression. Les écoles fonctionnent de façon chaotique car les rebondissements de la crise font fuir les élèves et les enseignants. Ainsi, quatre jours après la rentrée scolaire, qui a eu lieu le 21 septembre 2015, des fusillades ont éclaté et les écoles peinent à rouvrir. Elles sont attaquées, ce qui veut dire que les enseignants ont des difficultés pour fonctionner, que le matériel est pillé, etc. À titre d'exemple, dans certains endroits, les enseignants sont obligés de recourir aux notes des anciens élèves pour bâtir leurs cours.

60.7 En ce qui concerne les réserves de biosphère, dont nous possédons deux spécimens, nous n'arrivons pas à établir le rapport qui nous est demandé car l'insécurité ne permet pas de circuler jusqu'à ces zones.

60.8 S'agissant de la situation sanitaire, les soins sont principalement assurés par les humanitaires qui, malheureusement, sont parfois victimes de pillages et d'agressions.

60.9 La sécurité alimentaire recule également puisque cela fait deux ans que les villageois, en majorité des déplacés internes, ne peuvent pas cultiver la terre. De plus, les réserves de semences ont parfois été brûlées.

60.10 La Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, sensible à la situation difficile que traverse notre nation, a bien voulu effectuer une visite en République centrafricaine les 14 et 15 décembre 2014, visite au cours de laquelle elle a pris la mesure réelle des effets de la crise et s'est engagée à contribuer aux efforts déployés par le Gouvernement. En conséquence, la République centrafricaine souhaite demander à l'UNESCO de bien vouloir l'aider à mettre sur pied un programme intégré en vue de bâtir les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des Centrafricains. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

61. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, that statement concludes our list of speakers for this afternoon. As mentioned earlier, the plenary will now briefly examine the first report of the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. I now give the floor to Ms Mariam Katagum of Nigeria, the Chairperson of this Committee. Madam, you have the floor.

First report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee (38 C/74)

Premier rapport de la Présidente du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs (38 C/74)

Primer informe de la Presidenta del Comité de Verificación de Poderes (38 C/74)

Первый доклад Председателя Комитета по проверке полномочий (38 C/74)

التقرير الأول لرئيس لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد

全权证书委员会主席的第一次报告 (38 C/74)

62. **Ms Katagum (Nigeria) (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee):**

Thank you Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I have the honour to present the first report of the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. The first report of the Credentials Committee (38 C/73) was submitted to plenary on Tuesday 3 November 2015. The Committee has now received credentials in due form from the delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen. The Committee has also received the credentials in due form from the delegations of the Member States which had previously submitted provisional credentials and whose names are displayed on the screen. The Committee has also received the provisional credentials from the delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen. Credentials in due form have been submitted by the delegations of the Associate Members whose names are displayed on the screen. The names of all the aforementioned are listed accordingly in document 38 C/74. In conformity with the authority delegated to me by the Credentials Committee, I propose that the General Conference accept these credentials. The delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The delegations of the Associate Members whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The Observer Delegation whose name is displayed on the screen has not yet submitted credentials. The names of all the foregoing are listed accordingly in document 38 C/74. I thank you Mr President.

63. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson for your report and your overall guidance for the work of the Credentials Committee. May I take it that we agree to take note of the report? I see Gambia. Yes, you have the floor Your Excellency.

64. **Gambia:**

Thank you, Mr President. We have submitted our credentials but we have not seen our name on any of the lists.

65. **Ms Katagum (Nigeria) (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee):**

Yes Mr President, we will check and let them know. Thank you.

66.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much. Are there any further observations? I see none. *It is so decided.*

66.2 Ladies and gentlemen, this decision concludes our work for the day. The plenary will reconvene tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. sharp. Before I adjourn the meeting, I wish to remind members of the Bureau of the General

Conference that the second meeting of the Bureau will be held tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in Room X. Please also be reminded of the visit of His Excellency, Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, at 11.30 a.m. tomorrow morning. I wish you all a pleasant evening. *This meeting is now **adjourned**.* Thank you.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.
La séance est levée à 18 h 30
Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30
Заседание закрывается в 18.30
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦,٣٠ بعد الظهر
会议于 18 时 30 分结束

Seventh plenary meeting

Friday 6 November 2015 at 10.15 a.m.

President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

later: **Mr Rodriguez Cuadros** (Peru)

later: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Septième séance plénière

Vendredi 6 novembre 2015 à 10 h 15

Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

puis : **M. Rodriguez Cuadros** (Pérou)

puis : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Séptima sesión plenaria

Viernes 6 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.15

Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

después: **Sr. Rodriguez Cuadros** (Perú)

después: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Седьмое пленарное заседание

пятница 6 ноября 2015 г. в 10.15

Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

затем: **г-н Родригес Куадрос** (Перу)

затем: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة السابعة

الجمعة ٦ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً

الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

ثم: السيد رودريغز كوادروس (بيرو)

ثم: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第七次全体会议

2015年11月6日星期五 10时15分

主席: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)

随后: **Rodriguez Cuadros 先生** (秘鲁)

随后: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)

1. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the seventh plenary meeting of the General Conference, which will be dedicated to the general policy debate. We will briefly suspend the national statements at around 11.30 a.m. in order to welcome His Excellency the President of Kazakhstan. Before we start our statements, I wish to inform the delegates that earlier this morning the Bureau of the General Conference held its second meeting. The Secretary of the General Conference will provide a brief report on this meeting. Mr Secretary, you now have the floor.

Second report of the Bureau
Deuxième rapport du Bureau
Segundo informe de la Mesa
Второй доклад Президиума
التقرير الثاني لمكتب المؤتمر العام
主席团第二次报告

2. **The Secretary:**

Thank you Mr President. At its second meeting this morning, the Bureau heard the progress reports of the Education Commission and APX Commission, as well as those of the Legal Committee, Nominations Committee and Credentials Committee. The Chairperson of the Legal Committee indicated that the Committee would complete its work today, and the Chairperson of the APX Commission indicated that the APX Commission was ahead of schedule. The Chairperson of the APX Commission also reported on the progress of the Working Group of the APX Commission on item 1.3, concerning the establishment of voting rights for the session. Based upon these reports, the Bureau scheduled the consideration by the General Conference of item 8.3 concerning the request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO, for Monday 9 November at 11.30 a.m. The Bureau also decided to schedule a plenary meeting in the afternoon of Monday 9 November, to welcome the President of Bolivia and the President of Cabo Verde during their official visits to UNESCO. This plenary meeting will take place in Room I from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Finally, in view of the invitation extended by the host country, France, to attend a separate ceremony of commemoration of the end of the First World War on the morning of Wednesday 11 November, it was decided in agreement with the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee that the election of Members of the Executive Board would be open for the heads of delegations to cast their votes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 11 November. Thank you, Mr President.

3. **The President:**

Thank you, Mr Rao. May I take it that the General Conference endorses the recommendations made by the Bureau? I see no objections. *It is so **decided**.*

General policy debate (continued)
Débat de politique générale (suite)
Debate de política general (continuación)
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (продолжение)
مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)
总政策辩论 (续)

4. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, we will now proceed with the national statements. Our first speaker this morning is His Excellency Mr Adkham Ikramov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

5.1 **Mr Ikramov (Uzbekistan):**

Thank you and good morning. Dear Mr President of the General Conference, dear Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen. Today, as we are marking the 70th anniversary of our Organization, we are presented with an opportunity to review the results of the past period as well as the devised action plans regarding UNESCO's work and increasing its impact and efficiency.

5.2 We are pleased to note that the process of drafting document 38 C/5 was in line with the principle of results-based management and budgeting. In this respect, the identification of the expected outcomes should be based on the assessment of project effectiveness by the direct beneficiaries. Therefore, the Organization's Secretariat is entrusted with the task of boosting partnerships with National Commissions for UNESCO and delegations, with more power to UNESCO field offices.

5.3 The Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 was approved as a rolling strategy, and it provides for making the necessary adjustments required to achieve the set goals. Therefore, we consider it important to stress that UNESCO's budget for 2016-2017 should be modified accordingly to reflect the considerable contribution the Organization has made to the implementation of the new internationally agreed initiatives.

5.4 Madam Director-General, we would like to voice our support for your initiative aimed at cutting the administrative costs and increasing the share of the cost of programme activities, the implication of an interdisciplinary approach in relation to each project of UNESCO. Within the framework of the regular budget for education programmes, we propose an increase in budgetary allocations for the main line of action which is in compliance with the strategic objective on the development of education systems in order to ensure quality education and extend lifelong learning opportunities for all.

We believe that in the next two years, UNESCO's activities should be focused on achieving practical results from the implementation of the Incheon Declaration – “Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”, and the Shanghai Consensus in the field of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and the Qingdao Declaration on the introduction of information and communication technologies at all levels of education. In this respect, Uzbekistan is ready to share its achievements in the area of education initiatives such as introducing multilingual compulsory secondary and vocational education for all on the scheme 9+3, in which Uzbekistan has more than 18 years' experience; developing non-formal education opportunities for all in the field of arts, music and sports; and promoting the ICT-based competencies of teachers.

5.5 Uzbekistan calls for a significant increase in budgetary and extrabudgetary resources for the main lines of action in natural science, and we advocate the development of science diplomacy, based on the new strategy of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) for 2015-2025 and water diplomacy, which represent the thrust of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to reduce the negative impact on the populations in Central Asia from the climate change-induced glacial lake outburst floods. Among these, special attention needs to be paid to the largest ecological catastrophe on a planetary scale in the world: the tragedy of the Aral Sea, which during the life of one generation came to the verge of extinction. The Aral Sea disaster has affected not only Central Asia, but other regions too. An extremely unfavourable ecological environment, poor drinking water, and serious diseases – this is a short and by no means complete list of the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy. In this regard, it is necessary to increase UNESCO's involvement in the development of international research projects in this area.

5.6 Ladies and gentlemen, humanity exists in a single ecosystem and common market – a growing opportunity to make an impact on people's lives despite the space and time required for every individual to be responsible. A sense of belonging is an important component of motivation and responsibility. Therefore, a sense of responsibility for the future of the planet should be reflected in all programmes of the Organization. Thank you for your attention.

6 The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency, including for the timing of your presentation. I wish I had chocolates to give to those who are finishing on time, but I think I will speak to the Secretariat and see whether we cannot award those chocolates afterwards. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

7.1 M. Nalbandian (Arménie) :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, je félicite M. Stanley Simataa pour son élection en tant que président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, et j'adresse tous nos remerciements au Président sortant, M. Hao Ping.

7.2 Monsieur le Président, depuis sa création en 1945, l'UNESCO a accompli un travail remarquable en réunissant les pays dans leurs efforts en faveur de la promotion de la paix et du développement durable à travers l'éducation, la science et la culture. Dans le cadre des célébrations du 70^e anniversaire, l'Arménie a accueilli la Conférence internationale sur « Le rôle de la culture dans l'Agenda du développement durable après 2015 », avec la participation des représentants de plus de 40 pays et organisations internationales. La Déclaration d'Erevan adoptée par la Conférence condamne la destruction des trésors du patrimoine culturel de l'humanité.

7.3 Malheureusement, aujourd'hui, cette question est devenue plus cruciale que jamais. À cet égard, la situation actuelle au Moyen-Orient est un sujet de grave préoccupation. La destruction par les terroristes de plusieurs lieux sacrés et des monuments culturels anciens de Palmyre et de Nimrud, l'explosion de l'église arménienne des Saints-Martyrs à Deir-ez-Zor qui abritait des restes des victimes du génocide arménien, et d'autres actes barbares, constituent des crimes contre la civilisation. Ils nous rappellent les crimes semblables perpétrés contre l'héritage culturel de l'humanité – la destruction des statues monumentales des Bouddhas de Bâmiyân, des mausolées de Tombouctou, des milliers de croix de pierre arméniennes au Nakhitchevan et d'autres monuments. Ces crimes, qui n'ont pas été réprimés à l'époque, ont frayé la voie à de nouvelles atrocités. L'histoire nous montre que l'impunité donne naissance à de nouveaux crimes.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

7.4 Mr President, in an era when the protection and promotion of human rights are considered to be the underpinning concept for the civilized world, intolerance towards the values of civilization belonging to others, intentionally damaging or destroying cultural or religious heritage, must be condemned with the same resolve and determination as violence against people. The international community should act in a resolute and timely manner to protect what is still possible to preserve.

7.5 Mr President, Armenia has continuously drawn the attention of this high body to the appalling situation of the Armenian cultural heritage in neighbouring Azerbaijan. In the Nakhichevan region alone, thousands of medieval cross-stones, hundreds of Armenian churches, monasteries and other sacred sites have been completely destroyed by Azerbaijan in an attempt to erase all traces of the people who have inhabited the region for centuries. In its report for 2015, the United Nations Commission on International Religious Freedom made a reference to the vandalized Armenian cemetery in Nakhichevan and reported that religious freedom in Azerbaijan had further deteriorated, including examples such as Baku's only remaining Armenian church being currently used as an archive for the Presidential administration, and the confiscated Lutheran Church being turned into a concert hall. If we – UNESCO and other international organizations – do not act today, what would be the future of those and many other endangered monuments tomorrow?

7.6 In sharp contrast to this, neighbouring Iran has made great efforts to preserve and protect the Armenian cultural heritage. The Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, the oldest of which dates back to the seventh century, were inscribed on the World Heritage List following submission by the Iranian Government. For our part, Armenia

reconstructed the Iranian eighteenth-century Blue Mosque in Yerevan, and is going to submit it for inclusion on the World Heritage List. Armenia tries to make its own contribution to the efforts aimed at preservation of the world's cultural heritage, including through constructive engagement in the relevant bodies of UNESCO.

7.7 Mr President, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education stipulate that education shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups. Taking into consideration UNESCO's unique role in the sphere of education, we call upon the Organization to create within its education programmes an overview mechanism that will examine and evaluate the textbooks of Member States, especially in history and social sciences, with a special emphasis on the exclusion of intolerance and xenophobia. Azerbaijan attempts to distort and alter the centuries-old Armenian heritage, culture and history. In this country, the rewriting of its own history is continued by means of misappropriation or annihilation of the traces of other cultures on their territory, or even more, by privatizing the cultural heritage of neighbouring nations. A country that appeared on the political map of the world less than 100 years ago has territorial and cultural claims towards a country and a people, the several millenniums' history of which is recorded from ancient times. Armenia is strongly committed to the ideals and goals of UNESCO and will continue expanding its involvement in UNESCO initiatives and programmes. Thank you.

8. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency for concluding your intervention before the allotted time. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Riad Al-Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٩,١ السيد المالكي (فلسطين):

سعادة السيد رئيس المؤتمر، سعادة المديرية العامة، سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، لقد جئتمكم اليوم ووطني وشعبي يتعرض من جديد إلى عدوان غاشم يطال البشر والحجر، ولا يستثني الأطفال والشيوخ والنساء، عدوان متواصل تشنه إسرائيل، السلطة القائمة بالاحتلال، وتستهدف من خلاله إلغاء الوجود الفلسطيني على أرض آبائه وأجداده. ومنذ النكبة في عام ١٩٤٨، وحتى اليوم، ومحاولات إلغاء الهوية الفلسطينية متواصلة بشتى الطرق، بما فيها القتل والتدمير والتهجير. لكن شعبنا أثبت للعالم، مرة تلو الأخرى، أنه متحذر وباقي في أرضه إلى الأبد، كما فعل على مدار أكثر من عشرة آلاف عام. حيث يواصل الاحتلال الإسرائيلي انتهاكاته المنهجية والواسعة النطاق لحقوق شعبنا الفلسطيني، وخاصة حقّه في تقرير المصير وغيرها من الحقوق في مجال اختصاص اليونسكو. ويواصل، على الرغم من كافة القرارات والمناشدات الدولية، التوسع على حساب أصحاب الأرض الأصليين من خلال بناء المستوطنات غير الشرعية، وبمنح الحماية للمستوطنين، ومحاصر قطاع غزة، ويرتكب جرائم ضد الإنسانية وجرائم تقع ضمن اختصاص المحكمة الجنائية الدولية، ويقطع الأشجار، وخاصة أشجار الزيتون الفلسطينية التي يعود عمرها إلى ثلاثة آلاف عام، بالإضافة إلى ما يقوم به الآن في مدينة الخليل من جرائم تنفذها عصابات المستوطنين المدعومة من قبل قوات الاحتلال، وهو مشهد يتكرر في مدينة القدس المحتلة، في المسجد الأقصى المبارك، في محاولة لتقسيم الحرم الشريف زمينياً ومكانياً، الأمر الذي قد يؤدي في حال تواصله إلى نزاع ديني لا تحمد عقباه.

٩,٢ ويتعرض التراث الفلسطيني إلى التدمير والاستيلاء المنهج، حيث صادرت إسرائيل، السلطة القائمة بالاحتلال، المواقع التاريخية والثقافية والدينية والطبيعية واستولت عليها، وحرفت حارة المغاربة في البلدة القديمة في القدس، وأخضعت التراث الثقافي لتشريعاً. وتستخدم نظامها القضائي لتبرير أعمالها غير القانونية، حيث تم تقدير ما تم تبنيه سنوياً بين الأعوام ١٩٦٧ و ١٩٩٢ بمئتي ألف قطعة أثرية وهو مستمر حتى الآن. ويحاول الاحتلال تزوير التاريخ والحقائق التاريخية الأصيلة للمنطقة عن طريق استمرار حفريات غير القانونية في مدينة القدس القديمة وفي أماكن أخرى من الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة، لطمس المعالم الأثرية والتراثية ذات الهوية الفلسطينية والكنعانية التي تدل على هوية الأرض من قدم التاريخ. ويعمل بشكل غير قانوني لفرض مناهجه على المدارس في مدينة القدس الشرقية. فكافة هذه الإجراءات غير الشرعية تعد انتهاكاً للقانون الإنساني الدولي بما فيه اتفاقية لاهاي لعام ١٩٥٤ بشأن حماية الممتلكات الثقافية في حالة نزاع مسلح وبروتوكولها وغيرها من اتفاقيات اليونسكو. ومن الأمثلة الصارخة أيضاً بناء ما يدعى بمركز سيمون فيزنتال، متحف التسامح في القدس الغربية، على مقبرة مأمّن الله الأثرية، وقد أدت عمليات الحفريات في المقبرة إلى تدمير مئات القبور التاريخية الأثرية حيث يعود تاريخ هذه المقبرة إلى القرن السابع.

٩,٣ سيدي الرئيس، سنعمل جاهدين للدفاع عن شعبنا وحقوقه وفق القانون الدولي، ومطالبة كافة المحافل الدولية ذات الصلة بالقيام بالولاية المنوطة بما وتحمل مسؤولياتها إزاء ما يقوم به الاحتلال من انتهاكات على أرض دولة فلسطين وضد الشعب الفلسطيني. فقد طالبنا مجلس الأمن بتحمل مسؤولياته في حفظ الأمن والسلم، وإنشاء نظام حماية دولية للشعب الفلسطيني. ونعمل مع الدول الأعضاء في الجمعية العامة لمواجهة سياسات الاحتلال غير الشرعية. كما توجهنا إلى مجلس حقوق الإنسان للاضطلاع بمسؤولياته في حماية الشعب الفلسطيني من خلال آلياته المعتمدة وغيرها من المؤسسات الدولية. والآن، فإننا نطالب منظمة اليونسكو والدول الأعضاء، أن تقوم بإنفاذ الاتفاقيات المؤسسة لعمل المنظمة، وتوفير الحماية لأرض فلسطين وشعبها، وتراثها الفكري والحضاري، فهي أرض تراث عالمي، ثقافي وطبيعي، ذي قيمة نادرة واستثنائية يستوجب صونه وحمايته، وهي أرض الرسالات السماوية ومسرى الأنبياء. وندعو الدول الأعضاء للوفاء بالتزاماتها وتفعيل أحكام الاتفاقيات الخاصة باليونسكو، بما فيها حظر استيراد وتصدير ونقل ملكية الممتلكات الثقافية التي يستولي عليها الاحتلال من أرض دولة فلسطين المحتلة بطرق غير مشروعة، وإعادة فتحها إلى بلادها الأصلية. وسنعمل على ملاحقة أي طرف يثبت تورطه في التعامل مع الآثار المسروقة من فلسطين، بما فيها تلك الدول التي تقبل أن يعرض في متاحفها هذا التراث المسروق، كما حدث سابقاً مع مخطوطات البحر الميت التي سرقها سلطة الاحتلال عام ١٩٦٧ من متحف فلسطين الأثري في القدس. هذا بالإضافة إلى تطبيق قرارات المنظمة فيما يخص فلسطين وإرسال بعثة تقصي الحقائق للاضطلاع على انتهاكات الاحتلال ضد مقدراتنا وممتلكاتنا الثقافية والتراثية، والأهم حماية الإنسان الفلسطيني، حامى هذه الثقافة والتراث والتاريخ. فخلف هذه الحجارة والآثار يوجد شعب متأصل في أرضه، يتوق إلى الحرية وإلى الاستقلال. ومن هنا، فإننا نؤكد إدانتنا لأي اعتداء يطال الأماكن التراثية في دولة فلسطين المحتلة، وفي أي مكان في العالم بما في ذلك مواقع التراث في سورية والعراق، وجميع الأخطار التي تتهدد الممتلكات الثقافية والتراثية.

٩,٤ السيد الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، إن نضال شعبنا الفلسطيني من أجل الحرية والكرامة والعودة كان بنداً دائماً على جدول أعمال الأمم المتحدة منذ نشأته قبل ٧٠ عاماً، وفقدان الأمل، أيتها السيدات وأيتها السادة، هو أعنى أعداء السلام، واليأس هو أقوى حلفاء التطرف. وشكراً

(9.1) Mr Al-Malki (Palestine) (translation from the Arabic):

Your Excellency the President of the General Conference, Your Excellency Madam Director-General, Your Excellency the Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as we meet today, my homeland and people are once again exposed to hateful aggression against people and property which does not spare children, old people or women, an unending aggression carried out by Israel, the occupying power, which is aimed at obliterating the Palestinian presence on the land of their ancestors. Ever since the *nakba* "catastrophe" of 1948 through to today, there have been

ongoing attempts to wipe out the Palestinian identity by various means, including killing, destruction and displacement. But our people has proved to the world, time after time, that it is deeply rooted and intends to remain in its homeland for ever, as it has done for more than 10,000 years. The Israeli occupation continues its systematic, wide-ranging violations of the rights of our Palestinian people, in particular its right to self-determination and other rights which come under the competence of UNESCO. The Israeli occupation, despite all the international resolutions and appeals, continues to expand at the expense of the original landowners by building illegal settlements, providing the settlers with protection, blockading the Gaza Strip, committing crimes against humanity and crimes which fall within the competence of the International Criminal Court, cutting down trees, especially Palestinian olive trees which can be as much as 3,000 years old, in addition to the crimes currently being committed in Hebron by bands of settlers supported by the occupation forces. This is a scene which is repeated in occupied Jerusalem, at the al-Aqsa Mosque, in an attempt to divide the blessed *al-Haram ash-Sharif* both chronologically and geographically, which is likely to lead to a situation, which, if maintained, will have disastrous consequences.

(9.2) Palestinian heritage is subject to destruction and systematic appropriation. Israel, the occupying power, has seized historic, cultural, religious and natural sites, and taken possession of them. It has dug up the old Mughrabi Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, and subjected its cultural heritage to its own laws. It has utilized its judicial system to justify its own illegal acts. The plunder between 1967 and 1992 has been estimated as consisting of 200,000 archaeological artefacts, and this plunder has continued to the present. The occupation authorities attempt to deform the history and original historical facts of the region by pursuing their illegal excavations in Old Jerusalem and other places in occupied Palestine, in order to obliterate archaeological and heritage monuments of Palestinian and Canaanite identity, which demonstrate the identity of the land since time immemorial. They are working illegally to impose their own school curricula in East Jerusalem. All these illegal measures are violations of international humanitarian law, including the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocols, and various UNESCO conventions. Flagrant examples of such violations are the building of the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in West Jerusalem on top of the ancient Ma'mūn Allāh cemetery. Excavation works at the cemetery led to the destruction of hundreds of ancient historical graves, the cemetery dating back to the seventh century.

(9.3) Mr President, we shall work tirelessly to defend our people and uphold its rights in accordance with international law by urging all relevant international bodies to carry out the mandate entrusted to them and to shoulder their responsibilities with respect to the violations being committed by the occupation authorities on Palestinian territory against the Palestinian people. We have urged the Security Council to assume its responsibility to keep peace and security and to install a regime of international protection for the Palestinian people. We are working with the Member States in the General Assembly to counter the illegal occupation policies. We have also appealed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) to shoulder its responsibilities to protect the Palestinian people by means of the mechanisms it has adopted, and also to other international institutions. We are now asking UNESCO and its Member States to give effect to the instruments providing for the work of the Organization, to provide protection to the land and people of Palestine and to its intellectual and cultural heritage. Palestine is a land of world heritage, both cultural and natural, of outstanding, exceptional value, which must be preserved and protected. It is the land of the three celestial religions, and a place where prophets walked. We urge Member States to honour their commitments by giving effect to the provisions of UNESCO conventions, including its Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, such as the property seized by the occupation authorities from the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, including those States which agree to display such stolen heritage in their museums, as has happened in the past with artefacts from the Dead Sea which were stolen by the occupation authorities in 1967 from the Palestinian Archaeological Museum in Jerusalem. The Organization's resolutions on Palestine should also be implemented, and a mission should be sent to investigate the violations of the occupation authorities against our cultural and heritage assets and property. Above all there should be protection for Palestinians, who are the custodians of this culture, heritage and history. For behind these stones and relics is a people who is rooted to its land and longs for freedom and independence. On this basis we reiterate our condemnation of any aggression against heritage sites in the occupied State of Palestine or anywhere in the world, including heritage sites in the Syrian Arab Republic or Iraq, and all threats to cultural and heritage property.

(9.4) Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the struggle of our Palestinian people for freedom, dignity and the right of return has been a regular item on the agenda of the United Nations since its inception 70 years ago. The loss of hope, ladies and gentlemen, is the worst enemy of peace; despair is the strongest ally of extremism. Thank you.

10. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Madiha Alshaibaniya, Minister of Education of Oman. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

١١,١ السيدة الشيبانية (عمان)

سعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام لليونسكو، سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، معالي المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، أيها الحضور الكريم، يطيب لي أن أقدم لكم جميعاً بخالص التحية والتقدير ويشرفني أن أنتهز هذه المناسبة لأنقل إليكم جميعاً تحيات حضرة صاحب الجلالة، السلطان قابوس بن سعيد المعظم سلطان عُمان، ودعوته الصادقة لهذا المؤتمر بالتوفيق شاكراً باسم وفد بلادي، سلطنة عُمان، معالي إيرينا بوكوفا المديرية العامة لليونسكو، على الدور الذي تقوم به لتحقيق أهداف المنظمة وغاياتها النبيلة. كما يسرني أن أقدم بالتهنئة الصادقة للسيد ستانليه موتومبا سيمانا لانتخابه رئيساً للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو في دورته الثامنة والثلاثين متمنية له التوفيق في أداء عمله بالتعاون مع أجهزة المنظمة وممثلي الدول الأعضاء.

١١,٢ الحضور الكريم، إن سلطنة عُمان إذ تشارك اليونسكو احتفالها بمرور سبعين عاماً على إنشائها، لتعرب عن تقديرها البالغ للدور الذي تقوم به المنظمة لتحقيق أهدافها الاستراتيجية وما أحدثته من نقلة نوعية في مجال تطوير التعليم وتجديده، وصون التراث الثقافي للإنسانية، وتعزيز تنوع أشكال التعبير الثقافي البشرية، ودورها في حماية البيئة واستدامة مواردها، والحد من مخاطر الكوارث الطبيعية الناتجة عن التغيرات المناخية.

١١,٣ سعادة الرئيس، يمثل عام ٢٠١٥ بداية مرحلة انتقالية لعمل المجتمع الدولي، بعد أن اعتمدت قمة الأمم المتحدة خططها الطموحة للتنمية المستدامة ٢٠٣٠ التي تتسجم مع رسالة اليونسكو وتوجهاتها. ومواكبة لهذا الجانب، فقد حرصت سلطنة عُمان على جعل التنمية المستدامة مركزاً لسياستها التنموية في المجالات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية من خلال الاستثمار في التعليم، بتبني برامج وأنشطة تهدف إلى إكساب الشباب مفاهيم التنمية المستدامة، حيث أكد مشروع الاستراتيجية الوطنية للتعليم ٢٠٤٠ ضرورة توافق مسارات نظام التعليم في مراحله المختلفة مع الأهداف الوطنية للتنمية المستدامة ومتطلباتها.

١١،٤ الحضور الكريم، إن ما تشهده بعض الأقاليم في هذا العالم من صراعات واضطرابات يستوجب علينا مضاعفة الجهود لنشر ثقافة السلام، وتعزيز قيم التسامح والمواطنة ومبادئ حقوق الإنسان. وإننا إذ نشيد بالخطوات الملموسة التي تقوم بها اليونسكو، لنتطلع إلى مواصلة جهودها في هذا الإطار مؤكداً أهمية التعاون بين الدول والمنظمات لتوطيد أواصر المحبة بين الشعوب. إن سلطنة عُمان ترجمت عبر تاريخها الطويل التسامح والتفاهم مع الشعوب والحوار بين الثقافات، حيث تفاعلت مع الأمم الأخرى من خلال التواصل التجاري والثقافي، ولا تزال كذلك إلى يومنا الحاضر. وامتداداً لهذا الدور، يأتي دعم السلطنة المادي والمعنوي لمشروع المنصة الإلكترونية لطريق الحرير الذي تتبناه منظمة اليونسكو كجزء من برامجها في مجال الاهتمام بقضايا الحوار والتواصل بين الحضارات. كما أن أسبوع التقارب والوثام الإنساني الذي ينظم سنوياً في سلطنة عُمان، ومعرض رسالة الإسلام في عُمان الذي أقيم في أكثر من ستين مدينة حول العالم، آخرها مقر اليونسكو بباريس، من الشواهد الواضحة على سعي السلطنة لخدمة التفاهم والوثام الديني والحوار وتيسير التواصل بين الثقافات.

١١،٥ الحضور الكريم، رغم المكاسب التي حققتها العالم في الفترة الماضية في مجال التعليم، فإنه ما زالت هناك العديد من التحديات التي تمثل حاجساً كبيراً لدى الحكومات والمؤسسات التعليمية، من بينها تجويد التعليم وتطويره ومواكبته للمستجدات العالمية وربطه بسوق العمل في عالم مستدام مبني على المعرفة. وإذ نعر عن ارتياحنا بإدراج الهدف المتعلق بضمان التعليم الجيد والشامل للجميع ضمن جدول أعمال التنمية العالمية، فإنه يتحتم علينا العمل سوياً على إيجاد بيئة مناسبة للعمل على بلوغ غايات التعليم وأهدافه لما بعد عام ٢٠١٥. ومن هذا المنطلق، فقد استضافت سلطنة عُمان الاجتماع العالمي للتعليم للجميع خلال شهر أيار/مايو من عام ٢٠١٤، وذلك بهدف تقييم التقدم المنجز في تحقيق الأهداف الستة لمبادرة التعليم.

١١،٦ سعادة الرئيس، إن تأكيد المجتمع الدولي خلال انعقاد قمة الأمم المتحدة للتنمية المستدامة في نيويورك، بشأن التصدي لظاهرة التغير المناخي، وما ينتج عنه من كوارث طبيعية وتدهور للتنوع البيولوجي، يدعونا لبذل مزيد من الجهد لمعالجة الأسباب المؤدية إلى تغير المناخ، وتسريع التحول نحو اقتصاد عالمي أخضر، سعياً للوصول إلى التوازن المطلوب بين التنمية والمحافظة على البيئة.

١١،٧ سعادة الرئيس، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، إن الدور الذي تقوم به منظمة اليونسكو في نشر رسالتها الداعية إلى السلم والعدالة والحرية في كافة أنحاء العالم يلقي على الجميع مسؤولية الحفاظ على الإسهامات الإنسانية لهذه المنظمة وصولاً إلى مستقبل أكثر إشراقاً. وفقنا الله جميعاً لما فيه الخير، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(11.1) **Ms Alshabaniya (Oman) (translation from the Arabic):**

Mr President of the General Conference of UNESCO, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies heads and members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to convey to you all sincere greetings and appreciation, and I am honoured to have this opportunity to transmit to you all the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed, the Sultan of Oman, and his sincere prayers for the success of this General Conference. I thank, on behalf of my country, the Sultanate of Oman's delegation, Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, for the role which she has played to achieve the objectives and noble aims of the Organization. I am also pleased to offer sincere congratulations to Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa on his election as President of the General Conference of UNESCO at its 38th session, and to wish him every success in performing his task, in cooperation with the services of the Organization and the representatives of the Member States.

(11.2) Ladies and gentlemen, Oman would like to share in the celebrations of UNESCO's 70th anniversary and express its great appreciation for the role the Organization has played to achieve its strategic objectives, for the quantum leap it has brought about in developing and enhancing education and the maintenance of the cultural heritage of humankind, in strengthening the diversity of cultural expressions of humankind, and its role in protecting the environment and ensuring the sustainability of its resources, and in reducing the risks of natural catastrophes resulting from climate change.

(11.3) Mr President, the year 2015 is the beginning of the transitional stage for the work of the international community following the United Nations' adoption of its ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to be harmonized with UNESCO's message and orientations. With a view to keeping pace with this aspect, Oman is keen to make sustainable development a mainstay of its development policies in the economic, social and cultural fields by investing in education, adopting programmes and activities aimed at ensuring that young people acquire the concepts of sustainable development. The draft national strategy for education 2040 stresses the need to adjust the education streams at the various levels to the national sustainable development objectives and requirements.

(11.4) Ladies and gentlemen, the conflicts and troubles being witnessed by some of the world's regions require us to redouble our efforts to spread the culture of peace, strengthen the value of tolerance and the principles of human rights. While we commend the concrete steps being taken by UNESCO, we look forward to seeing the Organization pursue its efforts in this regard, and we stress the importance of cooperation between countries and organizations in order to strengthen the bonds of love between peoples. Oman, throughout its long history, has promoted tolerance and mutual understanding among peoples and dialogue between cultures, and has interacted with other nations by means of commercial and cultural communication, and has continued to do so right up to the present day. An extension of this role has been Oman's material and moral support for the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform project, which UNESCO has adopted as part of its programmes on issues of dialogue and communication between civilizations. Oman also holds every year a Week of Human Rapprochement and Harmony and an Oman's Message of Islam Exhibition, which has been held in more than 60 cities worldwide, and most recently at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris – these are some of the clear illustrations of Oman's desire to promote mutual understanding and religious and cultural harmony and to facilitate communication between cultures.

(11.5) Ladies and gentlemen, despite the advances made by the world in recent times in the field of education, there still remain numerous challenges which are of great concern to governments and educational institutions. Among them are enhancing and developing the quality of education and ensuring that education keeps abreast of the latest global developments and is linked to the labour market in a sustainable world which is based on knowledge. While we express our satisfaction that the objective of providing good quality and comprehensive education for all within the sustainable development agenda, we must work together to create a suitable environment for attaining the objectives and goals of education beyond 2015. On this basis, Oman hosted the Global Education for All Meeting in May 2014 with a view to assessing the progress achieved in attaining the six EFA goals.

(11.6) Mr President, by holding the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in New York, the international community's stress on halting climate change and the related natural catastrophes and decline in biodiversity compels us to exert greater efforts to address the reasons for climate change and to speed up the shift to a greener global economy, in order to strike the right balance between development and preservation of the environment.

(11.7) Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the role played by UNESCO in disseminating its message of peace, justice and freedom in all parts of the world makes it incumbent on us all to safeguard the humanitarian contributions of this Organization in order to attain a more brilliant future. May God grant us all success and well-being. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

12. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

13.1 Г-н Лавров (Российская Федерация):

Уважаемая госпожа Генеральный директор, уважаемый господин Председатель, дамы и господа. Нынешний год, когда мы отмечаем 70-летие ЮНЕСКО, ведущей международной организации в сфере гуманитарного сотрудничества, наполнен значимыми для всех датами. 70 лет назад завершилась Вторая мировая война, ставшая самым кровопролитным и разрушительным конфликтом в истории человечества. Для того, чтобы подобная трагедия больше никогда не повторилась, было принято историческое решение о создании Организации Объединенных Наций. Тогда государства-участники антигитлеровской коалиции смогли подняться над амбициями и разногласиями и достичь компромисса в интересах создания системы международной безопасности, которая, как отметил Президент В.В.Путин, уберегла мир от масштабных потрясений.

13.2 Семь десятилетий назад такая созидательная философия сотрудничества была востребована, востребована она и сегодня и должна оставаться нашим ключевым ориентиром. Международные отношения вступили в переходный период, связанный с объективным процессом формирования новой полицентричной системы мироустройства, отражающей географическое, экономическое, цивилизационное многообразие современного мира, самобытность народов, их естественное стремление самим определять свою судьбу. Этот процесс развивается непросто, сопровождается повышением нестабильности в мировых делах, усилением конкуренции во всех областях, включая модели социально-экономического развития и ценностные ориентиры.

13.3 В таких условиях необходимо уделять особое внимание недопущению углубления межцивилизационных и межконфессиональных разломов, наращиванию широкого общечеловеческого партнерства, которое является важнейшей составляющей позитивной, устремленной в будущее международной повестки дня.

13.4 Хочу в развитие того, что сказала в своем выступлении на открытии сессии Генеральный директор Ирина Бокова, цитируя Льва Толстого, сказать следующее. Великий русский писатель видел подлинную перспективу человечества в избавлении от насилия, лжи и лицемерия, в совершенствовании нравственного облика людей. Трудно переоценить в этой связи значимость ЮНЕСКО, которая уверенно утвердилась в качестве надежной гуманитарной опоры глобальной архитектуры, общепризнанного форума по защите духовного и культурного наследия.

13.5 Можно сказать, что оправдались надежды участников первой сессии Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО, которые возложили на нее благородную роль формирования интеллектуальных и моральных условий, необходимых для обеспечения эффективной работы всей системы ООН. И сегодня Организация призвана способствовать укреплению атмосферы доверия и взаимопонимания между странами и народами, продвижению непреходящих нравственных ценностей, общих для всех основных мировых религий и культур. Рассчитываем на деятельное участие ЮНЕСКО в противодействии нетерпимости, национализму, дискриминации. Необходимо максимально поощрять взаимоуважительный межцивилизационный, межкультурный, межконфессиональный диалог.

13.6 Глубокую озабоченность вызывает всплеск терроризма и насильственного экстремизма на Ближнем Востоке и Севере Африки, где боевики т.н. «Исламского государства» и им подобные совершают массовые убийства мирных граждан, оскверняют ислам, осуществляют агрессию против всех религий. Наблюдается массовый исход из региона христиан, что грозит разрушить исторический межконфессиональный баланс, межконфессиональное сосуществование на Ближнем Востоке. Во многом все это стало следствием ослабленных или разрушенных, в том числе при вмешательстве извне, государственных институтов целого ряда стран региона, безответственных попыток геополитической инженерии, навязывания народам чуждых им рецептов без учета их традиций, их истории и их наследия.

13.7 Когда варварски уничтожаются бесценные памятники мировых цивилизаций – будь то в Сирии, Ираке, Афганистане или Косово, – особенно необходимы коллективные усилия по сохранению общечеловеческой культуры. Для этого есть правовая основа – Конвенция о защите культурных ценностей в случае вооруженного конфликта 1954 года. Напомню, что при ее подготовке были использованы идеи нашего соотечественника Николая Константиновича Рериха, заложенные в разработанный 80 лет назад первый многосторонний акт в этой области. Как только варвары будут изгнаны с территорий, где расположены объекты всемирного наследия, ЮНЕСКО должна направить туда свои миссии для оценки нанесенного ущерба и подготовки планов восстановления бесценных религиозных и культурных святынь.

13.8 Компетенция ЮНЕСКО востребована и для реализации принятой в Нью-Йорке в сентябре Глобальной повестки дня в области развития до 2030 года, в ней зафиксированы новые амбициозные задачи по достижению Целей устойчивого развития, в том числе в сферах образования и культуры.

13.9 Россия является одним из наиболее активных членов ЮНЕСКО, участвует во всех ее программах в сферах образования, естественных и социальных наук, коммуникации. Роль России как одного из творцов мировой культуры, ее многовековой опыт сосуществования этносов и конфессий предполагают особую ответственность

нашей страны в деле мобилизации коллективных усилий на решение стоящих перед ЮНЕСКО масштабных задач.

13.10 Эти усилия подрываются в результате получившей развитие в последнее время практики применения отдельными государствами дискриминационных мер в отношении деятелей культуры и искусства, в отношении журналистов, в результате запрета на ввоз выставочных экспонатов, не говоря уже о сносе памятников героям Второй мировой войны в политкорректной Европе при красноречивом молчании многих западных лидеров, как будто наш континент не испытал на себе все ужасы нацизма, как будто и не было Нюрнбергского трибунала. Любая политизация гуманитарных связей неприемлема. Считаем крайне опасными попытки спекулировать на гуманитарном характере деятельности ЮНЕСКО для решения односторонних политических задач, как это делают некоторые наши коллеги, всеми правдами и неправдами продвигая тему о членстве Косово в грубое нарушение Резолюции 1244 Совета Безопасности ООН. Тревожат и множась факты о действиях государств по воспрепятствованию реализации прав человека на интеллектуальное общение. Мы предлагаем принять международный документ в поддержку свободного характера обменов и сотрудничества в области культуры, искусств, науки, образования в полном соответствии с целями и ценностями нашей организации, призванной содействовать укреплению мира и безопасности путем расширения сотрудничества в сферах своей компетенции. Спасибо за внимание.

(13.1) **Mr Lavrov** (Russian Federation) (*translation from the Russian*):

Distinguished Director-General, esteemed President, ladies and gentlemen. This year, in which we celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, a leading international organization in the field of humanitarian cooperation, is replete with dates of meaning to us all. Seventy years ago, the Second World War, the bloodiest and most destructive conflict in the history of humanity, came to an end. In order to ensure that a tragedy like that could never happen again, the historic decision was taken to found the United Nations. At that time, the States that been part of the anti-Hitler coalition were able to rise above their ambitions and differences and reach a compromise in the interests of establishing an international security system which, as President V.V. Putin has said, would spare the world from major upheaval.

(13.2) Seven decades ago, a creative philosophy of cooperation like that was essential, and it is essential today and should still be our key aim. In this period of transition, in the midst of an objective process shaping a new multipolar global system, international relations reflect the geographical, economic and civilizational diversity of today's world, the originality of peoples and their natural desire to determine their own fate by themselves. The process is evolving in a complex way, accompanied by increased instability in global affairs and greater competition in all fields, including models of socio-economic development and values of reference.

(13.3) In these circumstances it is necessary to accord particular attention to the unacceptable widening of ruptures between civilizations and religions, and to building a broad universal partnership which is a highly important component of a positive, future-oriented international agenda.

(13.4) I should like to take up what the Director-General, Irina Bokova, said in her address at the opening of the session, citing Leo Tolstoy, and state the following. The great Russian writer had an authentic perspective on humanity in deliverance from violence, lies and hypocrisy, to perfect the moral side of people. It is hard to overstate in this connection the significance of UNESCO, which steadfastly confirmed itself as a hopeful humanitarian buttress of global architecture, a universally recognized forum in defence of the spiritual and cultural heritage.

(13.5) It might be said that the hopes of the participants in the first session of the UNESCO General Conference have been borne out, as they entrusted it with the noble role of shaping the intellectual and moral conditions required to ensure the effective work of the whole United Nations system. And the Organization today is called upon to assist in strengthening the atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding between countries and people and the advancement of the inviolable moral values shared by all of the world's main religions and cultures. We rely on UNESCO's active participation in standing against intolerance, nationalism and discrimination. It is necessary to promote to the hilt mutually respectful dialogue between civilizations, culture and religions.

(13.6) The spread of terrorism and violent extremism in the Middle East and North Africa is of profound significance, with fighters of the so-called "Islamic State" and those like them engaging in the mass slaughter of innocent citizens, defiling Islam, and attacking all religions. There is a mass exodus of Christians from the region which threatens to destroy the historic interreligious balance and coexistence in the Middle East. To a great extent, all of this has become the consequence of State institutions weakened or destroyed, including by outside interference, in a number of States in the region, irresponsible attempts at geopolitical engineering and the imposition on peoples of practices foreign to them, without taking account of their traditions, history and heritage.

(13.7) When barbarians destroy invaluable monuments of world civilization, be it in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Afghanistan or Kosovo, it is especially necessary to make collective efforts to safeguard universal culture. The legal basis for this is the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. I recall that when it was being prepared, the ideas were used of our compatriot, Nikolai Konstantinovich Roerich, which had been enshrined in the first multilateral act in the field, developed 80 years ago. As soon as the barbarians have been expelled from the territories where there are world heritage sites, UNESCO will have to send missions there to assess the damage and prepare plans to restore priceless religious and cultural sacred places.

(13.8) UNESCO's competence is also required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in New York in September, which includes new ambitious tasks set to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including in the fields of education and culture.

(13.9) Russia is one of the most active members of UNESCO, participating in all its programmes in the fields of education, natural and social sciences and communication. Russia's role as one of the shapers of world culture and its hundreds of years of experience in the coexistence of ethnic groups and religions confer upon our country a particular responsibility as regards mobilizing collective efforts in resolving the vast tasks before UNESCO.

(13.10) These efforts are undermined as a result of the practice that has developed recently of individual States adopting discriminatory measures against cultural and artistic actors, against journalists, as a result of a ban on the import of exhibits,

without mentioning the demolition of monuments to Second World War heroes in politically correct Europe to the eloquent silence of many Western leaders, as if our continent had not experienced the full horror of Nazism, as if the Nuremberg trials had never taken place. Any politicization of humanitarian links is unacceptable. We consider to be extremely dangerous attempts to speculate on the humanitarian nature of UNESCO's activity to resolve one-sided political tasks, as do some of our colleagues, by all legal and illegal means promoting the matter of the membership of Kosovo in blatant violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The increasing number of facts about States' actions in impeding the implementation of human rights in intellectual contacts is also cause for concern. We propose the adoption of an international text to support the free nature of exchanges and cooperation in the fields of culture, art, science, and education in full accordance with the aims and values of our Organization, which is called upon to assist the strengthening of peace and security by means of broadening cooperation in its fields of competence. Thank you for your attention.

14. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, Minister of Education of Ghana. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

15.1 Ms Opoku-Agyemang (Ghana):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, and on behalf of all the people of Ghana, my delegation brings you all greetings and felicitations to UNESCO for 70 years of promoting world peace. President Mahama was here in person on 5 October to join in the anniversary celebrations. No doubt the admirable and effective leadership of its current Director-General, Her Excellency Ms Irina Bokova, has played a significant role in bringing the Organization this far. We congratulate the President of this session of the General Conference as well, and pledge our full support to him.

15.2 Mr President, UNESCO ably led the world to make huge improvements in education under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and even if there is a lot of work to be done and we have started with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we trust in the ability of our Organization to continue to make a difference by working towards global peace through education. Ghana's post-2015 agenda on education will focus on four main policy thrusts in line with the Education 2030 Framework for Action in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and in line with the holistic concept of education. We will improve equitable access to and participation in quality education at all levels, strengthen and rebrand technical and vocational training to make it more responsive to the world of work, improve the quality of teaching and learning at all levels, and improve management of education service delivery with a focus on efficiency.

15.3 Mr President, Ghana's response to growing youth unemployment is to reform technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and general skills development. Significant steps include the following: establishment of a broad-based governance structure, which includes statutory national technical committees with wide stakeholder representation; establishment of a national TVET qualifications framework, which is being operationalized; adoption of a competency-based training model, with emphasis on strong linkages with industry, which has been piloted and is being rolled out; crafting of a national TVET policy; and establishment of a national apprenticeship programme to cater for the huge informal sector in Ghana. We look forward to collaborations and support in this critical area.

15.4 Mr President, the Ghana delegation appreciates the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Strategy, which provides a framework to contribute to the global Sustainable Development Goals. As Chair of the African Network of Biosphere Reserves, Ghana has enlisted other ecosystems on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), as model sites of excellence for sustainable development. We recognize support by UNESCO and the Governments of Germany and the Republic of Korea for the Green Economy in Biosphere Reserves (GEBR) project, being implemented in the biosphere reserve in the western region of Ghana to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty. We urge UNESCO to further strengthen its programme in the water sciences, that is, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), as well as the intersectoral geoparks programme.

15.5 Mr President, the Ghana delegation applauds UNESCO's advocacy role in promoting cultural diversity and understanding between cultures in Member States. UNESCO has the merit of having called attention to the strong link between culture and development and continues to promote actions including research in this area. A survey, sponsored by UNESCO and conducted by the Ghana National Commission on Culture on the impact of indigenous Ghanaian industries on the national economy, revealed that the broad cultural and creative sector is an enormous asset, with the potential to create wealth in the country. In consequence, the parliament of Ghana ratified seven UNESCO cultural conventions to fully harness this linkage for socio-economic progress.

15.6 Mr President, UNESCO and the African Union have made good progress at pushing forward the second phase of the *General History of Africa* project, to which the Government of Ghana is fully committed because it seeks to contribute to the renewal of the teaching of the history of Africa by promoting mutual understanding, regional integration and peace. The project now requires urgent mobilization of additional funds to guarantee its effective implementation and sustainability. The Government of Ghana will cooperate with others in this worthy cause.

15.7 Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in a world where technology is a key driver of development, Ghana is leveraging information and communication technology (ICT) to achieve our educational targets as captured in our national education sector plan. Current focus is on ICT in education generally, with special emphasis on distance learning. We also appreciate UNESCO's continued efforts in the training of journalists in climate change reporting. The African University College of Communications in Ghana has received technical and financial support, and now one of its courses on media and gender is offered to all students in the arts programme. UNESCO's partnership with the National Youth Authority and the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE) to train youth in mobile applications is receiving good support.

15.8 Ghana looks forward to continuous collaboration with UNESCO in creating a world capable of rising above its current challenges and moving into an era of shared prosperity and lasting peace for all. I thank you for your kind attention.

16. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Costas Kadis, Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

17.1 Mr Kadis (Cyprus):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, for 70 years UNESCO has been conducting pioneering work worldwide. Its vision to build lasting peace is still pertinent and highly significant in addressing contemporary challenges. Cyprus fully embraces the key objectives which govern UNESCO's mandate.

17.2 Recently, we have all been witnessing the irreparable destruction of world heritage sites in war-torn countries and the serious violation of fundamental human rights. Cultural heritage does not only concern monuments, but mostly human values and identities. We are all responsible, therefore, for protecting this heritage against all possible threats. Unfortunately, Cyprus's cultural heritage still suffers extensively from the results of war and military occupation, with the fate of thousands of invaluable archaeological, historical, ethnographic and ecclesiastical artefacts remaining unknown. Cypriot cultural goods, as a result of looting and trafficking, are frequently located in auction houses and art markets abroad. Fortunately, some of our efforts to repatriate such cultural goods have been successful. Cyprus has signed numerous bilateral agreements with other countries, willing to join forces in the effort to protect cultural heritage and combat trafficking.

17.3 As far as cultural property from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic is concerned, the competent authorities of Cyprus are on high alert, especially due to our geographical proximity to these countries. Moreover, as of September 2015, Cyprus is a member of the subsidiary committee of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, fostering creativity and protecting the diversity of cultural expressions, through promoting regional and international cooperation, are also of paramount importance. Cyprus acknowledges the role of culture, cultural expressions and creative industries as driving forces for development. We greatly share the vision of UNESCO, the United Nations and the European Union for a more integrated approach towards culture, aiming at mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and economic development.

17.4 Furthermore, the preservation of natural resources and the biodiversity of our planet are essential in building sustainable societies. A great achievement for our country is the recent inclusion of Troodos Mountain in the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), as a significant example of geodiversity.

17.5 At the heart of every transformative process lies education. UNESCO has paved the way for the promotion of education for all (EFA), and we believe it should continue to play a leading role in the post-2015 education agenda. Two days ago, the Education 2030 Framework for Action was formally adopted during the special high-level meeting. In this regard, Cyprus will continue to expand its efforts toward inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all. Quality education requires professional and committed educators at all levels. Consequently, Cyprus has developed and adopted recently a series of policies focusing on the quality of our teachers.

17.6 Mr President, in concluding, I wish to reiterate our commitment to contribute to the realization of UNESCO's mission, which is peace-building through education, culture and science. In Cyprus there is an ongoing negotiation process aiming to reach a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem. The Government of Cyprus is fully committed to this process; a process which, should it be concluded successfully, will give unprecedented impetus to peace and sustainable development in our country and the wider region, and will thus be in line with UNESCO's objectives and values. Thank you for your attention.

18. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Bader Aleisa, Minister of Education and Higher Education of Kuwait. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

١٩،١ السيد العيسى (الكويت)

السيد ستانليه سيماتا، رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، السيد محمد سامح عمرو، رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، معالي الوزراء، السيدات والسادة رؤساء الوفود، سعادة السفراء المندوبين لدى منظمة اليونسكو، السيدات والسادة. أتقدم إليكم بأطيب التحيات، وأنقل إليكم تحيات أمير دولة الكويت القائد الإنساني الشيخ صباح الأحمد الجابر الصباح وشعب وحكومة دولة الكويت. ويطيب لنا أن نعبر عن تقديرنا للجهود الدؤوبة التي تقوم بها منظمة اليونسكو في عالم تعصف به الكوارث وتتنبه الأزمات والحروب والتطرف، حيث يمثل الأطفال أولى ضحاياها الأكثر هشاشة وعرضة لآثارها الجسدية والنفسية على حد سواء. ومن أجل حماية الأطفال من آثار النزاعات المسلحة، فإننا ندعو إلى استئصال بذور الحرب والعنف وذلك من خلال ترسيخ مفهوم "تربية السلام" وإرساء "ثقافة سلام" للحفاظ على قيمة الإنسان وكرامته. وجزء الحروب والنزاعات، تتعرض جميع فئات المجتمع للمخاطر، إلا إن النساء يشكلن في الحقيقة الفريسة الأولى للتهميش والفقر والمعاناة الناجمة عن النزاعات المسلحة. كما أن العنف أو مجرد التهديد باستخدامه يمثل أهم عقبة تحول دون تحقيق المساواة التامة للمرأة. فكرامة الإنسان وحق المرأة والرجل معاً، وحقوق الأطفال جميعها تمثل أحد أهم أولوياتنا في رسم سياساتنا المختلفة. وفي هذا السياق، جاء تبرع دولة الكويت الأخير بمبلغ ٥ ملايين دولار لدعم مبادرات اليونسكو التربوية وغيرها من المساهمات المالية، تعبيراً عن إيمان دولة الكويت بنشر هذه القيم والمبادئ الإنسانية ودعم منظمة اليونسكو للقيام بدورها الإنساني الكبير. والتزاماً من دولة الكويت بالتصدي لمعاناة الأطفال وحرمانهم من التعليم بسبب الحروب، وانطلاقاً من أن التعليم يمثل مدخلاً رئيساً للاستقرار، فقد قررت دولة الكويت استضافة مؤتمر مانحين لدعم التعليم في الصومال كمرحلة أولى، على أمل تكرار التجربة في دول أخرى بالمنطقة، وذلك بالاشتراك مع جمهورية الصومال ومنظمي الألكسو وإيسيسكو.

١٩،٢ السيدات والسادة، تُعرب دولة الكويت عن تقديرها وتأييدها لمبادرة اليونسكو بشأن التحالف الدولي " #متحدون مع التراث" التي تشكل رداً على تهديد عالمي مستمر يرمي إلى تدمير التراث الثقافي الإنساني وتهديداً في منطقة الشرق الأوسط، مصدر الحضارات الإنسانية القديمة. إن الدمار المتواصل الذي يتعرض له تراثنا جراء هجمات تقوم بها مجموعات إرهابية اتخذت من مواقعنا الثقافية معقل لها يدفعنا إلى الدعوة لتعزيز هذا التحالف العالمي وتوسيع آفاقه من خلال إطلاق عقد أممي للفترة من ٢٠١٥ إلى ٢٠٢٤، يهدف إلى حماية التراث الإنساني، والحفاظ عليه لأجيالنا القادمة. وإنا اليوم نواجه جميعاً موجات من التطرف العنيف بأشكاله المختلفة، منها الديني والعرقي والسياسي، مما يفرض علينا جميعاً توحيد جهودنا لمواجهة من خلال إقامة الحوار ونشر ثقافة السلام فيما بين مجتمعاتنا وداخلها.

١٩،٣ السيدات والسادة، إن الكويت ترحب بنتائج المنتدى العالمي للتربية المنعقد في إنشون خلال شهر أيار/مايو الماضي، وبالإعلان الخاص بالتعليم حتى عام ٢٠٣٠، الذي خلص إلى تحديد خارطة طريق عالمية للتعليم، مما سيمكن الدول والشركاء من حشد طاقاتها لتنفيذ جدول الأعمال العالمي من أجل ضمان ارتفاع الجميع بفرص تعليمية متكافئة. ونؤكد في هذا الصدد الإمكانيات الهائلة التي يوفرها التعليم باعتباره قوة تحويلية تسهم في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة والقضاء على الفقر من على وجه الأرض.

١٩،٤ السيدات والسادة، يمثل عدم إقرار سياسة عالمية موحدة لمواجهة نتائج تغيّر المناخ تحدياً تواجهه دولنا النامية، وبالأخص تلك الأشد فقراً والأكثر هشاشة. فهذه الظاهرة تزيد من حدة المخاطر والتحديات التي تواجهها هذه البلدان، وتعدّ جهودها الرامية إلى تقليص الفقر، وتقف حائلاً أمام تنميتها وازدهارها، ذلك أن هناك صلة غير قابلة للفصم بين تغيّر المناخ وآثاره من جهة والتنمية وتقدم البشرية من جهة أخرى. وعليه، فإن دولة الكويت تأمل أن يخلق المؤتمر القادم للدول الأطراف في اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية بشأن تغيّر المناخ COP 21، الذي سيعقد من ٣٠ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر إلى ١١ كانون الأول/ديسمبر القادم، علماً يُعنى جدياً بالمناخ.

١٩،٥ السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، تود دولة الكويت أن تعرب عن تقديرها للمديرة العامة ولأمانة ورئيس وأعضاء المجلس التنفيذي لموافقتهم على إنشاء مركزين يعملان تحت رعاية اليونسكو من الفئة ٢ في الكويت، أحدهما عالمي يُعنى بتمكين الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة عن طريق تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال، والآخر يختص ببحوث المياه، مما سيساهم دون شك في بلوغ أهداف منظمتنا على صعيدي تمكين الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة وإدماجهم في مجتمعات المعرفة، والتصدي للتحديات المائية في المناطق التي تندر فيها المياه. وفي الختام، نعرب عن تقديرنا لأمانة منظمة اليونسكو لجهودها المبذولة من أجل صون التراث الثقافي لمدينة القدس القديمة.

(19.1) **Mr Aleisa (Kuwait) (translation from the Arabic):**

Mr Stanley Simataa, President of the General Conference at its 38th session, Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the Executive Board, Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies heads and members of delegations, Excellencies Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates to UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen, I offer you warm greetings and convey to you greetings from the Emir of Kuwait, that humanitarian leader, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, and from the people and Government of Kuwait. We are pleased to express our appreciation for the persistent efforts exerted by UNESCO in a world buffeted by catastrophes and suffering from crises, war and extremism, where children are the most fragile victims of those plagues and the most vulnerable to their physical and psychological effects. In order to protect children from the effects of armed conflicts, we urge that the seeds of war and violence be eradicated by inculcating the concept of "cultivating peace" and bringing about a "culture of peace" in order to preserve the value and dignity of individuals. As a result of wars, all categories of society are at risk, but women are in reality the primary victims of marginalization, poverty and suffering arising from armed conflicts. Similarly, violence, or the mere threat of using violence, is the most important obstacle to the achievement of full equality for women. The dignity of individuals, the rights of both women and men, and the rights of all children are all among our foremost priorities in devising our various policies. In this connection, the most recent donation by Kuwait of \$5 million to support UNESCO's educational and other initiatives, and other financial contributions, are a reflection of Kuwait's faith in the dissemination of these humanitarian values and principles and in supporting UNESCO to enable it to perform its great humanitarian role. It is also a result of Kuwait's commitment to alleviating the suffering of children and their exclusion from education as a result of wars, and on the basis that education is the main gateway to stability, that Kuwait decided to host a donors' conference in support of education in Somalia to begin with, and hopes to repeat the experiment in other countries of the region, in partnership with Somalia, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

(19.2) Ladies and gentlemen, Kuwait expresses its appreciation and support for the international alliance "#Unite4Heritage", which constitutes a response to the ongoing global threat of destruction to the cultural heritage of humankind, and a threat to the Middle East region, the place of origin of ancient human societies. The continuing destruction of our heritage as a result of attacks carried out by terrorist groups who have taken our cultural sites as strongholds prompts us to call for a strengthening of this global alliance and to expand its horizons by launching a United Nations decade 2015-2024 for the protection of the human heritage and in order to preserve that heritage for future generations. Today we are all facing waves of violent terrorism of various kinds, including religious, racial and political, which makes it necessary for us all to pool our efforts by establishing dialogue and disseminating the culture of peace among our communities and within them.

(19.3) Ladies and gentlemen, Kuwait welcomes the results of the World Education Forum 2015 held in Incheon last May and the Incheon Declaration "Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all", which defined a global roadmap for education to enable countries and partners to mobilize their energies to implement the global agenda to ensure access for all to equal education opportunities. We stress in this connection the tremendous possibilities that education provides as a transformative force which helps to achieve sustainable development and to eliminate poverty from the face of the Earth.

(19.4) Ladies and gentlemen, the failure to adopt a united global policy to deal with climate change is a challenge for our developing countries, especially the poorest and most fragile ones. This phenomenon aggravates the threats and challenges to these countries, complicates their efforts to reduce poverty, and constitutes an obstacle to their development and well-being. There is an undeniable connection between climate change and its impact on the one hand, and human development and progress on the other. Kuwait therefore hopes that the forthcoming Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), to be held from 30 November to 11 December next, will give rise to a world which is seriously concerned about the climate.

(19.5) Mr President of the General Conference, Kuwait would like to express its appreciation to the Director-General, the Secretariat, the Chair and Members of the Executive Board for their agreement to establish two category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO, the first, the Global Centre of Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through

Information and Communication Technologies, the other the Water Research Centre. This will no doubt help to attain the objectives of our region with regard to helping individuals with disabilities and to include them in knowledge societies, and to meet water-related challenges in regions where water is scarce. Finally, we express our appreciation to the UNESCO Secretariat for its efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem.

20. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Raymond Araygi, Minister of Culture of Lebanon. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٢١,١ السيد عمريجي (لبنان)

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، السادة رؤساء الوفود، السيدات والسادة، أتوجه بالتهنئة لرئيس المؤتمر العام، كما أثنى جهود المديرية العامة، منوهاً بفعالية رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، مع تمنيات النجاح للمنظمة في دورتها الثامنة والثلاثين. نَعْمُني لحظة أمل وفرح في هذه القاعة الحاضنة لممثلي الدول، تحت شعار تناغم الحضارات وتكاتف ثقافات البشر وإعلاء شمولية إنسانية الإنسان على كوكبنا الصغير. وإذ نؤكد اعتزازنا اليوم بأن لبنان كان من بين الدول المؤسسة لليونسكو، إيماناً بدور الثقافة والعلوم في تطوير المجتمع البشري، فإن رسالة اليونسكو ثابتة في توجهاتنا وممارساتنا. ومن هذا المنطلق، يطمح لبنان لنيل مقعد في المجلس التنفيذي لليونسكو من خلال الانتخابات التي ستجرى في الشهر الجاري.

٢١,٢ السيدات والسادة، يعيش الشرق الأوسط، والعالم العربي تحديداً، مرحلة تذابح وتهمجير وهدم لمعالم الحضارات لأسباب خارجية ترتبط بمصالح الدول، ولأسباب داخلية هي نتاج الفقر والامية وغياب الديمقراطية وتنامي الأصولية الإرهابية الإلغائية التي دمرت أسس الدول ومعالم الحضارة، وهجرت أقليات ومجموعات بشرية في المنطقة، كانت متجذرة فيها منذ آلاف السنين، لا سيما في العراق وسورية. وإن فكرة إنشاء اليونسكو ولدت إبان الحرب العالمية الثانية، يوم كان الحلفاء يوجهون الفكر الإلغائي. وما أحوجنا اليوم إلى استنهاض قيم التنوير لوقف موجات الحقد والإلغاء الجسدي والفكري في غير بؤرة من أصقاع الأرض. ولقد جاء في ديباجة الميثاق التأسيسي لليونسكو "لما كانت الحروب تتوغل في عقول البشر، ففي عقولهم يجب أن تُبنى حصون السلام". وإننا اليوم، كمسؤولين ومعنا قادة الرأي ومؤسسات الفكر، مدعوون إلى بناء ثقافة السلام كي لا تبقى مبادئ اليونسكو مثلاً بعيداً يُرتجى في احترام القيم والحريات وخصائص الشعوب. وليس سوى المعرفة والعلوم وسيلة لبناء المجتمعات الحرة المثقفة المتنورة. ولا بد من التنويه بأن لبنان حقق لإرثه التعليم في المرحلة الابتدائية. كما فتحت المدارس اللبنانية الرسمية أبوابها لتعليم الأطفال من النازحين السوريين في فترة بعد الظهر وهم بعشرات الآلاف.

٢١,٣ السيدات والسادة، لعل أظن ما نشهد على شاشاتنا ووسائل التواصل، موجات من الأطفال والنساء والرجال الهاربين بحراً وبراً من المجازر في بلدانهم. ويعيش في المخيمات، على أرض لبنان اليوم، حوالي مليون ونصف المليون نازح سوري وحوالي ٥٠٠ ألف لاجئ فلسطيني في ظروف صعبة ينوء بهم لبنان، وهو بحاجة لدعم الدول والمؤسسات العالمية للتكفل بأعباء الرعاية. وإن مأساة النازحين السوريين تشكل أزمة كبيرة للبنان على غير صعيد، خاصة أن عددهم بات يشكل نسبة تفوق ٣٠ في المائة عدد سكانه. وإنني منهذا المنبر، أناشد الدول والمنظمات العالمية، إلى جانب المساعدات التي تمنحها للنازحين، أن تقدم الدعم مباشرة إلى الدولة اللبنانية لمساعدتها على رعايتهم. وإن المجتمع الدولي مُطالب بإتخاذ الحرب وإحلال السلام في سورية تمهيداً لعودة النازحين إلى وطنهم. كما هو مُطالب بإيجاد حل عادل للمأساة الفلسطينية تضمن عودة الأرض والحقوق إلى أصحابها. وإنها هومٌ كبيرة تنتظر حلولاً كبرى. وبسبب الحروب وانعدام الاستقرار، تتعرض المعالم الحضارية والمواقع الأثرية إلى التدمير والنهب والتخريب في الأسواق السوداء العالمية.

٢١,٤ وإنني إذ أثنى دور اليونسكو وجهود المديرية العامة في حماية هذا الإرث الحضاري المهدهد، أؤكد التزام لبنان الكامل بالمعاهدات وقرارات مجلس الأمن ذات الصلة. ولبنان يبذل كل الجهود لمحاربة الاتجار بالآثار وحمايتها. وتأتي ظاهرة الانحسار الحراري لتزيد المأساة، تدميراً للبيئة، وتغييراً للمناخ، وهي ظاهرة فشلت كل مؤتمرات المناخ العالمية في التخفيف من أخطارها حتى اليوم. وأملنا بقراراتٍ إيجابية تصدر عن مؤتمر باريس القادم، حول المناخ، يُعيد شيئاً من التوازن البيئي في صحة الأرض.

٢١,٥ السيدات والسادة، بالرغم من الحروب والمآسي والدمار في قارات الأرض، فإننا في لبنان متشبثون بمبادئ اليونسكو حيث أنشأت اليونسكو المركز الدولي لعلوم الإنسان في مدينة الحرف (جبيل)، وإن لبنان يفاخر بكونه بلد الرسالة، كما قال البابا يوحنا بولس الثاني، حيث تتأخى على أرضه الرسالات السماوية والحوار الإنساني الحر، نموذجاً. وإن الإنسان قيمة مطلقة، والحياة فرصة عبور، تُزين عبرها عطاءاتنا البشرية على هذا الكوكب الجميل. ودعونا نحفل بألوان قيم الإنسان، وبثبات قلاع للسلام في العقول والمجتمعات. إننا محكومون بالأمل وببهاء الحياة، وشكراً.

(21.1) Mr Araygi (Lebanon) (translation from the Arabic):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies heads of delegation, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate the President of the General Conference, I commend the efforts of the Director-General, I praise the effectiveness of the Chair of the Executive Board, and I wish the Organization every success at the 38th session of its General Conference. I am filled with hope and joy in this hall which brings together the representatives of States under the slogans of the harmony of civilizations, the solidarity of the cultures of humankind, and the all-encompassing humanity of individuals on our small planet. We are proud to say that Lebanon was a founding member of UNESCO, believing in the role of culture and science in the development of human society. UNESCO's message is constantly with us in our outlook and practice. This is why Lebanon hopes to win a seat on UNESCO's Executive Board in the election to be held later this month.

(21.2) Ladies and gentlemen, the Middle East, and more specifically the Arab world, is going through a period of massacres, mass displacement and destruction of the monuments of civilizations for external reasons relating to the interests of countries, and internal reasons arising from poverty, illiteracy, lack of democracy, the growth of terrorist and annihilationist fundamentalism which has destroyed the foundations of countries and cultural monuments, and displaced minorities and human groups in the region in which they have been deeply rooted for thousands of years, especially in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The idea of founding UNESCO arose during the Second World War, at a time when the Allies were facing an annihilationist ideology. We are today in great need of reviving the values of the Enlightenment in order to halt the waves of hatred and physical and intellectual annihilationism washing over numerous points worldwide. The Preamble of UNESCO's Constitution states: "... since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". We officials, opinion-shapers and intellectual institutions are today called upon to build a culture of peace so that UNESCO's principles do not remain a distant ideal to be attained in respecting values, freedoms and the specificities of peoples. Only knowledge and the sciences can be means to build free, cultivated and enlightened societies. We are proud that Lebanon has achieved obligatory schooling at the primary level. Lebanese State schools have opened their doors in the afternoons to the tens of thousands of children of Syrian refugees.

(21.3) Ladies and gentlemen, among the most horrible things we can see on our television screens and social media are the waves of children, women and men fleeing by sea and on land from massacres in their own countries. In the refugee camps in Lebanon today there are approximately a million and a half Syrian refugees and some 500,000 Palestinian refugees living under difficult conditions, constituting a burden on Lebanon, which needs support from countries and international institutions in order to provide the necessary care. The tragedy of the Syrian refugees is a great crisis for Lebanon on more than one level, especially since they now constitute more than 30% of the population. From this podium, I appeal to the countries and international organizations, in addition to the aid they offer refugees, to provide support directly to the Lebanese State to enable it to care for the refugees. The international community is called upon to put an end to the war and bring peace to the Syrian Arab Republic, paving the way for the refugees to return home. The international community is also called upon to find an equitable solution to the Palestinian tragedy which enables their land and rights to be returned to their rightful owners. These are grand concerns which are awaiting grand solutions. Because of the wars and the lack of stability, the cultural monuments and archaeological sites have suffered destruction, plunder and smuggling of objects to the black market all over the world.

(21.4) Greatly appreciating UNESCO's role and the efforts of the Director-General in protecting this cultural heritage in jeopardy, I reiterate Lebanon's full commitment to the relevant conventions and Security Council resolutions. Lebanon exerts all possible efforts to combat trafficking in archaeological artefacts and to protect them. Global warming (the greenhouse effect) is increasing the tragedy by destroying the environment and changing the climate. All the world climate conferences have failed to alleviate the impact of this phenomenon thus far. We sincerely hope that positive decisions will emerge from the forthcoming Paris conference on the climate, and restore some environmental equilibrium to the Earth.

(21.5) Ladies and gentlemen, despite the wars, tragedies and destruction on the various continents, we in Lebanon hold firmly to the principles of UNESCO, which established the International Centre for Human Sciences (ICHS) at Byblos (Jubail) in Lebanon. Lebanon is proud to be the country of the message, as Pope John-Paul II said, since in its territory, the three celestial messages and free human dialogue provide a fraternal model. The human individual is an absolute value, and life is an opportunity for transition through which we embellish our human contributions on this lovely planet. Let us celebrate with the various types of human values and with the building of the defences of peace in human minds and societies. We are condemned to hope and the radiance of life. Thank you.

22. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Nabi Avci, Minister of National Education of Turkey. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

23.1 **Mr Avci (Turkey)**

(address delivered in Turkish; English text provided by the Turkish delegation):

Your Excellency Mr President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Director-General, Excellencies, ministers, dear colleagues and friends, first of all, I would like to congratulate you Mr President upon your election, and reassure you of Turkey's full cooperation during your tenure. I would also like to thank the outgoing President of the 37th session of the General Conference, His Excellency Mr Hao Ping.

23.2 As I did two years ago, this time again I would like to address you in my mother tongue Turkish, a language spoken by more than 200 million people around the world. I am assured by your positive reactions the previous time that my choice would be in conformity with UNESCO's principle of "unity in diversity".

23.3 Honourable colleagues, today in my country we are laying the "poet of fineness", Ms Gülten Akın, to rest. As seen in her following lines, UNESCO's spirit is well reflected in Gülten Akın's poetry:

"It's a shameful thing!
As Camus says...
To be happy all alone...
Voices and other voices!!
Where are the voices of the world?"

May God bless her spirit.

23.4 Dear friends, we are gathered yet again in this august body, as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. New threats lie ahead on the path that we started walking together 70 years ago with the aim of building peace in the minds of people. Fault lines dividing nations, religions and cultures are becoming more visible. The global social harmony is threatened by growing radicalism and abyss between religions, ethnicities and cultural communities. As a matter of fact, there is an escalation in hatred and marginalization of "the other" even in countries with strong democratic traditions. It is also alarming that the votes of political parties depicting immigrants as a source of unrest, unemployment, crime, poverty and other social problems are on the rise.

23.5 Turkey and Spain have launched the Alliance of Civilizations. It is timely for UNESCO to explore ways to contribute to the strengthening of dialogue between civilizations, through actions under the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. When I took the floor before this august assembly two years ago, I underlined the need for reform to increase UNESCO's effectiveness. I furthermore emphasized the need to keep the reform process going and expressed our full support for Director-General Bokova in her efforts. I reiterated to the Director-General our continuing commitment to reform when she was in Ankara for her first official visit of the 70th anniversary year. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Director-General for helping us to carry UNESCO into a more dynamic setting, despite serious financial constraints.

23.6 Dear colleagues, education should remain at the core of our efforts in countering violent extremism and terrorism. In this respect, we find the education for all (EFA) platform and the global citizenship education programme quite helpful. We also fully endorse the goals and projects promoting girls' education and gender equality. Meanwhile Turkey will continue vigorously supporting UNESCO's Priority Africa programmes.

23.7 The Education 2030 Framework for Action, which we have recently adopted, is another manifestation of UNESCO's leading role in the global education efforts. UNESCO's education programmes and networks such as the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) UNESCO Clubs and University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN)/UNESCO Chairs, are pillars of quality education for all, intellectual cooperation and participation. Turkey will take part in and foster those programmes.

23.8 UNESCO is at a turning point in the field of culture. Cultural heritage is facing the worst-ever threat in history. It is fundamentally important to protect the universal heritage of civilization that is exposed to the threat of annihilation both by the evil forces of terror and violent extremism. As Chair of the World Heritage Committee, we are aiming at result-oriented deliberations on this issue during the 40th session of the Committee from 10 to 20 July 2016 in Istanbul.

23.9 Dear colleagues, for Turkey, UNESCO is a House of mutual understanding and tolerance. The implementation of decisions adopted in this House should not be delayed. Those decisions taken about Palestine under this roof have the potential to facilitate solutions through UNESCO's soft power and cultural diplomacy. Now is the time to take action. Tomorrow may be too late.

23.10 Another important issue, which should not be left behind, is the migration crisis that is growing like an avalanche. As a result of the open door policy that we have pursued since the outset of the crisis, Turkey is now hosting over two million Syrian refugees. Without any tangible support and contribution from the international community, we have been providing shelter, security, food, education and healthcare, by investing over \$7 billion from our national budget. Turkey is proud of fulfilling its humane duties and responsibilities.

23.11 Dear colleagues, Turkey has announced its candidature to the Executive Board of UNESCO for the 2017-2021 period. We believe that we will be able to contribute intellectually, as well as through deeds and concrete actions, to the work of the Organization and add momentum to it through regional and international cooperation. We count on your confidence and valuable support. Thank you.

24. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency for concluding your intervention within the allotted time. Ladies and gentlemen, as I mentioned earlier, we have a special guest paying us a visit this morning, His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan. I will now suspend the meeting for five minutes, in order to welcome our distinguished visitor. I kindly ask you all to remain in your seats until we regain this room. Thank you very much.

Visit by His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan

Visite de Son Excellence M. Nursultan Nazarbayev, Président du Kazakhstan

Visita del Excelentísimo Sr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, Presidente de Kazajstán

Визит Его Превосходительства г-на Нурсултана Назарбаева, Президента Республики Казахстан

الزيارة التي قام بها فخامة السيد نور سلطان نزار باييف، رئيس جمهورية كازاخستان

哈萨克斯坦总统纳扎尔巴耶夫先生阁下来访

*His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan,
enters Room I and is escorted to his place*

25.1 The President:

Thank you very much. Your Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, in my capacity as President of the General Conference of UNESCO it is a special honour to welcome to this 38th session of the General Conference our distinguished guest, one of the longest-serving heads of State, His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan. As the first and current President of his country, Mr Nazarbayev oversaw the rapid development of Kazakhstan into one of the region's strongest economies. His Excellency launched widespread economic, social and political reforms which promote education, research and development, as well as cultural diversity in his country. Under his leadership, cooperation with UNESCO has grown and has flourished.

25.2 Your Excellency, I wish also to pay tribute to your country's initiative that led the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim an International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, for which UNESCO has been designated as the lead agency for the United Nations system. To support the goals of this International Decade, Kazakhstan recently organized the Fifth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Mr President, we are indeed honoured by your presence, and are looking forward to hearing your message today. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

26.1 M. Nazarbayev (Président du Kazakhstan):

(Discours prononcé en kazakh ; texte français fourni par la délégation):

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice Générale, mesdames et messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand honneur de saluer les participants et les invités de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Dans la famille des Nations unies, l'UNESCO est investi d'un rôle particulier. Cette organisation, créée il y a 70 ans, est appelée « la conscience de l'humanité ». Son apport a été immense pour la conservation de l'héritage culturel et historique et l'élargissement des liens internationaux, qu'il s'agisse de culture, de science ou de communication.

26.2 Le Kazakhstan soutient complètement l'action de l'UNESCO dont les priorités constituent des axes importants des Objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU. Il y a vingt ans, à cette même tribune, j'avais exposé les buts et les problèmes du jeune Etat kazakh à l'aube de son indépendance. Aujourd'hui nous avons atteint la majorité des Objectifs

du millénaire pour le développement fixés par l'ONU. Le niveau de pauvreté a été divisé par onze, passant de 34% à 3%. Nous avons construit des centaines d'écoles et d'hôpitaux. Le PIB du Kazakhstan a été multiplié par 19, et le revenu par habitant a atteint celui des pays à revenus intermédiaires. L'espérance de vie des Kazakhs a dépassé 70 ans. Le niveau de la mortalité infantile et maternelle a baissé. Nous avons connu de grands succès dans la lutte contre le sida, la malaria et la tuberculose. Nous avons adopté le programme « Kazakhstan-2050 » dont les buts sont en pleine concordance avec les objectifs du développement durable et nous avons la volonté d'entrer dans la liste des trente pays les plus développés du monde.

26.3 Chers délégués, ces dernières années ont vu s'aggraver les menaces de divisions entre les civilisations, les confrontations sur des fondements inter ethniques, inter culturels et inter religieux. Les derniers débats de la 70ème session de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU ont confirmé l'urgente nécessité de bâtir un nouveau paradigme de développement mondial. Les initiatives internationales du Kazakhstan ont pour finalité la réalisation de cet important objectif. Nous proposons un Plan d'initiative stratégique globale – 2045. Son contenu consiste dans l'élaboration d'une stratégie de développement mondial éliminant les causes profondes des guerres et des conflits. Elle a pour ambition de donner une nouvelle orientation au développement sur la base d'un accès équitable de toutes les nations aux infrastructures mondiales, aux ressources et aux marchés mais aussi d'une responsabilité commune envers le développement de l'humanité. Le but principal doit être l'édification d'un monde sans armes nucléaires. A cette fin, nous proposons l'adoption d'une déclaration générale de l'ONU sur un monde exempt d'armes nucléaires. En 2016, il se sera écoulé 25 ans depuis la signature, par moi, du décret de fermeture du Centre d'essais nucléaires de Semipalatinsk. C'est une occasion importante d'unir les efforts de la communauté internationale en vue d'atteindre cet objectif essentiel d'un monde dénucléarisé.

26.4 Un problème urgent est la constitution d'un front international commun contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme religieux. Aujourd'hui les terres de l'antique Mésopotamie, berceau des civilisations mondiales et des grandes religions, font l'objet d'une destruction barbare et de pillages. Les actions de ce qui est appelé « l'Etat islamique » font subir des atteintes irréparables à l'héritage historico-culturel unique du Proche orient. Le Kazakhstan condamne fermement le terrorisme et l'extrémisme sous toutes ses formes. Nous proposons de mettre en place sous l'égide de l'ONU un réseau commun mondial de lutte contre le terrorisme international et l'extrémisme. Il est important que les efforts pour combattre l'islamisme radical ne conduisent pas à identifier ce dernier avec l'islam pacifique. S'opposer au terrorisme n'est possible que sur la base d'un dialogue interculturel et interreligieux. C'est précisément sur cela qu'est fondée notre idée de créer un forum « L'Islam contre le terrorisme ». Il est indispensable de mobiliser plus largement le potentiel de l'UNESCO sur les questions de l'instauration de la paix et de la stabilité internationale.

26.5 Je propose que soit fondée auprès de l'UNESCO une Académie internationale de maintien de la paix et du développement durable. S'appuyant sur la meilleure expérience internationale, l'Académie pourrait élaborer des idées progressistes et des mesures effectives pour le maintien de la paix et la mise en œuvre d'un développement durable. Est d'une importance particulière la recherche de voies pour une prévention précoce des conflits passant par la réalisation de l'idée défendue par l'UNESCO d'une « Culture de la paix ». Les principes de cette idée sont en accord avec l'initiative prise par le Kazakhstan d'élaborer, sous l'égide de l'ONU, le concept d'un Nouveau Futur (New Future).

26.7 Mesdames, messieurs, au milieu du 13ème siècle un moine français, Guillaume de Rubrouck, a visité la ville kazakhe antique de Kaialik où cohabitaient en paix des communautés chrétiennes, bouddhistes, manichéennes et musulmanes. L'an dernier, à l'initiative du Kazakhstan, de la Chine et du Kirghizstan ont été inscrits sur la liste du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO huit sites archéologiques situés sur la Route de la Soie. Parmi eux, on compte aussi la ville de Kaialik, symbole ancien de tolérance religieuse et d'amitié. Il y a peu, le Kazakhstan a fêté les 550 ans du *khanat* kazakh. Nous faisons revivre l'héritage historique et culturel de la Grande steppe et de ses valeurs spirituelles. Nous protégeons soigneusement les monuments inscrits sur la Liste indicative de l'UNESCO, parmi lesquels : Otrar, Turkestan, Saouran, et Syganak.

26.8 En 2013, le Kazakhstan est devenu pour la première fois membre du Comité du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Cette mission fait peser sur nous une responsabilité particulière dans le domaine de la préservation du patrimoine historique et culturel. La renaissance des traditions de la Route de la soie revêt une importance particulière. Son histoire montre qu'une collaboration étroite et qu'un enrichissement culturel réciproque sont au fondement de la paix et du progrès de l'humanité entière. Je suis heureux qu'ait été inscrit dans le Calendrier des célébrations d'anniversaires de l'UNESCO le Millénaire de la ville d'Almaty qui fut un nœud de communication sur la partie Jetyssou de la Route de la soie. Pays pluriethnique et multiconfessionnel, le Kazakhstan promeut l'idée de tolérance et d'entente entre les ethnies. Organisé à notre initiative, le Congrès des dirigeants de religions mondiales et traditionnelles est devenu une plateforme de dialogue internationale reconnue et jugée très favorablement par l'ONU. Le Kazakhstan a initié la proclamation par l'ONU de la Décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures (2013-2022). Nous apportons tout notre soutien, y compris financier, à la bonne conduite de ce programme par l'UNESCO. Nous comptons sur le soutien des États membres de l'UNESCO en ce qui concerne la création à Astana d'un Centre de rapprochement des cultures sous l'égide de l'UNESCO.

26.9 Chers participants à la Conférence, je suis convaincu que l'éducation est la clé pour une existence pacifique, un développement durable et en conséquence, pour le progrès de l'humanité au 21ème siècle. En tant que leader mondial dans le domaine de l'éducation il revient à l'UNESCO d'élaborer des standards unifiés de qualité d'enseignement vers lesquels tendront tous les pays.

26.10 Le Kazakhstan, à son tour, modernise son système éducatif national. Notre pays est l'un des premiers États post soviétiques à être devenu membre de l'espace européen de l'enseignement supérieur. Il y a cinq ans nous avons rejoint la Convention culturelle européenne et le processus de Bologne. Nous avons créé dans notre pays un réseau

national d'écoles et de collèges d'excellence de niveau international. L'Université Nazarbaiev est un projet d'avant-garde dans le domaine de la science et de la culture. Au final, sur 130 pays, le Kazakhstan est en quatrième position dans l'indice de développement de l'éducation de l'UNESCO. En soutien à l'initiative de l'ONU « L'énergie durable pour tous », se tiendra en 2017 à Astana, à l'exposition universelle « Expo 2017 ». Je profite de l'occasion pour inviter tous les États à participer à l'« Expo 2017 ». Dans le cadre de cette exposition je propose qu'y soit ouvert un « Pavillon de l'UNESCO » pour montrer le rôle de l'UNESCO dans la promotion du développement durable. Sur la base des infrastructures de l'Expo 2017 nous avons l'intention de fonder un Centre international de développement des énergies vertes sous l'égide de l'ONU. Je pense que l'UNESCO pourrait devenir le co-sponsor scientifique de ce Centre.

26.11 Chers amis, le Kazakhstan apporte son soutien à la politique visant à accroître l'efficacité de l'UNESCO, à renforcer son autorité, par le biais de sa modernisation et de l'adaptation de l'Organisation aux défis de la modernité. Je suis convaincu que l'UNESCO continuera à servir de forum de première importance pour la collaboration des États et des peuples au nom de la culture, de l'humanisme et de la paix. Je souhaite aux participants à la Conférence générale un travail fructueux pour le bien de l'humanité. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States I would like to thank the President of Kazakhstan for his speech. We are humbled and honoured by your presence. I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr President, and the people of Kazakhstan, on the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate. Ladies and gentlemen, let us suspend the meeting for five minutes in order to allow His Excellency and his entourage to leave the room. May I ask delegates to kindly remain seated. I thank you.

His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev is escorted from Room I.

General policy debate (*continued*)

Débat de politique générale (*suite*)

Debate de política general (*continuación*)

Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (*продолжение*)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)

总政策辩论 (续)

28.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. We will now continue with the national statements, but before we do, the delegation of Azerbaijan has requested a right of reply to the statement that was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference states that the President may accord the right to reply at the end of the last meeting of the day. The representative of Azerbaijan shall therefore, in accordance with Rule 72, have two minutes for this statement at the end of this afternoon's plenary. Are you in agreement with this proposal? I see no objection. *It is so **decided**.*

28.2 We shall now go back to the national statements, and I have the pleasure and honour to invite His Excellency Mr Myron Walwyn, Minister of Education and Culture of the British Virgin Islands. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

29.1 **Mr Walwyn** (British Virgin Islands):

Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers and heads of delegations, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I am honoured to be here this morning to deliver this address and I will first begin by congratulating you, Mr President, on behalf of the Government and people of the British Virgin Islands on becoming the President of the 38th session of the General Conference.

29.2 The Virgin Islands applaud Director-General Ms Irina Bokova for her call on us to celebrate UNESCO in its progress in education, science, culture and communication, as we also fully endorse UNESCO's key mission, which is to "contribute to the building of peace, and the alleviation of poverty". This must be central to all our work programmes beyond 2015.

29.3 Mr President, permit me to also acknowledge the valuable contribution of Professor Hao Ping, President of the 37th session of the General Conference, for his unwavering commitment to our initiatives. We also welcome our sister island of Montserrat to the UNESCO family.

29.4 Mr President, UNESCO prides itself on the mantra "education for all". I am pleased to report that our Government has been reinvesting and rebuilding the educational sector in this respect. We have been working assiduously to ensure that all citizens, from early years to adulthood, have the opportunities through which they can each reach their full potential, to be successful in life, at work and in the community through the core message of creating a culture of excellence.

29.5 The Government of the Virgin Islands believes that no real economic and social development is possible, particularly in small island developing States (SIDS), without a solid foundation in education. Hence, quality inclusive education at all levels continues to be central to our territory's development. Our Government realizes that in order for the Virgin Islands to maintain a relevant and vibrant economy, we need to find opportunities to prepare our young people today, so that they can properly take care of their homeland in an uncertain tomorrow and to prepare them to be good global citizens.

29.6 We fully support UNESCO's thrust in education in the areas of information and communication technologies (ICTs), technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and teacher training and development. The need for technical and vocational professionals continues to be an area of great need for us in the Virgin Islands. This is why we have provided opportunities for our young people in this area by developing and opening our territory's first technical high school. At the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies our secondary students have the opportunity to be fully engaged in their chosen fields of interest, while earning entry level professional certification. I have met with some of your experts, Mr President, in this field during this Conference, and will be following up to receive assistance to take our TVET programme even further.

29.7 We live in an era where a whiteboard is becoming a more relevant tool than a blackboard; thus, we are in the process of remodelling all schools with a view to fully integrating ICT in the teaching and learning process. In 2014 we started a pilot programme in primary schools, with a view that by 2020 all students in the Virgin Islands would be learning in completely wired classrooms and courses would be taught using the technology and tools of the day. We will be calling on UNESCO to support this initiative as we utilize technology to support our students' education.

29.8 This year we implemented a major change in our education system – the addition of an extra year of schooling at the secondary level. This gives our students the time needed to master core subjects, develop their analytical and critical thinking skills and mature as young adults. Our education system now takes pupils through 12 mandatory years of education from ages 5 to 17. We anticipate that this move will prepare our students for the academic challenges of tertiary education and give them the skills needed to gain and maintain employment in our economy.

29.9 We see schools and classrooms with strong leadership and quality teachers as the foundation that is needed to create an exciting and engaging environment for our students to be prepared for today's world and beyond. By retraining and licensing our education professionals to meet modern requirements of teaching in this age, we expect to see this process enriching the lives of our students and our community as we seek your assistance.

29.10 Special needs education is high on the Government's agenda, and we expect to make significant strides in this area. When we speak of the education for all movement, we speak to the commitment to provide quality education for all children, youth and adults. We continue our work on developing our education system to concentrate on providing even more services for differently-abled students to be truly included in our society, both academically and socially. We look to UNESCO for expertise to help us to improve in this area so that we can offer our most vulnerable society members the best opportunities for advancement.

29.11 Mr President, the Government of the Virgin Islands believes that UNESCO is strategically well positioned to assist our subregion in amplifying intercultural dialogue on the legacy of enslavement and its associated impact on cultural heritage. People without an understanding of how they come into being will be forced to imagine and create a history for themselves, and we cannot afford that. Given the rich history of the Virgin Islands, we have implemented initiatives such as the teaching of Virgin Islands history at all levels and introduced a mandatory national citizens programme to build and promote the Virgin Islands culture and pride, which we anticipate will have a positive impact propagating the values and achievements that have helped to shape our community. However; much more is needed in the preservation of our historical sites, sites that are of global significance, and we seek UNESCO's continued help to include sites such as Saint Phillip's Anglican Church or the "African Church" and the Nottingham Freed Slaves Estate in the Memory of the World Register and World Heritage List.

29.12 Madam Director-General, this year UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary. On behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, I would like to congratulate you on being at the helm of the marking of this significant milestone. We further renew the Virgin Islands' commitment and support for UNESCO to advance the progress of our community and of the nations and people with a rekindling of hope and vision as we look to the future. Thank you, Mr President.

30. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Dario Franceschini, Minister of Culture of Italy. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

31.1 **Mr Franceschini (Italy):**

Mr President, I am honoured to be here today at the UNESCO General Conference, to share my thoughts with you. We live at a time when UNESCO's unique mandate becomes even more urgent. We have all witnessed the appalling images of historical and archaeological sites being destroyed by terrorist organizations. Cultural heritage is being systematically attacked, with the clear objective of erasing the symbols of a given country's culture, religion and past. In order to tackle these urgent issues my country is ready to share its long experience in the field of safeguarding cultural heritage at risk, both at the international and the national levels. I believe that the destruction of the symbols of a nation's identity is a direct blow against humanity, against its capability to preserve a country's history, traditions and roots for its future generations. UNESCO's Director-General referred to the terrorist attacks against archaeological sites in the Middle East as "cultural cleansing" and I agree.

31.2 At the end of July, the ministers of culture from 83 delegations gathered during the Milan Expo and agreed on the need for a proactive role of the international community in this regard. The Milan Declaration, which was approved on that occasion, reinforced the idea of establishing a "#Unite4Heritage" global coalition, as suggested by Ms Bokova at the Bonn Conference. Therefore, our Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi, at the recent United Nations General Assembly, urged the United Nations to foresee a cultural component in all future peace missions where cultural heritage is at risk. Italy is engaged in strengthening UNESCO's leading role in preserving world cultural heritage and combating trafficking. To achieve these goals, we believe that only a shared and coordinated approach will provide an efficient solution by unifying the efforts that are being deployed on a bilateral basis by a growing number of Member States. The United Nations has

brought international attention to the phenomenon of trafficking of archaeological heritage as a possible form of financing terrorism. In the fight against trafficking, let me also recall an effective and positive example of coordinated approach in which Italy played a significant role: the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Response with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and soon to be published. Furthermore, an appeal has been launched to consider the need to contemplate a cultural component in peacekeeping missions, under its auspices.

31.3 For all these reasons, we have recently presented two important decisions, adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO in April and October last, which aim at creating, under UNESCO's coordination and in collaboration with Member States, a concrete mechanism for rapid intervention in areas where cultural heritage is at risk. I believe that we, as Member States, can make a pivotal contribution by unifying our efforts and establishing national teams that UNESCO could rely on whenever needed; on a preventive basis or in the aftermath of a conflict to protect and reconstruct cultural heritage.

31.4 In Italy, we have already set up a national #Unite4Heritage team, which is composed of experts from our ministries of culture, defence and foreign affairs, and officers from the Carabinieri Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage. This task force will act as rapid response teams able to defend monuments and archaeological sites, ready to intervene in emergency situations, and especially before crises occur.

31.5 This is only a first step. We all share the same responsibility of deploying every possible effort to avoid that people from different cultures, religions and traditions are deprived of their cultural roots and identity and obliged to flee from their country. It is a worldwide humanitarian and security issue. It is my country's firm belief that the protection of cultural heritage and identity is key to fostering peace and social stability. The framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that culture is not only a driver for economic growth, but also an important tool for resilience-building in situations of crisis. We hope that we may count on your delegations' support as we continue our work in this direction, all our countries together, all proud, very proud, to be all part of UNESCO. Thank you very much.

Mr Rodriguez Cuadros (Peru) takes the Chair.

32. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias, señor Ministro. Voy a dar la palabra ahora a su excelencia el señor Herminio Coloma, Ministro en la Oficina presidencial de Comunicaciones de Filipinas. Señor Ministro.

(32) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Mr Minister. I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Herminio Coloma, Minister in the Presidential Office for Communications of the Philippines. Mr Minister.

33.1 **Mr Coloma** (Philippines):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, good morning. This year, the international community renews its commitment to work in solidarity to achieve a collective objective – the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals are framed within the context of total human development that seeks to uproot poverty and ensures the attainment of inclusive growth and progress, where no one is left behind.

33.2 The Philippines Government has invested in human capital by purposively allocating the single biggest portion of its national budget to education and integrated social protection programmes in health, nutrition and livelihood. Significant strides in universal primary education have been the key in terms of bringing back to school marginalized children through formal schooling and alternative learning. The World Bank has recently commended the expanded conditional cash transfer programme that supports the poorest families in ensuring that their children remain in school as one of the best social protection programmes.

33.3 The Philippines commits itself to the guiding principles of the Incheon Declaration adopted in the World Education Forum upon which is based Sustainable Development Goal 4 – “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. The country's flagship education reform programme, “K to 12” (or compulsory kindergarten, followed by grades 1 to 12) builds the foundation for lifelong learning. This programme provides the basic tools for critical thinking and innovation, and creates multiple pathways through four learning tracks: academic, technical-vocational, arts and design, and sports. Our country hosted the education category 2 centres' biennial meeting on 25 to 27 May 2015, through the South-East Asian Centre for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development. Best practices and plans for further collaboration to support Education 2030 were discussed.

33.4 Through closer coordination, the executive and judicial branches of our Government are exerting maximum efforts to expedite the arrest and conviction of those involved in political violence. Monitoring mechanisms have also been put in place to support the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. This is in consonance with the Philippines' own policy on freedom of speech: We respect, protect and ensure the rights of journalists to practise their profession unhampered by prior restraint and given full protection by applicable laws. While the onslaught of climate change continues to challenge the global community, we celebrate the fact that in many parts of the world, there has also been a significant increase in protected terrestrial and marine areas.

33.5 Two consecutive natural disasters tested the resiliency of our people: Typhoon Haiyan and a massive 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck central Philippines in late 2013. Through our friends and colleagues in UNESCO, we wish to thank all the governments, as well as humanitarian agencies, that extended their generous assistance and support to our country's massive rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts.

33.6 In February 2015, the Philippines and France adopted the Manila Call to Action on Climate Change to rally the international community toward active engagement and participation in the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), which will take place here in Paris next month. The call for climate action underlines the reality that while the developing countries have contributed least to climate change, they are the ones that suffer most from the impact of climate change. Strengthening UNESCO bodies such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) responds to the call for effective and equitable climate action and cooperation, especially between developed and developing countries.

33.7 The wisdom and prescience of our forefathers form the foundation of today's knowledge society. The Philippines supports initiatives to preserve and promote universal access to the world's documentary heritage through the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. As a member of the World Heritage Committee, the Philippines reiterates its call for conservation of sites with outstanding universal value by recognizing their contributions to poverty alleviation and inclusive growth, and underscoring the contribution of culture to sustainable development. We also call for a more representative and credible World Heritage List by building capacities of developing countries and expanding South-South cooperation. We strongly condemn the destruction of cultural heritage by extremist groups, and underscore the necessity of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage as well. The Philippines seeks the support of UNESCO Member States for its candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016.

33.8 Our President, Benigno S. Aquino III, extends his appreciation to UNESCO for being the Philippines' constant and steadfast partner in pursuing shared goals in education, science and technology, culture, and communication. We humbly share the Philippines' experience, following the straight path as a source of tangible lessons on how good governance brings about far-reaching benefits in terms of fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of our people. Thank you and good day. Long live UNESCO!

34. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias, excelencia, por su intervención. Doy la palabra a su excelencia el señor Lytou Bouapao, Viceministro de Educación y Deportes de la República Democrática Popular Lao.

(34) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. I give the floor to His Excellency Mr Lytou Bouapao, Vice-Minister for Education and Sport of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

35.1 **M. Bouapao** (République démocratique populaire lao) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, au nom de la délégation de la République démocratique populaire lao et en mon nom propre, permettez-moi de vous adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Mes félicitations s'adressent également au Président du Conseil exécutif et à la Directrice générale, ainsi qu'à tous les membres du groupe préparatoire *ad hoc* de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale.

35.2 Monsieur le Président, depuis la 37^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, la situation politique et économique mondiale est de plus en plus instable et complexe, pour la mise en application des divers projets prévus par la dernière session de la Conférence générale d'une manière générale, et plus particulièrement pour la réalisation des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous, objectifs qui sont prioritaires à l'échelle mondiale du XXI^e siècle. On constate autant d'opportunités que de défis inquiétants pour la reconstruction de la paix durable, la stabilité politique et la coopération, éléments primordiaux pour briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté et du sous-développement dans le monde. À cela, il faut ajouter des problèmes tels que le changement climatique, les catastrophes naturelles, les épidémies, la crise économique et financière, qui ont frappé le monde et constituent un frein au développement économique et social.

35.3 Afin de surmonter ces difficultés, le Gouvernement lao a déployé tous ses efforts dans la mise en œuvre du VII^e Plan quinquennal de développement socioéconomique, de la culture, de la science et de la communication. La réforme du système éducatif vise à promouvoir la qualité de l'enseignement et de l'apprentissage, ainsi que le plan national d'action en faveur de l'éducation pour tous et le projet CapEFA appuyé par l'UNESCO en vue de réaliser les objectifs 2 et 3 du Millénaire pour le développement. D'importants progrès ont pu être constatés : le taux de scolarisation dans l'éducation primaire a atteint 98 %, et les indicateurs de l'égalité entre les sexes sont de 1,01 % dans l'enseignement préscolaire, 0,94 % dans l'enseignement primaire et 0,86 % dans l'enseignement secondaire. Un autre progrès à citer est le fait que le Laos a mené à bien, comme il l'a annoncé lors de la cérémonie du 28 août 2015, son programme d'éducation non formelle au niveau du primaire à l'échelle nationale.

35.4 Monsieur le Président, les résultats obtenus sont le fruit des aides et des soutiens apportés, tant nationaux qu'internationaux. Au nom de la République démocratique populaire lao et de la délégation lao, je voudrais exprimer mes sincères remerciements et ma profonde gratitude à tous nos partenaires pour leur assistance. Malgré ces progrès, il nous reste encore des améliorations à apporter en 2015, car la qualité de l'enseignement et de l'apprentissage restent problématiques, les taux de redoublement et d'abandon dans le primaire sont encore élevés et le taux de réussite dans l'enseignement primaire est seulement de 78 %.

36.5 Pour relever ces défis, le Gouvernement lao continuera à déployer les moyens nécessaires dans le cadre de la poursuite du Plan quinquennal 2016-2020, du Plan stratégique pour 2025, de la Vision 2030 de l'éducation et du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030 récemment adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et accueilli favorablement par le Gouvernement lao, l'objectif étant d'améliorer la qualité de l'éducation, l'accès équitable, l'éducation inclusive, l'apprentissage continu et l'éducation pour tous.

35.6 Monsieur le Président, dans le domaine de la sauvegarde et de la protection des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement, le Gouvernement lao accorde une importance particulière à la politique de gestion durable des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement à l'horizon 2030 et à sa mise en œuvre au cours de la période 2016-2025. Ses principaux objectifs consistent à faire du Laos un pays de verdure, un pays propre et beau, en se fondant sur un modèle de développement écologique, durable et moins sensible au changement climatique.

35.7 Le Gouvernement lao félicite et remercie l'UNESCO de l'attention constante qu'elle porte au Laos dans le cadre du programme de suivi, d'évaluation, de sauvegarde et de protection, conformément aux recommandations du Comité du patrimoine mondial, des deux sites naturels et culturels que sont les sites de Luang Prabang et de Vat Phou, programme auquel le Laos a activement participé. La population lao va justement célébrer cette année le 20^e anniversaire de l'inscription de la ville de Luang Prabang au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Au nom du Gouvernement et de la population lao, je profite de cette occasion pour vous inviter, toutes et tous ici présents, à assister à cet événement symbolique important qui aura lieu du 7 au 9 décembre 2015.

35.8 Outre les deux sites précédemment cités, le Laos a d'autres richesses qu'il souhaite partager avec l'humanité en les inscrivant au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Ce sont la Plaine des Jarres et le site de Hin Namno, pour la Liste du patrimoine mondial, et le khène, pour la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité. Ces dossiers sont actuellement en cours d'élaboration. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

36. **The President:**

Thank you. I give the floor now to His Excellency Milorad Scepánovic, Director-General for Multilateral Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Montenegro.

37.1 **Mr Scepánovic (Montenegro):**

Distinguished Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Madam Director-General, respected delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I address the 38th session of the General Conference on behalf of the Government of Montenegro in the year when we commemorate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. These 70 years of UNESCO have been of the utmost significance to all of us, and there are some dates of our common and, at the same time, individual history that deserve to be particularly emphasized today.

37.2 UNESCO's presence in Montenegro is recognized in many aspects, and its positive impact is felt more than ever. In the year when we honour the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, we would like to remind delegates of the solidarity and assistance that the Organization provided in 1979 when the Montenegrin coast was struck by a devastating earthquake. Kotor, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, was restored also due to the great assistance of UNESCO experts. Preservation of cultural and natural heritage today seems even more difficult, and it is our joint task to improve mechanisms for its protection and conservation, which are adapted to the new challenges. All these years we have been working to create conditions for a dialogue among cultures, and nations, based on respect of common values. I use this opportunity to express gratitude to the Director-General and her team, who managed to preserve the quality of work of the Organization in the years marked by numerous difficulties.

37.3 With the adoption of the universal, ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we have committed to resolving key challenges of today, such as peace-building and eradication of poverty, climate change, and ensuring a healthy environment, with respect for fundamental human rights and freedom. We will give our full contribution to its implementation and achievement of its crucial objectives – ensuring sustainable development and human dignity for all.

37.4 Distinguished colleagues, at the last session of the Executive Board, Montenegro completed its four-year mandate, which was a great opportunity for national institutions to participate in the creation and implementation of UNESCO policies. This was an enormously valuable experience for Montenegro, bearing in mind that this was our first membership in the governing body of UNESCO.

37.5 Montenegro celebrates the 70th anniversary of UNESCO by a number of festivities that will be organized this month in the old royal capital Cetinje, a town that will soon be, we believe, inscribed on the World Heritage List of sites. Cetinje is a town with a long history and tradition, whose values and influence exceed national and regional boundaries. Protector of freedom, holder of a 600-year-old tradition of printing and publishing, promoter of literacy in the region of southeast Europe, whose Europeanized ambience and spirit were created under extremely unfavourable historical and economic circumstances.

37.6 Respected participants, culture is, and has to be, recognized as a method to connect. There are numerous examples of joint action of countries in southeast Europe. I will underline the important project of the common nomination of Stećci's medieval tombstones, which four countries in the region – Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia – nominated for the World Heritage List. Also, we have a new trilateral project of Montenegro, Italy and Croatia in the nomination of "Venetian fortifications between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries" for the World Heritage List.

37.7 I believe there is a consensus in this room that special attention has to be paid to education and science, which have a rightful place in the post-2015 development agenda. Ensuring equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, as well as developing knowledge societies and scientific and technological innovation for achieving sustainable development goals, have to be our common priority.

37.8 It is of crucial importance to undertake additional efforts to increase the number of children and adolescents with equal access to quality education, as well as to develop policies aimed at improving the youth position in society. Active engagement of young people will contribute to economic development of countries, but also influence prevention of

violent extremism and conflicts. Over the last decade there has been increasing global awareness of the impact of conflict on education systems and the importance of education for children and youth as part of the post-conflict reconciliation and peace-building process. By endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration, Member States can actively engage in addressing the impact of violence and conflict on education, which presents urgent humanitarian, developmental and wider social challenges. Education that promotes the rights and responsibilities of students, especially participation and active citizenship, can provide long-term benefits for society.

37.9 Also, we warmly welcome UNESCO's contribution in ensuring protection, promotion and fulfilment of freedom of expression, freedom of press, and safety of journalists, as inseparable elements of a democratic society. Montenegro will firmly continue to implement the values of UNESCO and promote its mission, thus contributing to regional and international initiatives, important for preserving the culture of peace and dialogue, as our main goals. In conclusion, I would like to once again reiterate Montenegro's readiness to further improve cooperation with UNESCO and its Member States in the forthcoming period towards promoting its values and principles in all areas of the Organization's work. I thank you.

38. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias por su declaración. Doy la palabra al señor Kim Yong Il, Embajador extraordinario y plenipotenciario y delegado permanente de la República Popular Democrática de Corea.

(38) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much for your statement. I give the floor to Mr Kim Yong Il, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

39.1 **M. Kim Yong Il** (République populaire démocratique de Corée) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de ma délégation, exprimer à M. Stanley Mutumba Simataa mes chaleureuses félicitations pour son élection à la présidence de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale, qui se tient au moment où l'UNESCO célèbre 70 ans d'activité.

39.2 Monsieur le Président, 70 années se sont écoulées depuis que l'UNESCO a été fondée, reflétant le désir de l'humanité de construire un monde pacifique par la promotion de la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la culture, 70 années durant lesquelles des progrès ont été marqués dans le développement socioéconomique mondial tandis que les activités de l'UNESCO ne cessaient de s'étendre et de se renforcer.

39.3 Malgré cela, le chemin vers le monde pacifique et civilisé auquel l'humanité aspire tant rencontre toujours des obstacles, tels que la confrontation persistante entre les pays, les forces et les civilisations, et les conflits armés incessants de toutes sortes qui détruisent des institutions d'éducation et de culture et même de précieuses richesses culturelles de l'humanité. La réalité actuelle exige de l'UNESCO qu'elle renforce encore son rôle afin de créer les fondements de la paix à travers la coopération internationale dans les domaines de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture et de la communication.

39.4 Monsieur le Président, la présente Conférence générale est d'autant plus significative qu'elle discute des moyens de mettre en œuvre les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) à l'horizon 2030. Nous nous réjouissons que ces objectifs aient été adoptés à l'unanimité par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, en septembre dernier, et renvoient à des aspects prioritaires de l'activité de l'UNESCO. À cet égard, je voudrais remercier la Directrice générale pour les efforts considérables qu'elle a déployés en ce sens.

39.5 Le rôle de l'UNESCO est important, notamment, dans la réalisation de l'éducation inclusive, équitable et de qualité pour tous, la promotion de l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie, la gestion durable de l'eau et de l'assainissement, l'adoption de mesures d'urgence contre les changements climatiques et l'utilisation durable des ressources maritimes. Pour atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable, il est primordial que l'UNESCO inscrive son action en harmonie avec la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2014-2021 (37 C/4) déjà adoptée. D'autre part, conformément aux exigences d'une ère nouvelle, l'UNESCO devra promouvoir les réformes dans le sens de l'amélioration de ses activités tout en préservant son autonomie et sa particularité.

39.6 L'éducation constitue toujours un domaine d'activité prioritaire de l'UNESCO pour la paix mondiale, la prospérité et le développement durable de l'humanité. Dans ce contexte, notre délégation réaffirme son soutien au Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, qui a été adopté par acclamation à la réunion de haut niveau de la présente session de la Conférence générale.

39.7 Il est également important de renforcer les capacités des pays en développement par la coopération Nord-Sud et Sud-Sud pour le développement de la science et de la technique et le transfert de technologies, la protection du patrimoine culturel et l'accès universel à l'information et à la connaissance.

39.8 L'UNESCO devra également s'efforcer de favoriser la promotion de la diversité culturelle et la compréhension mutuelle entre nations et régions à travers la collaboration et le dialogue interculturels et interreligieux.

39.9 Monsieur le Président, la République populaire démocratique de Corée, sous la direction du camarade Kim Jong Un, dirigeant suprême, fait prévaloir la science et la technique dans tous les domaines et réalise de grands progrès dans l'édification d'une puissance économique socialiste et d'une nation hautement civilisée. Des mesures pratiques sont prises pour que tout le peuple acquière des compétences en matière de sciences et de techniques, et un Palais des sciences et de la technologie ainsi que des quartiers scientifiques ont été nouvellement construits à Pyongyang au bénéfice des enseignants et des scientifiques.

39.10 Notre Gouvernement considère l'éducation comme une affaire patriotique perpétuelle pour la prospérité du pays et ne ménage pas ses investissements dans ce secteur. Dans notre pays, un système d'enseignement obligatoire universel gratuit de 11 ans est en place depuis des dizaines d'années et sa durée a été portée à 12 ans l'année dernière.

39.11 Notre Gouvernement continuera à participer activement, avec l'UNESCO et ses États membres, aux efforts entrepris pour d'atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable post-2015. Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

40. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias a usted por su declaración. Doy la palabra ahora a su excelencia el señor Lovell Francis, del Ministerio del Estado de Educación de Trinidad y Tobago.

(40) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much for your statement. I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Lovell Francis of the Ministry of State for Education of Trinidad and Tobago.

41.1 **Mr Francis** (Trinidad and Tobago):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, honourable delegates, Excellencies, the matters we have been discussing today are very close to my heart, as I am sure they are with everyone here. So please permit me to go a bit off script. I am tremendously proud, tremendously humbled, to be here representing my country, Trinidad and Tobago. I am also proud to bring greetings on behalf of our new Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr Keith Rowley. I am happy to affirm the long relationship that has existed between UNESCO and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to affirm that it will continue far into the foreseeable future.

41.2 At home I am sometimes accused of the sin called "youthful exuberance", so I should say that I am also very enthusiastic about the mandate that UNESCO has adopted in terms of 2030, for the next 15 years. Why? Because if you come from the Caribbean, as I do and as my colleague who just spoke a while ago from the British Virgin Islands does, you understand in a very concrete way that education has been our salvation and, to understand that, one needs a historical context. If you know anything about Caribbean history, and especially the modern history of the Caribbean, it is quite clear that that history has very tragic overtones and undertones. Our modern history begins with invasion, with the genocide, or in the case of Trinidad, the near-genocide, of our first peoples. It moved on from there into the exploitation that came with African enslavement and Indian indenture. If you add on to all of that centuries of colonial domination, and then in the twentieth century until now, decades of neo-colonial relationships, what you really have is a perfect template for sustained underdevelopment as opposed to sustainable development, and that is our historical context.

41.3 How does one get beyond that? Well, it comes down to partnering with benevolent organizations, which is why the Caribbean has had a very long relationship with UNESCO. But it also comes down to sound government policy. In Trinidad and Tobago in particular, but also throughout the entire Caribbean, in the post-independence period in the mid-twentieth century there was a definite movement towards bringing education – which had once been the exclusive realm of the well-to-do – to the people. In Trinidad and Tobago, what we did very quickly was to make agreements with the dominant providers of education, which were the churches, so that they would become part of the State apparatus. We also ensured that we embarked on a massive expansion in education, both at the primary and at the secondary levels.

41.4 Today, this continues, and if I would be so bold, it is perfectly aligned with UNESCO's mantra of lifelong learning. Today in Trinidad and Tobago we provide universal early childhood education. We provide universal primary education. We also provide universal secondary education. Every young person in Trinidad and Tobago has these forms of learning that are subsidized by the State. We are also working towards significantly raising the number of our citizens who can access tertiary education, so that notion of lifelong learning is very much aligned with the idea that we have in Trinidad and Tobago, where we call it seamless education, where we are attempting to weave a system that takes all young people from age three to the rest of their lives as lifelong learners.

41.5 But of course, UNESCO's mandate goes well beyond education, and it countenances issues of culture, youth development, entrepreneurship, and I could go on ad infinitum. In this area, in Trinidad and Tobago we are also aligned with the larger philosophies that preoccupy UNESCO. When I get back to Trinidad and Tobago, with some grace and some luck next week, on Tuesday my nation will be celebrating the Hindu festival Diwali. It is not because my nation is Hindu, but rather it is because a long time ago we decided that every single ethnic group, every single religious group in our country, would be given its own space, would be celebrated and would be venerated. So whenever there is a celebration, it is not one group, but as a nation, that we celebrate. So in Trinidad and Tobago we have diversity and we also have inclusiveness. Now I am not standing here to say that my nation is perfect. We have our concerns. It is a developmental process, it is a learning process, but I can affirm that when it comes to Trinidad and Tobago and UNESCO, we are on the same page and this will continue. Thank you.

42. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias, señor Ministro, por su declaración. Doy la palabra a su excelencia el señor Marten Kokk, Embajador extraordinario y plenipotenciario y delegado permanente de Estonia ante la OCDE y la UNESCO.

(42) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Mr Minister, for your statement. I give the floor to His Excellency Mr Marten Kokk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Delegate of Estonia to the OECD and UNESCO.

43.1 **Mr Kokk** (Estonia):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, firstly Estonia would like to align itself with the European Union statement. The recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal and reflects many of UNESCO's priorities. Estonia welcomes the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commit 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 development cooperation priorities for Estonia as well.

43.2 It is clear that in realizing the 2030 Agenda UNESCO can offer valuable support to Member States in capacity development, policy advice and normative support. This is very important, but we would also like to underline the vital importance of monitoring and innovative financing of the SDGs, combining different sources.

43.3 The World Education Forum 2015 in Incheon was a clear milestone to mark UNESCO's success in positioning education high on the new agenda. We believe that UNESCO's role as the global coordinator of the education goal offers excellent opportunities to further strengthen UNESCO's position in the United Nations family. Estonia welcomes the comprehensive Education 2030 Framework for Action that was adopted and launched in this House just a couple of days ago. The Framework is universal and applicable to all Member States, but at the same time enables us to take account of different national realities.

43.4 The education goal puts emphasis on lifelong learning, including higher education. Estonia fully supports the proposal of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications that will be examined during this session of the General Conference. 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. The elaboration of this new normative instrument requires adequate human and financial resources. Our experts have contributed to the preparation of the global convention and we are also ready to support the process financially.

43.5 Ladies and gentlemen, Estonia is a strong advocate of 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 Internet, are essential for fostering citizen participation in the 2030 Agenda. Everyone needs to be able to speak without fear and to be freely informed about public affairs. UNESCO has been a strong promoter of the safety of journalists but, as confirmed by the recent report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development, numerous threats still remain.

43.6 The armed conflicts and ongoing crises in the world have put to test UNESCO's ability to respond to intentional destruction of cultural heritage, including organized looting and trafficking. UNESCO has been strong and visible in its global efforts to advocate for the protection of cultural heritage, to provide technical expertise, and to facilitate a coordinated international response. We support the strategy for reinforcing UNESCO's action in this field that builds on strategic partnerships and allows necessary flexibility in changing circumstances.

43.7 Distinguished delegates, a lot has been done by UNESCO in order to increase efficiency and to reduce administrative costs. This needs to be duly recognized. A lot remains to be done as well. We are looking forward to the follow-up on the governance audit that will be discussed during this session of the General Conference. The audit also highlighted a wide gap between the limited resources and the high expectations of the Member States in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. A heavy reliance on extrabudgetary resources for meeting regular programme objectives and an unsustainable workload for the reduced staff is a reality we face. Therefore, Estonia supports the zero nominal growth-plus (ZNG+) budget, even though that will not address all the issues, but the situation would be then more favourable, especially for major programmes. So, since this is my third and last speech from this podium, I would like to thank you all and wish you a successful continuation of the meeting. I wish all the best to the Secretariat and the Organization as a whole. Thank you.

44. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias por su declaración. Doy la palabra a su excelencia el señor Michael Forbes, Embajador y delegado permanente de Irlanda ante la OCDE y la UNESCO.

(44) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much for your statement. I give the floor to His Excellency Mr Michael Forbes, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Ireland to the OECD and UNESCO.

45.1 **Mr Forbes** (Ireland):

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Ministers, Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen. First I would like to pay tribute to the President of the General Conference who was elected, and the tribute it is to his great country. I would like you to pass that on to him – he is not here at the moment. Ireland would like to associate itself with the statement of the European Union, which will be made tomorrow morning.

45.2 UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. We all agree on that. We also all agree that as we mark this anniversary, it is clear that UNESCO's mission is more relevant than ever. While the challenges are enormous and the principles of the Organization are being attacked from many quarters, there is still reason for hope. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed by all Members of the United Nations on 25 September, are unique. They represent a contract for all of humanity. The world is no longer separated between developed and developing. We all have goals to achieve together and the effort is truly universal for our humanity, our planet and shared sustainable peace. Ireland was privileged to be a co-facilitator, along with Kenya, in negotiating the 2030 Agenda in New York last summer. The constructive nature of those negotiations, which involved not only all nations of the world, but also engaged stakeholders and NGOs, is a reason for hope for the future. We all have our roles to play in achieving the 2030 Agenda. UNESCO is central to so much of that Agenda. Indeed, henceforth all of the work of UNESCO will be seen through the prism of the 2030 Agenda.

45.3 Over the past number of years, UNESCO has reformed and refocused its efforts and methods of working, making it now much better suited to take on the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, to make it much more fit for purpose

than it was at the beginning of this decade. So I take this opportunity to congratulate the Organization on that achievement. Its tireless Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, and its dedicated staff. I would like, on behalf of the Government of Ireland today, to pay particular tribute to all of the staff of UNESCO who have struggled so hard over the past five years.

45.4 The three pillars of UNESCO – education, science and culture – are fundamental to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More broadly, UNESCO's ethical and cultural vocation provides the sustainable thread to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. And yet the principles of UNESCO, the principles of humanism, remain under threat by self-appointed extremists who set themselves beyond the global discourse. This expresses itself in many ways: the threat and even attacks on children, especially girls, going to school; the destruction of the world's cultural monuments as a weapon of war and enslavement; the setting of one religion or culture against another; the undermining of freedom of speech directly and through the agents of that freedom, our journalists. An attack on one culture is an attack on all civilization. An attack on one religion is an attack on all. An attack on one journalist is an attack on the freedom of speech of us all. An attack on one girl going to school is an attack on all education and all children.

45.5 UNESCO, through the leadership of its Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, and in close cooperation with Member States, is fighting back against these threats. The Organization, with its ethical principles and mandate, is fighting back with the sustainable weapons of argument, reason, and even helping physically to rebuild what extremists thought they had destroyed, thus restoring to communities their dignity and feeling of self-worth.

45.6 I am very pleased to remind delegates that the programme of Irish Aid, which provides humanitarian assistance and supports long-term development on behalf of the Irish people, has consistently financed the UNESCO *Global Education Monitoring Report* (GEM). Ireland would like to endorse the Executive Board's recommendation to the General Conference to establish a new international geoscience and geoparks programme, which would give UNESCO Global Geoparks a formal, recognized label. To this end, the Irish National Commission for UNESCO confirms its support for the transition of the three current Irish geoparks to this new label.

45.7 Ireland has two UNESCO Chairs in Education, one in University College Galway, which works directly and indirectly with others to attack the forces of extremism from wherever they come. Our other Education Chair is about disability and engaging people with disabilities in a full fitness programme. A lot of that is about removing fear that we have. I believe that when we remove fear, we begin to remove prejudice and discrimination. On that note, I would like to end my address and wish UNESCO well for the next two years. Thank you, Mr President.

46. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias, señor Embajador, por su declaración. Corresponde hacer uso de la palabra ahora a su excelencia el señor Guillermo Dighiero, Embajador y delegado permanente del Uruguay ante la UNESCO.

(46) **The President** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you very much, Mr Ambassador, for your statement. I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Guillermo Dighiero, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Uruguay to UNESCO.

47.1 **Sr. Dighiero** (Uruguay):

Autoridades de la UNESCO, señores y señoras delegados: los progresos científicos recientes han llevado a mutaciones muy importantes en las sociedades modernas y cambiado radicalmente las relaciones y perspectivas económicas. El elemento central de este cambio está dado por la posesión del conocimiento y la tecnología, eje central de la competencia económica mundial. En el área de la biotecnología, los avances de la biología molecular han modificado sustancialmente las áreas de la producción agrícola, de la salud y de la industria farmacéutica, a través de la creación de plantas y animales transgénicos, de medicamentos recombinantes y del secuenciado genoma humano. El conocimiento del genoma humano va a permitir una medicina altamente predictiva, en la cual la genética y la terapia génica van a jugar un papel primordial. Asimismo, el desarrollo de las telecomunicaciones ha cambiado totalmente el panorama mundial en todos los aspectos y en particular el aspecto económico.

47.2 Para los países en desarrollo, la búsqueda de una inserción adecuada en la sociedad científico-tecnológica constituye probablemente uno de los mayores desafíos a asumir. El elemento central de esta competencia está dado por los recursos humanos. Esto significa que estos países deben hacer un gran esfuerzo para la generalización de la educación y el desarrollo de la ciencia y tecnología. El Uruguay concibe a la educación basada en la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos y en el conjunto de los instrumentos internacionales ratificados por nuestro país. En este sentido se ha promovido una política de educación que pretende promover la justicia, la solidaridad, la inclusión social y la convivencia pacífica. Se pretende formar personas reflexivas, autónomas, que aprendan a vivir juntas en una sociedad sustentable y equitativa que sea capaz de reconocer los aportes de las distintas comunidades. Este sistema educativo pretende también generar ciudadanos tolerantes y respetuosos de las diferencias y estimular la creatividad e innovación artística, científica y tecnológica y la articulación entre el trabajo manual e intelectual. Recientemente nuestro país ha lanzado una campaña y cuenta con un marco legal contra el acoso en los medios educativos a personas con opciones sexuales diferentes.

47.3 De ahí nuestro compromiso de asumir junto a las Naciones, la tarea de lograr cumplir los 17 objetivos que abarcan las tres dimensiones de la sostenibilidad, económica, social y medioambiental, recientemente aprobados en la cumbre de jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de las Naciones Unidas. Compartimos y sumamos nuestro esfuerzo para aplicar, coordinar, financiar y evaluar la agenda Educación 2030. El Uruguay proyecta llegar a un presupuesto del 6% del PIB para la educación a partir de 2017, ha generalizado su sistema educativo a la educación inicial y ha lanzado un vigoroso programa para la primera infancia. Asimismo, hoy en día todos los niños y maestros de las escuelas y liceos disponen gratuitamente de una computadora personal. El objetivo a largo plazo es lograr que el 80% de los jóvenes de

una clase de edad terminen el ciclo secundario. Desde el punto de vista de la ciencia y la tecnología el Uruguay ha lanzado un importante programa de desarrollo de este sector al cual el Estado ha decidido atribuir el 1% del PIB y se espera triplicar en el plazo de 10 años el número de investigadores que se sitúa en 2.000 para 3 millones y medio de habitantes. El objetivo es llegar a desarrollar una excelente ciencia fundamental y sus aplicaciones, a los efectos de adicionar valor agregado a nuestra producción con la introducción en ella de la ciencia y la tecnología. La cultura es un pilar fundamental en la construcción de un mundo de paz, plural y variado, el Uruguay reafirma su compromiso de impulsar la universalización del acceso y disfrute de los derechos culturales concebidos como derechos humanos fundamentales.

47.4 Asimismo, el Uruguay reafirma su voluntad de avanzar en mecanismos certeros para la prevención del tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales. En suma, resulta esencial asegurar la producción y el disfrute de las culturas y de sus componentes en condiciones de igualdad. Por todas estas razones, nuestro país reafirma su fuerte compromiso político e institucional con la UNESCO y la adhesión a sus valores fundamentales. En su reciente y muy positiva visita, el Presidente Tabaré Vázquez resaltó la decisión de nuestro país y agradeció el apoyo que la UNESCO le ha dado a la Oficina Regional situada en Montevideo, así como la reciente inscripción en la lista del Patrimonio Mundial del paisaje industrial Fray Bentos y la reciente creación en nuestro país del Centro Regional de Gestión de Aguas Subterráneas para América Latina y el Caribe. Permítaseme terminar agradeciendo una vez más a las autoridades de la UNESCO el respaldo muy importante que han otorgado a nuestro país. Muchas gracias.

(47.1) **Mr Dighero** (Uruguay) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Senior officials of UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen, recent scientific progress has brought about major changes in modern societies and radically changed economic prospects and relations. The central element in this change results from the possession of knowledge and technology, the central pillar of world economic competition. In the biotechnology field, advances in molecular biology have had substantial impacts on the areas of agricultural output, health and the pharmaceutical industry, through the creation of transgenic plants and animals, recombinant drugs and the sequencing of the human genome. Knowledge of the genome will make possible highly predictive medicine, where genetics and gene therapy will play a vital part. Also, the development of telecommunications has totally changed the global landscape in all its aspects, particularly in the area of economics.

(47.2) Efforts to achieve integration into scientific and technological society are probably one of the greatest challenges for developing countries. The central element in this competition is provided by human resources. Thus, those countries must make a major effort to achieve universal education and develop science and technology. My Government's view of education is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on the various international agreements ratified by Uruguay. We have adopted an education policy which seeks to promote justice, solidarity, social inclusion and peaceful coexistence. We want education to produce people who are thoughtful and self-reliant and who will learn to live together in a fair and sustainable society which can recognize the contributions of its various communities. This education system also seeks to produce citizens who will be tolerant and respectful of differences and to encourage artistic, scientific and technological creativity and innovation and the connection between manual and intellectual work. We have recently launched a campaign and adopted a legal framework against harassment in educational institutions against people with different sexual orientations.

(47.3) Hence our commitment to undertake, together with other nations, the task of fulfilling the 17 goals which encompass the dimensions of economic, social and environmental sustainability, recently adopted at the summit of Heads of State and Government at the United Nations. We share them and will add our efforts to apply, coordinate, fund and assess the Education 2030 Agenda. Uruguay plans to devote 6% of GDP to education by 2017, it has generalized its education system at the primary level and it has launched a vigorous programme for early childhood. All children and teachers at the primary- and secondary-school levels now have access to a personal computer, free of charge. The long-term goal is to ensure that 80% of young people in a given age group will complete secondary education. As for science and technology, Uruguay has initiated a major programme to develop the sector, to which the State has decided to devote 1% of GDP, and we expect to triple within 10 years the number of researchers, which stands at 2,000 for a population of 3.5 million. The goal is to develop an excellent standard in basic science and its applications, in order to give more value added to our output by incorporating science and technology. Culture is an essential pillar in building a world of peace, with diversity and pluralism, and Uruguay reaffirms its commitment to move forward towards universal access to and enjoyment of the cultural rights considered as fundamental human rights.

(47.4) Uruguay reaffirms its intention to move forward with reliable mechanisms for preventing the illicit trade in cultural property. It is essential that we should ensure the production and enjoyment of cultures and their components on an equal footing. For all these reasons, my Government reaffirms its strong political and institutional commitment to UNESCO and its belief in its fundamental values. During his recent and very positive visit, President Tabaré Vázquez emphasized our country's commitment and expressed thanks for the support given by UNESCO to the Regional Bureau in Montevideo, as well as the recent addition to the World Heritage List of the Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape and the establishment in Uruguay of the Regional Centre for Groundwater Management for Latin America and the Caribbean. I wish to conclude by thanking UNESCO for the very significant support it has provided to our country. Thank you very much.

Mr Simataa resumes the Chair.

48. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

49.1 **Ms Kamboj** (India):

Mr President, distinguished Ambassadors and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour for me to represent India at the general policy debate. It has always been a privilege for our Minister of Education to represent the people of India at this global dialogue facilitated by the national policy debates at the General Conference of UNESCO. My Minister is unable to attend the meeting due to extenuating and unforeseen circumstances, and on her behalf, therefore, let me reiterate the importance that India attaches to its partnership with UNESCO. As one of the founding Members of UNESCO, India has always taken great pride in UNESCO's achievements over the last seven decades.

Indeed, as the world seeks to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, everyone needs to realize that education, development of science and technology, and promotion and protection of cultures are central to the rapid and balanced achievement of our development goals.

49.2 India recognizes that education can help provide answers to some of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century, which include poverty, inequality, conflict and threat to the climate and environment. It is this faith in the inherent transformative potential of education that drives India's campaign for universalization of education, elementary education through the path-breaking right-to-education legislation. The result has been quickly visible with a record 199 million children attending elementary schools. India also has the world's largest school meal programme spread over 1.2 million schools. Besides access, equal importance has also been accorded to equity in terms of gender, disability or geography and to quality of education.

49.3 We should be especially mindful in the global discourse on education that the less advantaged, the excluded, the marginalized and those with disabilities are provided the conditions necessary for them to enjoy universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. India attaches great importance to the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in education, environment education and multilingualism. Skills development through technical and vocational education is another priority. Furthering the universalization of education to the secondary stage is a goal that India would like to take up in the near future. In all these, we look forward to collaboration among countries through the effective forum of UNESCO. As a first step, a conference of South Asian Cooperation for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries was organized successfully in October, 2015 under the auspices of UNESCO in New Delhi.

49.4 As the international community looks towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, it has recognized that education can play a decisive role in fostering a sense of shared responsibility and in bringing about fundamental changes in how we coexist with each other and our planet. The successful adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action is abundant testimony to this. This sense of collective duty has also been behind our support for the New Delhi-based Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, a UNESCO category 1 institute. Our task now is to work with all educational stakeholders to ensure that in its implementation, Education 2030 fulfils its promise, while acknowledging the varied and unique national contexts and socio-economic diversities.

49.5 Ladies and gentlemen, India strongly believes that oceans are central to sustainable development and are a part of our common heritage. It is this belief that guides our support for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the multinational, multidisciplinary expedition in the Indian Ocean under the banner of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2). India has an emotional attachment to IIOE: the first IIOE laid the foundation for modern multidisciplinary oceanographic research in India, and culminated in the establishment of the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa. We therefore look forward to the planned launch of IIOE-2 at Goa, India, in December 2015, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the IIOE Expedition and of the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa.

49.6 Over the years, we have worked together with UNESCO in our common endeavour to nourish and nurture, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the world. The World Heritage Convention is the best known of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments in any field, and over the years has established for itself a brand name and an image. We have the privilege in India of hosting a UNESCO category 2 centre at Dehradun in the field of natural heritage. Through this, we offer our services in strengthening capacities in the management and protection of world heritage, leading to a more efficient overall management of systems in keeping with the letter and spirit of the World Heritage Convention.

49.7 Ladies and gentlemen, we, as founding members, are deeply committed to the ideals and objectives of UNESCO. Later this month, indeed next week, our Organization will complete 70 years of eventful and impactful existence. The principles that brought the community of nations together in 1945 are as valid and relevant today as they were then. Mr President and distinguished delegates, I wish all success to the work of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference and look forward to the important exchanges that follow. Thank you very much.

50. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I now have the distinct pleasure and honour to invite His Excellency Mr Hao Ping, the Vice Minister of Education of China. Your Excellency, you now have the floor, Sir.

51.1 郝先生（中国）：

尊敬的大会主席先生，尊敬的总干事女士，尊敬的各位部长，女士们，先生们，首先我对来自纳米比亚的斯坦利·斯马达先生当选本届大会主席表示热烈祝贺。同时我也特别感谢两天来许多国家在发言中对我担任大会第三十七届会议主席所给予的褒奖。

51.2 教科文组织成立七十年来，一直秉持“在人之思想中筑起保卫和平之屏障”的坚定信念，通过开展全民教育使全世界受教育人口数以亿计增长，通过推进科学研究为应对气候变化、互联网信息安全和新兴领域的快速发展提供了普及的条件基础，通过推动世界自然和文化遗产、非物质文化遗产和文献遗产保护，为弘扬文化多样性、铭记历史、汲取历史带给我们的惨痛教训、维护世界持久和平作出了重大贡献。我们应铭记本组织成立的初衷和宗旨，推动教科文事业发展和各项改革工作。改革是一盘棋。改革不可滥用。改革需要全局意识。在人类面对严峻挑战面前，世界各国正在成为利益相关的命运共同体，各国以一己之力远远不能解决诸多全球性问题，必须加强并深化国际合作。我们赞赏本组织积极参与制订了联合国2030年可持续发展议程。中国国家主席习近平在联合国可持续发展峰会讲话中指出，这一发展议程既是高标准的任务单，也是沉甸甸的承诺书。中国认为，本组织在落实发展议程中应该发挥更大的作用。

51.3 包容、公平和优质教育是消除无知、愚昧和偏见的有力武器，也是推动经济社会发展的基础。作为教育第一的倡导国，中国坚持优先发展教育，信守支持发展中国家教育发展的承诺，强调女童和妇女教育是普遍提高人口教育素质的关键。不久前，本组织女童和妇女教育特使彭丽媛女士在2015年“教育第一”倡议高级别会议上倡议各国为女童接受良好

教育而努力。为此，中国将资助设立本组织促进女童和妇女教育奖，鼓励更多的女童尽早获得教育的机会。中国积极支持海洋科学、淡水安全、保护生物多样性和降低灾害风险等领域的国际合作。希望本组织开辟新领域，研究新问题，引领各国有效应对气候变化和环境问题。本组织是维护文化多样性和促进文明间对话的重要论坛，以文明对话化解冲突对抗，以交流互鉴推进合作共赢。

51.4 女士们，先生们，中国今后将继续加大对教科文组织的支持力度。本组织应继续秉承其七十年前确立的宗旨，更加珍惜以《联合国宪章》为基础的国际秩序，并树立与此相一致的正确的历史观，维护和平，开创未来，推动构建以合作共赢为核心的新型的国际关系，积极推动教育公平优先发展，支持本组织实施非洲优先战略，通过发展信息技术教育提高教育质量，大力支持文化和自然遗产、非物质文化遗产的保护。我高兴地评价哈萨克斯坦总统纳扎尔巴耶夫的讲话：我们要重启丝绸之路的计划，完善业已建立的丝绸之路平台，推动创意城市计划的发展，促进文明间对话。主席先生，女士们，先生们，孔子说：七十而从心所欲。我们期望本组织在经历了七十年的风风雨雨之后，继续以“在人之思想中筑起保卫和平之屏障”为己任，为实现2030年可持续发展目标而努力。谢谢大家。

(51.1) **Mr Hao (China) (translation from the Chinese):**

Respected President of the General Conference, respected Madam Director-General, respected Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, please allow me to congratulate Mr. Stanley Simataa of Namibia on his election as the President of the 38th session of the General Conference. I would also like to thank the many speakers in the past two days who commended my work as the President of the 37th session of the General Conference.

(51.2) In the seven decades since its founding, UNESCO has upheld its firm conviction in the mission of building the defences of peace in the minds of people, by promoting education for all, which has increased the educated population in the world by hundreds of millions; by advancing scientific research to build the knowledge base in response to climate change, Internet security and rapid development in emerging new fields; by protecting world natural and cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage and documentary heritage to enrich cultural diversity and safeguard lasting peace through remembering history, sometimes painful lessons learned from human history. We should always keep in mind the mission and the original intention of the founding of the Organization when forwarding the cause and reform of UNESCO. Reform should be planned and implemented with a holistic long-term view. It should not be misused for promoting selfish interests. And it should be based on comprehensive consensus. When faced with challenges to humanity, countries in the world have become members of a common destiny community with interwoven interests. No country can single-handedly solve the many global problems. It is imperative to deepen international cooperation. China highly commends the Organization for its active participation in drafting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which as Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, are high-standard work orders as well as solemn undertakings. China expects UNESCO to play a more significant role in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

(51.3) Inclusive, equitable and quality education is a powerful weapon for eliminating ignorance and discrimination. It is also a basic driving force for social and economic development. As a champion country of the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI), China gives priority to education, abides by the commitment to support educational development in developing countries, and emphasizes that education of girls and women is the key to universal improvement of education of the population. Not long ago, while attending the High-level Event on Global Education First Initiative, Ms Peng Liyuan, UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, called upon all countries to increase their effort to provide quality education to girls. To this end, China will fund the establishment of a UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, to enable more girls to have access to education at the earliest possible opportunity. China is supportive to international cooperation in the fields of marine science, fresh water safety, biodiversity conservation and disaster mitigation. China would like to see the Organization pioneer new fields and research new problems in order to lead the Member States to tackle climate change and environmental problems. UNESCO is an important forum for preserving cultural diversity and promoting dialogue of civilizations by encouraging defusing confrontation with dialogue of civilizations and by advocating winning for all with intercultural exchanges and mutual learning.

(51.4) Ladies and gentlemen, the Chinese Government will increase its support to UNESCO. To safeguard world peace for creating a better future and to advocate a new type of international relationship with cooperation and winning for all at its core, UNESCO is expected to continue to uphold the mission inscribed 70 years ago by its founders and cherish the international order established on the basis of the United Nations Charter and with a consistent view of history. China will actively promote the development of equitable and quality education, and endorse the strategy of Priority Africa and the application of ICT in improving education quality. China supports the protection of cultural and natural heritage and intangible cultural heritage. I praise highly the speech made by H.E. President Nursultan Nazarbayev. China is in support of reopening the Silk Road Project and completing the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform which is under construction. China would like to see growth of the Creative Cities Network to promote dialogue among civilizations. Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, Confucius said that people at the age of 70 can follow the dictates of their hearts because their desire no longer oversteps the boundaries of right. After the twists and turns of the past seven decades, we hope that UNESCO will continue to uphold the mission of building the defences of peace in the minds of men and women and strive to realize the goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thank you.

52. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And once again we thank you wholeheartedly for the enormous contributions you have made over the past two years to our Organization, and the assurances that you have given to continue supporting UNESCO beyond your tenure. Once again, thank you very much, Sir. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Eric Tiaré, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France, Permanent Delegate of Burkina Faso to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

53.1 **M. Tiaré (Burkina Faso) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser les chaleureuses félicitations de la délégation du Burkina Faso pour votre élection à la présidence de la 38^e session et de vous assurer de notre soutien pour le succès de votre présidence.

53.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO célèbre cette année ses 70 ans d'existence, 70 ans au cours desquels elle a contribué du mieux qu'elle pouvait à la construction d'un monde meilleur. Malheureusement, notre Conférence se tient à un moment où l'actualité internationale reste fortement dominée par la montée du terrorisme et de l'extrémisme violent et par de multiples crises sociopolitiques qui embrasent tous les secteurs du développement et ont des impacts négatifs sur la vie individuelle et collective. Face à ces drames, le Burkina Faso appelle tous les États membres, nantis ou non, à s'engager plus fortement aux côtés de l'UNESCO pour lui permettre de continuer de travailler à assurer la mise en œuvre de ses objectifs pour un monde de paix.

53.3 L'importante contribution de l'UNESCO dans l'adoption du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 est saluée avec force par le Burkina Faso. Aussi, je saisis cette occasion pour féliciter la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, pour le rôle particulier et déterminant qu'elle a joué dans l'adoption du Programme 2030 et, d'une manière générale, pour son leadership à la tête de notre Organisation.

53.4 Notre Conférence a lieu à quelques semaines de la tenue, ici à Paris, de la 21^e Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, et le Burkina Faso nourrit l'espoir que les négociations aboutiront enfin à la conclusion d'un accord juridiquement contraignant afin de sauver notre planète menacée.

53.5 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, en décrétant 2015-2024 « Décennie internationale des personnes d'ascendance africaine », l'UNESCO veut promouvoir de nouvelles perspectives sur l'histoire de l'Afrique et encourager la rénovation de l'enseignement de l'histoire africaine dans les États membres, à travers son projet intitulé « Utilisation pédagogique de l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique ». À ce sujet, et pour le dernier volume qui reste à réaliser, le Burkina Faso encourage l'UNESCO à poursuivre sa stratégie de mobilisation des ressources et félicite le Groupe Afrique de l'UNESCO pour les initiatives qu'il envisage de prendre en vue de faire contribuer tous les États africains à sa réalisation.

53.6 S'agissant de l'éducation, le Burkina Faso se réjouit des engagements renouvelés pris par les Nations Unies en matière d'éducation dans l'agenda post-2015 et encourage l'UNESCO à jouer pleinement son rôle de leadership pour la réalisation des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT). Dans ce domaine, le Gouvernement burkinabè a pris des dispositions pour renforcer les capacités des enseignants, des décideurs et des organisations de la société civile en matière de civisme, de bonne gouvernance, de systématisation des faits culturels et de leur transposition dans le dispositif éducatif. En ce qui concerne particulièrement l'éducation des filles, le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso se félicite de la décision du Conseil exécutif de reconduire le Centre international pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes en Afrique de l'Union africaine, et recommande une synergie d'action entre l'UNESCO et la Commission de l'Union africaine en vue de rendre le centre plus opérationnel. Il salue, en outre, l'engagement de l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre de la priorité Égalité des genres et se félicite des résultats déjà obtenus au cours de l'exercice biennal dans le cadre de l'ensemble des programmes relatifs à l'éducation.

53.7 En ce qui concerne la culture, ma délégation félicite l'UNESCO et la Directrice générale, ainsi que tout le personnel, pour les actions menées contre la destruction du patrimoine culturel, y compris religieux, et pour la préservation des biens et expressions culturels, notamment pour le soutien apporté à la République sœur du Mali dans la reconstruction des mausolées de Tombouctou, classés « patrimoine de l'humanité ». Le Burkina Faso souscrit également à la proposition de renforcement du rôle des musées dans la société et aux mesures et actions pour la protection, la promotion et la transmission du patrimoine culturel. Alors que l'on célèbre cette année le 10^e anniversaire de la Convention de 2005 de l'UNESCO sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, le Burkina Faso espère que les dispositions de cette convention concernant le traitement préférentiel pour les pays du Sud seront mises en œuvre. Puisque j'aborde la question de la culture, permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour solliciter le soutien de tous les États parties à la Convention à la candidature du Burkina Faso au Comité du patrimoine mondial lors de l'Assemblée générale des États parties qui aura lieu du 18 au 20 novembre prochain.

53.8 En ce qui concerne la culture de la paix et la lutte contre le terrorisme, le Burkina Faso a bénéficié en 2014-2015 du projet du Centre des Nations Unies pour la lutte contre le terrorisme (UNCCT)-UNESCO concernant l'éducation à la paix, qui a permis, en collaboration avec le Bureau régional multisectoriel de Dakar, de former et de sensibiliser 50 000 personnes dans les régions du Sahel et du Centre. Dans le contexte actuel, il est évidemment souhaitable que les expériences et les bonnes pratiques soient capitalisées et partagées avec les autres pays de la sous-région.

53.9 Enfin, je voudrais appeler au respect de la liberté d'expression et de la liberté de la presse, mises à rude épreuve dans mon pays lors de la tentative de coup d'État de septembre dernier, qui a occasionné de nombreuses violences contre des journalistes et des manifestations de haine à l'endroit des médias. Je saisis l'occasion pour exprimer la gratitude du peuple et du Gouvernement du Burkina Faso à tous ceux qui ont permis de faire échec à cette déstabilisation et de remettre en selle les institutions de la transition qui préparent sereinement les élections présidentielles et législatives du 29 novembre prochain.

53.10 Pour conclure, le Burkina Faso réaffirme son attachement aux valeurs et aux idéaux de l'UNESCO et sa disposition à travailler avec elle pour faire advenir un monde épris de paix et de justice. *I thank you.*

54. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Adrian Cioroianu, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

55.1 **M. Cioroianu (Roumanie) :**

Merci beaucoup. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai le privilège de m'adresser à vous en tant qu'Ambassadeur, délégué

permanent de la Roumanie auprès de l'UNESCO et ancien Ministre des affaires étrangères dans le contexte très spécial de l'anniversaire des 70 ans de l'UNESCO. Je souhaite réaffirmer le profond attachement de la Roumanie aux valeurs et à la mission de cette organisation-clé du système des Nations Unies et l'espoir qu'ensemble, nous réussissons à dépasser les difficultés présentes et futures.

55.2 Cette année est d'autant plus spéciale qu'elle est marquée par l'adoption de documents-cadres tels que le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030. Sans parler des synergies en cours autour de la 21^e Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (COP21), ou d'autres initiatives à longue portée, telles que la coalition internationale et 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, ou l'éducation en tant qu'instrument de promotion de la tolérance et de lutte contre l'extrémisme violent.

55.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'éducation reste l'un des domaines les plus dynamiques, et la réforme du système éducatif en Roumanie ainsi que la législation qui sert de base à cette réforme tiennent compte des nouveaux impératifs pour l'avenir et intègrent l'objectif d'une éducation pour tous, avec un accent particulier sur l'amélioration de la qualité. C'est dans ce contexte qu'en Roumanie, nous avons ajouté à l'offre générale de formation des programmes et des projets en faveur des groupes défavorisés, un programme de relance de l'enseignement rural ainsi que d'autres programmes de soutien. Notre principal souci est d'harmoniser la vision et les applications en matière d'éducation permanente de façon à organiser l'ensemble des mesures autour de quelques principes générateurs de progrès.

55.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, la continuité de ces préoccupations conduit à la nécessité d'une vision intégrée concernant la recherche scientifique comme moteur du développement durable. À cet égard, le Gouvernement de la Roumanie a approuvé une stratégie nationale pour la recherche, le développement et l'innovation 2014-2020, qui inclut les directions de recherche promues par l'UNESCO. En même temps, cette stratégie assure un support durable aux programmes spéciaux de l'UNESCO – le Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB), la bioéthique, le Programme Gestion des transformations sociales (MOST) et l'océanographie. La Roumanie salue l'inscription à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence générale d'un point sur les statuts du Programme international pour les géosciences et les géoparcs. Elle continuera, grâce à la contribution d'une université prestigieuse – l'Université de Bucarest – et de ses spécialistes, à apporter son expertise et son soutien à ce nouveau cadre.

55.5 Mesdames, Messieurs, nous trouvons aussi au programme de la Conférence générale la préoccupation de l'UNESCO pour la promotion de valeurs authentiques. Les instruments de l'UNESCO pour la protection du patrimoine mondial naturel et culturel sont devenus de véritables repères dans les politiques et les stratégies culturelles nationales et régionales. La Roumanie a toujours été un partisan fidèle de l'actualisation de la Liste du patrimoine mondial, soulignant la nécessité que celle-ci soit équilibrée, représentative et crédible. Nous considérons qu'il est nécessaire que les sites déjà inscrits sur la Liste soient protégés par un système de mesures directement applicables en cas d'urgence.

55.6 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'année prochaine, la Roumanie fêtera les 60 ans de son adhésion à l'UNESCO comme membre de plein droit. Dans le contexte de la célébration des 70 ans de l'UNESCO, j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que le Président de la Roumanie, M. Klaus Iohannis, a décoré hier des institutions culturelles et unions de création comptant plusieurs artistes et intellectuels, ainsi que le Collège juridique franco-roumain d'études européennes, pour leur contribution à des activités correspondant à l'agenda de l'UNESCO.

55.7 En guise de conclusion, j'aimerais souligner le rôle irremplaçable de l'UNESCO qui a le mérite de nous rappeler, en permanence, les vertus d'une culture de la paix. Je vous remercie.

56. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus concluded our work for this morning. The plenary will reconvene this afternoon as usual, at 3 o'clock sharp. I wish you all a pleasant lunch. *This meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.
La séance est levée à 13 h 15
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15
Заседание закрывается в 13.15
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١,١٥ بعد الظهر
会议于 13 时 15 分结束*

Eighth plenary meeting

Friday 6 November 2015 at 3.15 p.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)
later: **Mr Karam** (Lebanon)
later: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Huitième séance plénière

Vendredi 6 novembre 2015 à 15 h 15
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)
puis : **M. Karam** (Liban)
puis : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Octava sesión plenaria

Viernes 6 de noviembre de 2015 a las 15.15
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)
después: **Sr. Karam** (Líbano)
después: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Восьмое пленарное заседание

пятница 6 ноябрь 2015 г. в 15.15
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)
затем: **г-н Карам** (Ливан)
затем: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الثامنة

الجمعة ٦ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٣,١٥ بعد الظهر
الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)
ثم: السيد كرم (لبنان)
ثم: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第八次全体会议

2015年11月6日星期五 15时15分
主席: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)
随后: **Karam 先生** (黎巴嫩)
随后: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)

General policy debate (*continued*)

Débat de politique générale (*suite*)

Debate de política general (*continuación*)

Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (*продолжение*)

مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)

总政策辩论 (续)

1. The President:

Thank you very much. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the plenary meeting of the General Conference, which will once again be dedicated to the continuation of the general policy debate. I suggest that we proceed immediately to the national statements. Our first speaker this afternoon is Her Excellency Ms Maggy Nagel, Minister of Culture of Luxembourg. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

2.1 Mme Nagel (Luxembourg) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, honorables délégués, la 38^e session de la Conférence générale a lieu à un moment crucial, entre l'adoption du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et la tenue prochaine de la COP 21. Je suis convaincue que pendant cette illustre Conférence, traditionnellement riche en échanges et en idées, l'UNESCO saura se montrer de nouveau fidèle à sa vocation de faire avancer l'agenda onusien dans les mentalités des femmes et des hommes.

2.2 Je salue expressément l'accent important mis sur la protection du patrimoine culturel et la promotion du pluralisme culturel en cas de conflit armé et exprime mon plein soutien à l'action de l'UNESCO. Il est inadmissible qu'on cherche à détruire non seulement des richesses culturelles mais aussi ce que le patrimoine représente en termes de valeurs, d'identités, de références et d'émotions partagées. On s'attaque à notre « vivre ensemble » et il est de notre responsabilité commune de réagir et de faire accepter que nos sociétés sont des « êtres culturels » et que, par conséquent, notre avenir passe aussi par la culture.

2.3 C'est ce que nous essayons de faire, notamment dans le cadre de notre présidence du Conseil de l'Union européenne : il s'agit de promouvoir une intégration plus transversale de la culture dans d'autres politiques sectorielles, notamment la politique de développement, et d'en arriver à une approche plus stratégique de la culture dans l'action extérieure de l'Union européenne tout comme dans le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Nous avons organisé une conférence sur le sujet à Luxembourg, les 3 et 4 septembre derniers, et nous avons par ailleurs mis la question de la destruction du patrimoine culturel à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine réunion du Conseil des Ministres de la culture de l'Union européenne, qui se tiendra le 24 novembre prochain. Mais il faut aussi agir au niveau national, et c'est pourquoi je soutiens toutes les activités qui proposent une conjonction entre éducation et culture.

2.4 Monsieur le Président, à une époque où des jeunes filles risquent leur vie en allant à l'école, où des jeunes garçons sont forcés de devenir soldats au lieu d'élèves, la liberté de s'instruire et l'accès à une éducation qualitative et humaine sont, plus que jamais, indispensables au progrès de la société humaine. Il convient de promouvoir l'apprentissage familial et les approches d'éducation intergénérationnelle qui permettent une formation hors du cadre scolaire et qui brisent les barrières artificielles entre l'apprentissage formel, non-formel et informel. Compte tenu de l'afflux massif de réfugiés dans nos pays d'Europe occidentale, j'espère que l'UNESCO saura nous conseiller aux fins de l'intégration scolaire et professionnelle de milliers d'êtres humains déracinés. Les travaux de cette Organisation tendent à garantir aux générations futures un environnement sain, afin de leur permettre de s'épanouir dans un cadre de vie écologique et durable et dans un monde pacifique. Une belle illustration de ce but est le Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère, destiné à protéger la nature au moyen d'un réseau de réserves de biosphères, tout en y préservant l'activité humaine.

2.5 Au vu de la publication imminente du *Rapport de l'UNESCO sur la science, vers 2030*, il convient de trouver un juste équilibre entre la promotion d'une liberté de la recherche scientifique, d'une part, et le respect de la bioéthique, d'autre part. J'aimerais ici évoquer l'inauguration récente de la Maison du savoir, de la Maison des sciences humaines et de la Maison de l'innovation, dans le sud du Grand-Duché, cette région où, au siècle dernier, une sidérurgie florissante avait créé les bases de la richesse et de la société multiculturelle du Luxembourg.

2.6 En ma qualité de Ministre de la culture, j'accorde une importance toute particulière à la liberté d'expression et à la création artistique. J'aimerais rejoindre la Directrice générale dans l'importance qu'elle attache à la liberté d'informer et de s'informer. Mon pays est particulièrement attaché à un journalisme libre et exempt de pressions, fondamental pour le fonctionnement d'une démocratie.

2.7 Je voudrais à mon tour saisir cette occasion pour féliciter l'Organisation pour son 70^e anniversaire. Une célébration conjointe des 70^e anniversaires de l'ONU et de l'UNESCO a eu lieu, le 28 octobre, à l'Université du Luxembourg. De cette célébration est sorti un constat, celui de la pertinence de la mission de l'UNESCO dans un monde chaotique, et de son rôle pour nous rappeler constamment les bénéfices d'une paix durable et nous inciter sans relâche à partager et propager cet objectif impératif pour l'avancement de l'humanité. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

3. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Aloizio Mercadante, Minister of Education of Brazil. Your Excellency you have the floor.

4.1 **Mr Mercadante** (Brazil)

(address delivered in Portuguese; text provided by the delegation):

Estou honrado em retornar à UNESCO, novamente na condição de Ministro da Educação. Retorno à missão de cuidar do futuro meu país, para reassumir o que a Presidenta Dilma Rousseff, em seu discurso de posse, definiu como “a prioridade das prioridades”, por esse motivo, foi eleito por ela como marca deste mandato: “Brasil, Pátria Educadora”.

Nosso país passou por grandes avanços nas últimas décadas. Iniciamos um longo processo de redução das desigualdades e de inclusão social, que permitiu tirar o nosso país do Mapa da Fome elaborado pela FAO, e atingirmos antecipadamente as Metas do Milênio de redução da pobreza e da pobreza extrema, definidas pela ONU. A redução da pobreza e das desigualdades no Brasil são amplamente reconhecidas internacionalmente.

4.2 Menos conhecida, mas não menos importante, foi a transformação educacional que passamos nos últimos anos, decorrente da universalização da educação básica. Apenas para dar um exemplo, em 1991, o Brasil possuía apenas 43 municípios com Índice de Desenvolvimento Humano, o IDH, médio, alto ou muito alto. Em 2010, 4166 municípios (74,8%) de nossas cidades estavam nestas faixas. Pois o fator mais importante para este salto foi a ampliação da cobertura de nosso sistema educacional, que explica 71% da evolução do IDHM no Brasil. Contudo, esse intenso processo de transformação, que estamos vivendo, não será sustentável e definitivo sem a garantia de acesso universal a uma educação de mais qualidade.

4.3 Isso porque a educação é o instrumento mais efetivo para a redução das desigualdades. É ela que empodera o cidadão para o exercício de seus direitos; que amplia as oportunidades de acesso ao emprego e à renda; que favorece os processos de inovação tecnológica; que amplia os ganhos de produtividade e competitividade; é a educação que é o principal instrumento para a construção de uma cultura de tolerância e paz – valores fundamentais da democracia.

4.4 Saliento que, com o fim do superciclo das commodities e outras mudanças que ocorrem na geoeconomia mundial, o Brasil terá de acelerar a transição para a sociedade do conhecimento e para a economia inovadora, com uma indústria internacionalmente competitiva. As vicissitudes criadas pela crise e pelo inevitável ajuste fiscal não devem nos desencorajar. Ao contrário, devem nos inspirar a fazer mais e melhor. As crises são momentos muito importantes e não podem ser desperdiçadas. Teremos que fazer mais com menos. Estamos convocados a ter mais gestão, mais criatividade, mais eficiência.

4.5 O fundamental já temos: a determinação em fazer, e um norte estratégico claramente definido, que é o Plano Nacional de Educação para a próxima década, que foi aprovado por unanimidade pelo Congresso, e sancionado pela presidenta Dilma, sem um único veto. Ele estabelece um conjunto de 20 metas audaciosas, cuja implantação exigirá engenho e arte dos gestores públicos e um amplo debate sobre o financiamento da educação brasileira. Esse conjunto de 20 metas percorre todo itinerário educacional brasileiro da creche à pós graduação, e busca enfrentar os principais desafios da educação brasileira, a qualidade da educação básica, a redução das desigualdades educacionais, a inclusão e universalização da educação infantil.

4.6 O PNE estabelece, em sua meta número 1, que, até o final de 2016, todas as crianças de 4 a 5 anos devem estar matriculadas na pré-escola. É na educação infantil que a criança recebe os estímulos necessários para que desenvolva as habilidades cognitivas e não cognitivas, tão necessárias ao seu processo de alfabetização, em especial os filhos e filhas de pais de baixa escolaridade. Hoje, temos 81,4% das crianças de 4-5 anos de idade na escola, e o nosso grande desafio é incluir especialmente as crianças mais pobres, da periferia das grandes cidades e das pequenas cidades do interior.

4.7 Em 2012, tive a honra de lançar o Pacto Nacional pela Alfabetização na Idade Certa, com foco na capacitação de professores e professoras alfabetizadores. Foram concedidas mais de 318 mil bolsas de capacitação para esses professores, e foram mobilizados 15,9 mil docentes universitários orientadores. Para avaliarmos a progressão de nossas crianças, criei a ANA, a Avaliação Nacional de Alfabetização Censitária.

4.8 Ao final do primeiro ciclo de avaliação, constatamos que o ritmo de avanço é insuficiente na leitura, escrita e matemática. E, novamente, o grande desafio está nas crianças oriundas das famílias de baixa renda e baixa escolaridade. Estamos buscando a convergência de um conjunto de programas: Escola Tempo Integral, Estágio nas Escolas Públicas dos Estudantes de Licenciatura e Pedagogia, e nossos outros programas de formação de professores, conduzidos pelo MEC. A articulação desse conjunto de iniciativas acreditamos que permitirá enfrentar esse grande desafio, e assegurar esse direito essencial que é o domínio da leitura, da escrita e da matemática no primeiro ciclo de formação.

4.9 A construção de uma Base Nacional Comum Curricular que estamos implementando também será fundamental para reorientar os cursos de pedagogia e formação de professores, além de favorecer as avaliações e respeitar a diversidade de experiências educacionais.

4.10 Contudo, além de melhorar a oferta de insumos educacionais na escola, por meio de professores capacitados e mais valorizados, infraestrutura, e currículos adequados, precisamos reforçar a gestão das escolas, pois é esta a “tecnologia” capaz de transformar insumos em educação de qualidade. Por isso o Ministério da Educação está desenvolvendo um programa nacional de formação e certificação de diretores, de forma a preparar e habilitar os profissionais da educação aos cargos de gestão da rede de escolas públicas.

4.11 Outro programa que merece destaque é o PRONATEC, Programa Nacional do Ensino Técnico e Profissionalizante, que já efetivou mais de 9 milhões de matrículas nos últimos três anos e meio. Gostaríamos de destacar que o Brasil tirou o primeiro lugar na World Skills, competição conhecida como a Olimpíada Mundial do Ensino Técnico Profissionalizante disputada por 69 países em 2015.

4.12 A sala de aula precisa ser atraente e um lugar interessante para essa geração nativa digital. Nós professores somos analógicos e o estado continua arcaico e cartorial. As tecnologias pedagógicas digitais avançam em todo mundo, permitem aulas mais criativas, participativas, individualizadas e motivadoras. Dentro desse espírito, estamos estruturando um programa nacional de estudos e preparação para o Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio. Este exame, o ENEM, foi realizado há dez dias, com a participação de cerca de 7 milhões de participantes, e representa a grande porta de acesso à educação superior em nosso país.

4.13 No processo de preparação do ENEM, nós vamos utilizar vídeo-aulas, por meio da TV Escola, uma TV pública do Ministério da Educação, com uma plataforma digital, com aulas de reforço e exercícios, que os estudantes participantes poderão acessar. Faremos avaliações simuladas mensais, que permitirão um relatório individualizado de desempenho do estudante, associado a um plano de estudos, bem como um relatório para sua escola, orientando as aulas de reforço e revisão.

4.14 O ENEM é o um ótimo exemplo da vontade do brasileiro por estudar, pois, a partir da nota nesse exame nacional, o estudante pode disputar uma vaga em qualquer curso de qualquer universidade pública federal. Nas nossas universidades, estabelecemos uma política de quotas, sendo metade das vagas para os estudantes das escolas públicas do ensino médio, com um recorte especial para os de baixa renda, afro descendentes e indígenas.

4.15 Além disso, os alunos tem direito a um programa de bolsas de estudos, o PROUNI, hoje com 1,7 milhões de bolsas de estudo concedidas, para acessar as universidades privadas. E, ainda, o FIES, um programa de financiamento subsidiado, que também contribuiu para a inclusão de mais de dois milhões de estudantes de baixa renda na educação superior.

4.16 No Ensino Superior, as Universidades Federais passaram por um intenso processo de expansão. Nos últimos 14 anos, foram construídos 173 novos campus e 18 novas Universidades federais, além da criação de 422 campus de Institutos Tecnológicos Federais. As matrículas no Ensino Superior como um todo cresceram mais de 170% no últimos 14 anos, em grande parte, estimuladas pelos programas do governo federal como o Prouni e Fies, que respondem por mais de 40% das matrículas da rede privada.

4.17 Tivemos, também, uma forte expansão nos cursos de pós-graduação. Hoje, temos 6443 cursos de mestrado e doutorado, que formam cerca de 95 mil doutores e 132 mil mestres por ano. Apesar do ajuste fiscal, o programa Ciência sem Fronteiras mantém, hoje, 35 mil estudantes brasileiros nas melhores Universidades do Mundo. Nossas Universidades precisam avançar no esforço de internacionalização. Para finalizar, gostaria de destacar que o Brasil investe, hoje, 6,2% do PIB em educação. E, no Governo da Presidenta Dilma, todos os royalties do petróleo e o Fundo Social do Pré Sal, nossa grande reserva estratégica, estão vinculados ao financiamento da educação.

4.18 Por tudo isso, é com convicção e determinação que já anunciei, aqui mesmo nesta plenária, no início desta semana, que o Brasil apoia e felicita o Marco de Ação da Educação 2030. Estamos totalmente envolvidos e empenhados em sua plena implantação. Precisamos compartilhar nossos esforços e conceber a educação e o conhecimento com um patrimônio comum de toda a humanidade. Este é um compromisso do Brasil. Muito obrigado.

(4.1) **M. Mercadante (Brésil) (traduit du portugais) :**

Je suis honoré d'être à nouveau à l'UNESCO en qualité de Ministre de l'éducation. Je reviens à la mission de veiller à l'avenir de mon pays en réaffirmant ce que la Présidente Dilma Rousseff, dans son discours d'investiture, a retenu comme « priorité des priorités » et voulu pour devise de ce mandat : faire du Brésil une terre d'éducation. Notre pays a connu au cours des dernières décennies de grands progrès. Nous avons entamé un long processus de réduction des inégalités et d'intégration sociale qui a permis de rayer notre pays de la Carte de la faim établie par la FAO et d'atteindre avant l'heure les objectifs du Millénaire définis par l'ONU en matière de réduction de l'extrême pauvreté et de la faim. Le recul de la pauvreté et des inégalités au Brésil est internationalement reconnu.

(4.2) Moins connue, mais non moins importante, est la transformation accomplie ces dernières années par l'universalisation de l'éducation de base. Pour n'en donner qu'un exemple, il y avait en 1991 au Brésil 43 municipalités présentant un indice de développement humain(IDH) moyen, élevé ou très élevé. En 2010, 4166 municipalités, soit 74,8% de nos villes, se situaient dans ces tranches. Or, le principal facteur de cet essor est l'extension de notre couverture éducative, responsable à 71% de l'évolution de l'IDH au Brésil. Malgré tout, le processus de transformation intensive que nous sommes en train de vivre ne sera pas durable ni définitif si nous ne garantissons pas un accès universel à une éducation de meilleure qualité.

(4.3) L'éducation, en effet, est l'instrument le plus efficace pour réduire les inégalités, car elle permet aux citoyens d'exercer leurs droits, augmente les chances d'accès à un emploi et à des revenus, favorise l'innovation technologique, améliore la productivité et la compétitivité et est le premier outil de construction d'une culture de la paix et de la tolérance, qui sont les valeurs fondamentales de la démocratie.

(4.4) J'insiste sur le fait que le Brésil, avec la fin du super-cycle des matières premières et les autres mutations de la géo-économie mondiale, devra accélérer sa transition vers une société du savoir et une économie novatrice, en se dotant d'une industrie compétitive au plan international. Les vicissitudes dues à la crise et à l'inévitable ajustement budgétaire ne doivent pas nous décourager. Bien au contraire, elles doivent nous inciter à faire plus et mieux. Les crises sont des moments déterminants, ne les gâchons pas. Nous devons faire plus avec moins. Nous sommes appelés à davantage de gestion, davantage de créativité, davantage d'efficacité.

(4.5) Nous avons déjà en mains l'essentiel : la volonté d'agir, et un cap clairement défini – Le Plan national d'éducation (PNE) pour la décennie à venir, adopté à l'unanimité par le Congrès et approuvé par notre Présidente à l'exclusion de tout veto. Ce plan définit un ensemble de 20 objectifs audacieux dont la mise en œuvre exigera talent et doigté de la part des pouvoirs publics, ainsi qu'un large débat sur le financement de l'éducation dans notre pays. Il couvre tout le parcours éducatif, de la maternelle au supérieur, et entend relever les principaux défis posés par l'éducation au Brésil : qualité de l'éducation de base, réduction des inégalités éducatives, intégration et universalisation de l'enseignement préscolaire.

(4.6) L'objectif n°1 du PNE prévoit qu'à la fin de l'année 2016 tous les enfants âgés de 4 à 5 ans soient inscrits en maternelle. C'est à ce stade que l'enfant peut recevoir les stimuli nécessaires au développement de ses compétences cognitives et non cognitives, indispensables à son processus d'alphabétisation, surtout si ses parents ont été peu scolarisés. Aujourd'hui, 81,4% de nos enfants de 4 et 5 ans vont à l'école, et notre plus grand défi est d'intégrer en particulier les enfants les plus pauvres, ceux de la périphérie des grandes villes et des petites villes de l'intérieur.

(4.7) En 2012, j'ai eu l'honneur de lancer le Pacte national pour l'alphabétisation du jeune âge, destiné à la formation de responsables de l'alphabétisation. Plus de 318 000 bourses ont été octroyées et 15 900 enseignants d'université mobilisés à cette fin. Dans le but de suivre la progression des enfants, j'ai mis en place un mécanisme d'évaluation nationale, l'ANA.

(4.8) À la fin du premier cycle d'évaluation, nous n'avons pu que constater que le rythme des progrès était insuffisant en matière tant de lecture que d'écriture et de calcul. Là encore, l'enjeu concerne les enfants des familles à faible revenu et à bas niveau de scolarisation. Nous recherchons à présent un mode de convergence entre un certain nombre de programmes : l'école à temps plein, les stages en école publique des étudiants de licence et des étudiants en pédagogie, et les autres programmes de formation enseignante menés par le Ministère de l'éducation. Nous pensons que l'articulation de ces différentes initiatives permettra de répondre à ce défi majeur et de garantir le droit fondamental que représente la maîtrise de la lecture, de l'écriture et du calcul au stade de l'enseignement primaire.

(4.9) La base nationale commune de programmes d'enseignement en cours de création sera un autre outil essentiel pour réorienter les cours de pédagogie et la formation des enseignants ; elle permettra en outre de faciliter les évaluations et favorisera le respect de la diversité des expériences éducatives.

(4.10) Cela étant, outre l'amélioration de l'offre éducative à l'école, avec des professeurs mieux formés et valorisés et une infrastructure et des programmes d'enseignement adaptés, nous devons renforcer la direction des établissements scolaires, car là réside la « technologie » capable de transformer tous ces moyens en une éducation de qualité. À cette fin, le Ministère de l'éducation met actuellement en place un programme de formation diplômante visant à préparer et habiller les professionnels de l'éducation à gérer notre réseau d'écoles publiques.

(4.11) Un autre programme mérite d'être mentionné : il s'agit du PRONATEC, programme national d'enseignement technique et professionnalisant, auquel se sont déjà inscrits en trois ans et demi 9 millions d'élèves. Je tiens à dire que le Brésil a remporté en 2015 la première place aux World Skills, les Olympiades des métiers disputées par 69 pays.

(4.12) La salle de classe doit être, pour cette génération née avec le numérique, un lieu attractif. Les enseignants eux-mêmes sont entrés dans l'ère du numérique, alors que l'État en est encore aux vieux supports pédagogiques. Partout dans le monde, les supports d'enseignement numériques rendent les classes créatives, participatives, individualisées et motivantes. Nous sommes en train de mettre sur pied en ce sens un programme préparatoire à l'examen national du secondaire. Cet examen, l'ENEM, a été organisé il y a dix jours et près de 7 millions de candidats s'y sont présentés ; il constitue la principale voie d'accès à l'enseignement supérieur dans notre pays.

(4.13) Pour la préparation à l'ENEM, nous aurons des cours vidéo sur TV Escola, une télévision publique du Ministère de l'éducation, avec une plate-forme numérique, des classes de soutien et des exercices à disposition des élèves participants. Nous procéderons mensuellement à des simulations d'évaluation qui permettront d'établir un rapport individualisé sur les résultats de chacun, accompagné d'un plan d'études, ainsi qu'un rapport destiné à son établissement pour adapter le soutien et les révisions.

(4.14) L'ENEM est un excellent exemple de la volonté d'étudier des Brésiliens, puisque la note obtenue à cet examen national permet de s'inscrire dans n'importe quel cours de n'importe quelle université fédérale. Nous appliquons dans nos universités une politique de quotas : la moitié des inscriptions est réservée aux élèves des établissements publics secondaires, une place spéciale étant réservée aux faibles revenus, aux afro-descendants et aux autochtones.

(4.15) Les élèves peuvent en outre bénéficier d'un programme de bourses d'études, le PROUNI, pour intégrer une université privée – 1,7 million de bourses ont été octroyées à ce jour. Un autre programme, le FIES, a permis à plus de deux millions d'étudiants à faible revenu de poursuivre des études supérieures.

(4.16) L'enseignement supérieur est en pleine expansion. Au cours des 14 dernières années, 173 nouveaux campus, 18 universités fédérales et 422 campus d'instituts technologiques fédéraux ont été construits. Parallèlement, les effectifs étudiants totaux ont augmenté de plus de 170%, en grande partie grâce aux programmes du gouvernement fédéral tels que le PROUNI et le FIES, auxquels sont imputables plus de 40% des inscriptions dans le privé.

(4.17) De même, les programmes de troisième cycle connaissent un véritable essor. Nous proposons aujourd'hui 6443 cours de master et de doctorat, qui forment respectivement quelque 132 000 diplômés et 95 000 docteurs par an. En dépit de l'ajustement budgétaire, le programme Science sans frontières compte à ce jour 35 000 étudiants brésiliens dans les meilleures universités du monde. Nos universités doivent travailler davantage à l'internationalisation. Enfin, je voudrais souligner que le Brésil investit aujourd'hui 6,2% de son PIB dans l'éducation et que, sous le gouvernement actuel, toutes les redevances pétrolières, ainsi que le Fonds social du Pré-Sal, notre grande réserve stratégique, sont associés au financement de l'éducation.

(4.18) Pour ces raisons, c'est convaincu et déterminé que j'ai annoncé ici même en séance plénière, au début de cette semaine, que le Brésil appuyait le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030 et s'en félicitait. Nous nous impliquons totalement dans sa mise en œuvre. Il nous faut mettre en commun nos efforts et envisager l'éducation et le savoir comme le patrimoine commun de toute l'humanité, et le Brésil s'y engage. Je vous remercie.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Adil Osmanović, Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

6.1 **Mr Osmanović** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

(address delivered in Bosnian; English text provided by the delegation):

Distinguished President, distinguished Director-General, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to greet you on behalf of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to express my pleasure to be here at this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The role of UNESCO today, as we celebrate 70 years of its

establishment, is even more significant, since the mission of UNESCO provides us with guidelines that through cooperation in the fields of education, science, communication and culture, we may build a better future.

6.2 UNESCO is an organization that is capable of providing answers to key global social challenges of the modern world, and in that sense we find that priorities should be set and activities defined. I want to express support to the proposed UNESCO programme for the next biennium, and to emphasize the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina for active cooperation with UNESCO, in order to realize these set goals.

6.3 In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a reform agenda has been adopted, and very significant reforms are ongoing in the areas which are within the mandate of UNESCO. Especially significant reforms are being implemented in the area of education with the aim of ensuring an equal approach to education for all, respecting diversity and preventing discrimination, and to develop a modern education system. Up until now experience has shown that education is very important to preserve peace and for the development of democratic societies, based on connection, experience exchange and dialogue at the local, national and international levels.

6.4 In the field of science, in accordance with strategic documents, we believe that finding solutions for issues of preserving environment, water and other natural resources are key goals. We believe that only through joint work and cooperation can we reach answers on global questions and challenges that only science can provide, so we support initiatives and projects that contribute to this cause.

6.5 In sports, we are committed to cooperation, especially in areas which relate to the prevention of violence at sport facilities, and the prevention of doping. By investing in sports, we contribute to the development of society, and by the promotion of sport values, we promote peace, tolerance and human dignity.

6.6 Cultural diversity is one of the key elements of the traditional and cultural values of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our first element of intangible cultural heritage, Zmijanč embroidery, has been entered on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, while this year we expect a positive answer related to Konjic woodcarving. I particularly want to note that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a candidate for membership of the World Heritage Committee, and I sincerely hope that we will get the necessary support and opportunity to contribute and share our experiences through participating in the work of this very important body.

6.7 That culture knows no borders, and that our cultural heritage connects us all, is reflected in the joint nominations together with Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro of Stećak medieval tombstones for inscription on the World Heritage List. This year we marked the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, bearing in mind that the preservation and fostering of cultural diversity is a prerequisite of the existence of the basic human values of society and fundamental human rights.

6.8 Once again, I wish to express the desire and readiness of Bosnia and Herzegovina to contribute further in realizing the goals and priorities of UNESCO in preserving peace, eradicating poverty, ensuring sustainable development, promoting intercultural dialogue and respecting cultural diversity. Thank you for your attention.

7. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Irene A. Dick, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Curaçao.

8.1 **Ms Dick (Curaçao):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Please accept on behalf of the Government of Curaçao, Mr President, our congratulations on being elected to preside over the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and we wish you sustained success in the year's proceedings. Congratulations also to Montserrat on becoming the tenth Associate Member of UNESCO. It seems like only yesterday we stood before you to share the challenges we face and the successes we have achieved during the past two years.

8.2 Mr President, as UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary, I am pleased to say that with the support of UNESCO, we have been able to make significant progress in the areas of education, the sciences, culture and also communication and information. We are, however, aware that we have not reached our goal, but this is an ongoing process and with the help and support of UNESCO we will achieve our goals.

8.3 Early childhood education has real priority for me since I assumed the responsibilities of Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports. We initiated a full-phase project of collecting data to be able to register, licence and accredit all childcare facilities of Curaçao. Two thirds of the population from 0 to 4 years old are not registered at any known institution recognized by the Government. It is in this area that we have to start to work on the development of the child to guarantee that when they grow up they become responsible citizens. As a Caribbean small island developing State (SIDS), we are aware that we alone cannot achieve certain developments in our country. That is why we are communicating with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to join forces to work towards SIDS becoming a global priority for UNESCO. It is here where the role of UNESCO is very important to help us achieve this goal. We have to call attention again to developments taking place in our environment, especially climate change. UNESCO must continue to address the impacts of climate change on coastal cities from sea level change caused by this. In particular, for Caribbean sites, climate change is a vital occurrence and cannot be neglected. Curaçao firmly believes that there should be policies in place for disaster risk-reduction, for comprehensive school safety, and we are already working to achieve this.

8.4 Mr President, contrary to other regions, the Caribbean region faces challenges of young men falling out of the system and attention should be placed on this rather alarming development also taking place in Curaçao. Technical and

vocational education and training (TVET) has vital importance in helping youth to obtain the necessary skills to find employment, as 37% of our youth is unemployed, most whom are young males. A week ago, on 30 October, Curaçao held its first and very successful TVET conference with specialized speakers invited from the Caribbean region. Curaçao is also working towards having its TVET profile entered into the global database. We also started the process of obtaining a UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC) status for our vocational schools.

8.5 Mr President, tangible and intangible cultural heritage are important factors in maintaining cultural diversity. Also in the face of growing globalization, cultural heritage is not a manifestation itself, but the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted from generation to generation. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for the population of our country and is constantly recreated by groups and communities in response to their surroundings, interaction with nature and their history. We must not only focus on the tangible and intangible heritage but also on natural heritage. We will be achieving this by incorporating educational materials and working with several societies through all the major programmes of UNESCO.

8.6 Mr President, I am pleased to inform you that UNESCO has renewed the Chair of the University of Curaçao for another four years and has also agreed to the name being changed to the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development of Caribbean Sites. We are working on the science, technology and innovation (STI) policy for our Ministry through the UNESCO Participation Programme and we recently held a workshop on open educational resources which was also very successful. This was facilitated by the programme adviser for communication and information of the Kingston cluster office.

8.7 Finally Mr President, as UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, it is also Curaçao's third participation as an Associate Member. Curacao also looks back at five years of obtaining autonomous status within the Kingdom of Netherlands and continues to look to UNESCO for continued support. Congratulations on 70 years of UNESCO and we hope that UNESCO continues to play a vital role in working towards peace in the world through the implementation of its programmes. Thank you.

9. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. In actual fact I am impressed that you delivered your intervention not from a paper but from that lovely new gadget. I will in future be counting on your support as I nudge UNESCO towards running paperless meetings. I will know who to call upon. Thank you very much. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Giriraj Mani Pokharel, Minister of Education of Nepal. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

10.1 **Mr Pokharel (Nepal):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I express my sincere thanks to the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for the excellent arrangement of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I convey the best wishes of the Government and the people of Nepal for its success.

10.2 Nepal's new Constitution establishes State-provided free primary and secondary education as a fundamental right. It mandates progressive steps toward free higher education for all, and makes special provisions for women, *Dalits*, minorities, poor, and physically challenged citizens.

10.3 Mr President, Nepal has made a courageous constitutional commitment to education for all. But we do not begin from scratch. Net enrolment rates have increased and the gender ratio has equalized. The "Literate Nepal Mission", UNESCO's Capacity Building for Education for All programme (CapEFA), and Nepali teachers have all contributed to our campaign to end illiteracy. With UNESCO support, we have strengthened our education management information system. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed. Our school sector development plan addresses Nepal's commitment to the Incheon Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have created a technical and vocational education and training (TVET) stream within secondary education, and continue to enhance information and communication technology (ICT).

10.4 UNESCO and external development partners have provided important support to the education sector. Our goal is unfettered access to quality public education. To this end, rights-based reorganization of the education sector under federalism is a priority. We aim to make progressive teaching methods the norm, make schools a safe haven for learning, and learning a lifelong endeavour. We look forward to continued collaboration in keeping with our national priorities.

10.5 I commend UNESCO for its capacity-building assistance to Member States and for its solidarity as Nepal rebuilds its earthquake-damaged world heritage sites. This year, a statue of Buddha has been installed here at UNESCO, a gift from Nepal, the birth place of Buddha, in appreciation of UNESCO's role in preserving cultural heritage and world peace. In the same spirit, I invite UNESCO to look into the educational benefits of the Buddha's *Vipasyana* method of preparing the mind for knowledge.

10.6 Mr President, despite remarkable achievements, Nepal still faces great challenges. Illiteracy persists. Poor children, especially girls, face barriers to education. Qualitative improvements are essential. Public investment in education reached 4.2% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014, an improvement but still too low. Foreign aid averages 22% of the total education budget, but declined this year to just 13%. Investment in basic education has met Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and education for all (EFA) targets, but has resulted in underfunding of higher education.

10.7 Our public university system has undergone necessary expansion. However, resources are stretched too thin. In the for-profit sector, cost and quality control is necessary. We now have a constitutional mandate to address these

matters. The creation of an open university is also in the final stages. Nepal faces severe consequences from global climate change. In energy, agriculture, transportation and industry, ecologically-sound, culturally-sensitive and sustainable solutions are needed. Curricular reform is required to meet these pressing national needs.

10.8 Mr President, I have discussed challenges shared by many nations. Our educational efforts in Nepal currently face two extraordinary challenges as well - one natural, one man-made. Earthquakes have destroyed over 8,000 educational facilities. One million children are earthquake-affected. We aim for school rebuilding to be completed within two years. Our people and the world rallied to create make-shift classrooms, but winter is descending upon the mountains and better temporary solutions are essential.

10.9 The second extraordinary challenge we face is the obstruction of our southern border. Schools bear the brunt. The future of our children is at stake. We trust that all UNESCO Member States stand with us in our post-disaster reconstruction efforts. Restoration of normal supplies, in accord with the rights of landlocked countries, will let us return to the serious business of implementing our constitutional commitments to education for all and child development. Finally, Mr President, I wish to state that the Government of Nepal is fully committed to implementation of the decisions mutually agreed upon in this important Conference. Thank you for your attention.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Miguel Ángel Estrella, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Argentina to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12.1 **Sr. Estrella (Argentina):**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, Excelencias, distinguidos delegados: permítanme en primer lugar felicitar al señor Stanley Mutumba Simataa por su elección como Presidente de esta reunión de la Conferencia General. Quisiéramos asimismo asociarnos a la declaración que será efectuada por el Grupo de los 77 y China. Señor Presidente: este septuagésimo aniversario de la UNESCO se inscribe en un momento particular de la historia de las Naciones Unidas. La agenda de desarrollo para después de 2015 ha sido aprobada hace apenas un mes en Nueva York, fijando las metas que la comunidad internacional se ha propuesto alcanzar de aquí a 2030. Tal como lo recordó la Directora General, esta agenda aparece en un momento turbulento en la escena internacional donde una crisis humanitaria sin precedentes supera todo récord de desplazados, y donde la pobreza y la exclusión parecen poner en riesgo el fundamento mismo de la vida en sociedad. En este contexto, reconocemos el papel fundamental de la UNESCO, en el acompañamiento de los Estados para lograr un mundo más justo, inclusivo, solidario y en paz.

12.2. Señor Presidente: en esta tarea, la Argentina considera que el Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas cumple una función de vital importancia. En palabras de Ban Ki-moon, "el desarrollo solo será sostenible si es inclusivo". La Argentina ha tomado conciencia de ello y ha aplicado, a lo largo de la última década, un modelo de desarrollo con inclusión, a través de políticas centradas en las personas, las familias y sus derechos que han subordinado el crecimiento económico al bienestar de nuestro pueblo. Así hemos podido alcanzar una tasa de desocupación de 7%, de 4,7% de pobreza y del 1,4% de indigencia, muy lejos de los niveles de comienzo de siglo. En estos logros ha sido esencial la determinación de nuestro Gobierno de posicionar a la política como herramienta fundamental para la transformación de las realidades. La UNESCO dispone en este sentido de un programa importantísimo, el Programa MOST, que vincula investigación y políticas para promover transformaciones sociales positivas. Este programa dispone, tal como lo ha señalado el Consejo Ejecutivo en su última reunión, de herramientas únicas para acompañar a los Estados en la formulación de nuevas políticas públicas necesarias para alcanzar de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Revalorizar este sector transversal a toda la Agenda 2030 debe ser una prioridad de la Organización.

12.3 Señor Presidente: en lo que a educación respecta, el rol de la UNESCO es primordial dado su liderazgo en el posicionamiento de ésta como motor principal del desarrollo. Con la aprobación del Marco de Acción Educación 2030, los Estados nos hemos comprometido con una agenda única y renovada, provista de guías concretas, que permitirá "garantizar una educación inclusiva, equitativa y de calidad y promover oportunidades de aprendizaje durante toda la vida para todos". Una educación de calidad nos permite no solo dar contenidos a la formación sino también contribuir al desarrollo pleno de la personalidad humana. Solo así podremos reducir las desigualdades, la exclusión y favorecer la movilidad social. Los principios de gratuidad y obligatoriedad que aseguran la realización del derecho fundamental a la educación, han sido siempre prioridades para nuestro país. Durante la última década, hemos doblado la inversión pública educativa pasando del 3% al 6% del PIB. Señor Presidente: la ciencia es un factor vital para satisfacer toda una serie de necesidades básicas del ser humano y promover un desarrollo seguro y sostenible. Consciente de ello, la Argentina creó un Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva que ha brindado financiamiento a numerosos proyectos productivos y científicos, ha hecho progresar el número de investigadores, invertido en infraestructura y apostado para la repatriación de científicos.

12.4 El desarrollo de un plan estratégico de ciencia ha permitido a investigadores argentinos realizar destacados descubrimientos que se han visto reconocidos internacionalmente. Justamente antes de ayer, en el Foro Mundial de la Ciencia, el Dr. Diego Golombek recibió el Premio Kalinga de Divulgación Científica, y los científicos Fabio Kalesnik, Horacio Sirolli y Luciano Iribarren, el Premio Sultán Qabus para la Preservación del Medio Ambiente. Señor Presidente: hoy más que nunca la Argentina reitera su firme condena a los actos de destrucción intencional del patrimonio mundial de la humanidad y su compromiso con la resolución 2199 del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas.

(12.1) **M. Estrella (Argentine) (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, distingués délégués : permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter M. Stanley Mutumba Simataa pour son élection à la Présidence de la présente session de la Conférence générale. Nous souhaitons également nous associer à la

déclaration qui sera prononcée par le Groupe 77 et la Chine. Monsieur le Président, ce soixante-dixième anniversaire de l'UNESCO s'inscrit dans un moment particulier de l'histoire des Nations Unies. Le programme de développement pour l'après-2015 qui a été approuvé il y a à peine un mois, à New York, définit les objectifs que la communauté internationale s'est proposée d'atteindre d'ici à 2030. Comme l'a rappelé la Directrice générale, ce programme apparaît sur la scène internationale à un moment agité, alors qu'une crise humanitaire sans précédent entraîne un nombre record de déplacés et que la pauvreté et l'exclusion semblent menacer les fondements mêmes de la vie en société. Dans ce contexte, nous reconnaissons le rôle fondamental que joue l'UNESCO en accompagnant les États en vue de parvenir à un monde plus juste, inclusif, solidaire et en paix.

(12.2) Monsieur le Président, l'Argentine estime à cet égard que le Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines exerce une fonction d'une importance vitale. Selon les mots de Ban Ki-moon, « le développement ne sera durable qu'à condition d'être inclusif ». L'Argentine en a pris conscience et a appliqué, au cours des dix dernières années, un modèle de développement fondé sur l'inclusion, à l'aide de politiques centrées sur les personnes, les familles et leurs droits et qui ont mis la croissance économique au service du bien-être de sa population. C'est ainsi que nous avons pu abaisser le taux de chômage à 7 %, le taux de pauvreté à 4,7 % et celui de l'extrême pauvreté à 1,4 %, bien loin des chiffres du début du siècle. Ce succès repose essentiellement sur la détermination de notre Gouvernement à faire de la politique un outil essentiel de transformation des réalités. L'UNESCO dispose en ce sens d'un programme d'une importance capitale, le Programme MOST, qui crée des liens entre la recherche et les politiques en vue de susciter des transformations sociales positives. Ce programme dispose, comme l'a souligné le Conseil exécutif à sa dernière session, d'outils uniques permettant d'accompagner les États dans la formulation des nouvelles politiques publiques nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable. Revaloriser ce domaine transversal de l'ensemble du Programme 2030 doit être une priorité de l'Organisation.

(12.3) Monsieur le Président, en ce qui concerne l'éducation, l'UNESCO a joué un rôle de premier plan pour faire en sorte qu'elle soit reconnue comme principal vecteur du développement. En approuvant le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, nous, États, nous sommes engagés en faveur d'un programme unique et renouvelé, accompagné de lignes directrices concrètes, qui permettra d'assurer « une éducation inclusive et équitable de qualité et promouvoir des possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour tous ». Une éducation de qualité nous permet non seulement de donner des contenus à la formation mais aussi de contribuer au plein épanouissement de la personne humaine. Ce n'est que par ce biais que nous parviendrons à réduire les inégalités et l'exclusion et à favoriser la mobilité sociale. Le principe de l'enseignement gratuit et obligatoire qui garantit l'exercice du droit fondamental à l'éducation a toujours été une priorité pour notre pays. Ces dix dernières années, nous avons doublé l'investissement public en matière d'éducation, en le faisant passer de 3 à 6 % du PIB. Monsieur le Président, la science est un facteur essentiel pour satisfaire toute une série de besoins élémentaires de l'être humain et favoriser un développement sûr et durable. Consciente de cette réalité, l'Argentine a créé un Ministère de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation productive qui a financé de nombreux projets productifs et scientifiques, accru le nombre de chercheurs, investi dans les infrastructures et misé sur le retour au pays des scientifiques.

(12.4) L'élaboration d'un plan stratégique pour la science a permis aux chercheurs argentins de réaliser des découvertes majeures reconnues au plan international. Avant-hier justement, lors du Forum mondial de la science, M. Diego Golombek a reçu le Prix Kalinga de vulgarisation scientifique et les scientifiques MM. Fabio Kalesnik, Horacio Sirolli et Luciano Iribarren le Prix du Sultan Qabus pour la préservation de l'environnement. Monsieur le Président, aujourd'hui plus que jamais, l'Argentine réitère sa ferme condamnation des actes de destruction intentionnelle du patrimoine mondial de l'humanité et son engagement vis-à-vis de la résolution 2199 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies.

13. **The President:**

Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Antony Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State of the United States of America. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

14.1 **Mr Blinken** (United States of America):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, it is an honour to represent the United States at the 38th session of the General Conference during UNESCO's 70th anniversary. I am grateful for the opportunity to affirm our candidacy for re-election to UNESCO's Executive Board and to reiterate our nation's belief in the undeniably important role that UNESCO plays in upholding our collective peace and security.

14.2 Seventy years ago, out of the rubble of war and the pain of unfathomable national loss, our predecessors made one of the wisest decisions in human history. With the gift of foresight and the courage of hope, they resisted the impulse to concentrate power in the hands of the victors. Instead, they built an international system of institutions, norms, and rules dedicated to peace, stability, and prosperity for every nation. They stood up a force of blue helmets to protect civilians. They created organizations to safeguard public health, defend human rights, and respond to humanitarian crises. And they founded UNESCO to preserve the common spirit of our humanity while cherishing its diversity of traditions, cultures, and faiths.

14.3 Taken together, these institutions have given life to a global order that provides still to this day the best and sometimes only means to prevent conflict, energize progress, and allow countries to resolve their differences diplomatically and peacefully. As an integral pillar of this order, UNESCO stands on the frontlines of some of our toughest challenges equipped with some of our most powerful weapons for a lasting impact of a quality education, the scepticism of a free press, the expertise of our cultural preservationists, and the latest tools to sustainably manage our precious resources.

14.4 Across all of these critical issues, the United States is deeply engaged as a leader and partner of UNESCO. We were very pleased to join many of you earlier this afternoon to elevate the role of education in preventing and countering violent extremism - a role that received ringing endorsement by more than 85 co-sponsors during the session of the Executive Board. I was also proud to highlight a new UNESCO and United States-led education initiative to equip students with the skills to embrace inclusion and resist violent extremism, and I encourage all UNESCO members to join this effort. Wherever our values are under greatest threat, we see UNESCO's work making a difference - from preserving cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq to protecting the safety of journalists and the free flow of information to fighting for a quality education for all children.

14.5 We are honoured to be a partner in these initiatives. At the 197th session of the Executive Board last month, we were proud co-sponsors of several important decisions, including highlighting UNESCO's work to combat climate change in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris, advancing freedom of expression, supporting equal access to education, protecting cultural heritage in Ukraine and recommending the admission of Kosovo as a member of this Organization.

14.6 The Constitution of UNESCO is clear on this issue: there is an undeniable path for Kosovo membership in the Organization, a path which is not diverted and not blocked by United Nations Security Council resolution 1244. This is not a question of recognition or non-recognition. Countries that do not recognize Kosovo have supported its membership in several United Nations specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Our co-sponsorship of the resolution conveys our strong belief that Kosovo should be welcomed by this General Conference as a full member.

14.7 As a founding member of UNESCO, we remain committed to its ideals and aspirations. As a candidate for the Executive Board, the United States renews that promise, reiterates our determination to restore full funding for the Organization, and pledges our continued, determined leadership. This is not just the policy of our nation. It is also a personal commitment, one that was passed down to me by my stepfather, the late Samuel Pizar, who was a UNESCO Honorary Ambassador and Special Envoy for Holocaust Education.

14.8 This morning, in fact, I had the opportunity to retrace my steps as a young boy here in Paris, when I returned to my school, Ecole Jeannine Manuel, a UNESCO Associated School. As I walked into my old classrooms, I reflected on the education I had been so blessed to receive. Alongside lessons in mathematics and science, literature and language, my classmates and I were taught, in the words of the founder of the school, Jeannine Manuel, "de penser comme l'autre" – to see through the eyes of another. In doing so, we learned to respect our differences while recognizing all that we have in common, including our gifts of reason and wisdom, our expressions of art and culture, our universal values of civility, freedom, and dignity.

14.9 The goals we have set for ourselves – from fighting climate change to achieving universal access to education to fighting violent extremism – are only possible if we work together to utilize these shared gifts, so that our collective efforts to make the world a little bit healthier, a little bit wealthier, a little bit wiser are empowered by the talents of all of our citizens. This is the *raison d'être* not only of UNESCO but of all those who have high hopes and big dreams for the future. On behalf of Secretary of State John Kerry, it is my honour and privilege to reaffirm our position as a proud candidate for the Executive Board. I extend my sincere appreciation to this institution, its leadership, and its mission of peace. Thank you very much.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Andrej Slapničar, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Slovenia to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

16.1 **Mr Slapničar (Slovenia):**

Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great honour to address the General Conference of UNESCO in the year that the Organization celebrates its 70th anniversary. Slovenia fully associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the European Union. Slovenia, as a strong supporter of UNESCO will work, if elected to the Executive Board next week, towards an Organization focused on global challenges and results-based budgeting. UNESCO is the house of peace-building and we need to look for consensus on issues that have important consequences for us all, such as freedom of expression, promotion of cultural diversity, investment of opportunities for women and girls to ensure that they are fully involved in our societies, education on human rights, cooperation in science, and protection of the world's cultural heritage.

16.2 UNESCO needs further reforms and the Organization needs to return to its basic mandate. We should all make an effort towards a more limited number of priorities. One of those priorities is certainly education, which must remain at the forefront in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The education for all (EFA) programme is still a long way off. According to the latest data, 24 million children will never enter a classroom. Girls are the most disadvantaged, where in some parts of the world 80% of girls are unlikely to start school. Those are the facts that we cannot ignore. Therefore, UNESCO's education for all agenda should be based on quality, equity and inclusion under a refined EFA structure.

16.3 Mr President, Slovenia is currently helping tens of thousands of refugees that are crossing the region, fleeing from war-torn countries. Among the refugees are many children and young people who are deprived of proper education and would need to be included into our schooling system as well as to be integrated into our societies. Education is a human right and we would like to stress the importance of education for children who are forced to leave their toys and schoolbooks behind. More efforts should be made to bring these children to safety and back to schools.

16.4 We are pleased that UNESCO has endorsed a new strategy on youth. Youth must be empowered through inclusion, schooling and job creation. In 2012, the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO started a very successful programme by establishing a UNESCO youth platform which brings together young people from all over Slovenia who actively participate in a range of different activities.

16.5 Ladies and gentlemen, human rights matter. Despite efforts to uproot all forms of racism, intolerance has increased, even more so during the refugee crisis. Human rights apply equally online and offline and hate speech online is no more acceptable than it is in traditional media. Therefore, Slovenia calls on UNESCO to work for global and human rights education, the most important pillars of the culture for peace problem. Slovenia as a member of an informal group, Platform for Human Rights Education and Training, and as a newly-elected member of the United Nations Human Rights

Council in Geneva, is an active advocate of human rights education. Our goal is to help develop a human rights culture that enables each person to know their own rights and obligations towards others. New information technologies have brought so many advantages - one of them is open access to knowledge. Slovenia is striving towards a knowledge-based society and improving multimedia literacy through a virtual platform, "VideoLectures.Net", run by the Slovenian Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana.

16.6 Let me come to another important item - UNESCO's global leadership in protecting cultural heritage worldwide, especially in the case of armed conflicts. We welcome the proposal to send in United Nations peacekeepers to protect heritage sites around the world from various threats. Distinguished Director-General, let me conclude by saying that Slovenia is also looking forward to working together on a reformed agenda. We commend you for navigating the Organization through the last few years. We compliment your efforts to fully engage National Commissions to promote UNESCO's mission and future tasks as we see them; to protect what is vulnerable, to protect cooperation in science, to tackle climate change and to promote human rights. Thank you.

Mr Karam (Lebanon) takes the Chair

17. **Le Président:**

Merci, Excellence. Le prochain orateur est S. E. M. Fauoa Maani, Ministre de l'éducation, de la jeunesse et des sports de Tuvalu. Vous avez la parole.

18.1 **Mr Maani (Tuvalu):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentleman, it has always been an honour for me to participate in the General Conference of UNESCO. Let me first congratulate the Organization on its 70th anniversary and the President on his election to this very important post. I wish him every success in his new role. May I also take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the outgoing President, His Excellency Mr Hao Ping, working together with the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for their unrelenting efforts to reform UNESCO towards the noble causes of peace and shared prosperity.

18.2 Mr President, on behalf of the Government of Tuvalu, I would like to reiterate the importance that Tuvalu accords to its partnership with UNESCO. Indeed, our national development plan, TK2, recognizes the effect of climate change, youth developments, inclusive education in all its diverse forms, the development of the information and communication technology (ICT) sectors and the promotion of a world class culture, for the attainment of the ultimate goal of developed-country status.

18.3 Tuvalu continues to strive toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflected in Goal 13 that was announced at the United Nations in New York last September. The Pacific World Heritage Action Plan (2010-2015) aims to "increase in-country capacity at all levels, inclusive of indigenous people to develop best practices, management plans and arrangements to ensure effective protection of Pacific heritage sites, in a way that takes into account and recognizes traditional knowledge and conservation practices for land, air and seas". Within this action plan, Tuvalu had identified the following two actions as priority: the first to create world heritage awareness and education materials for communities, and the second, to hold training workshops in world heritage for governmental agencies involved in cultural and natural heritage.

18.4 Mr President, as a least developed country (LDC) and one of the small island developing States (SIDS), Tuvalu is fully aware of its responsibilities under the 2030 Agenda, just as we did with the MDGs. We are planning to host a national summit to develop our next development plan (TK3) in the middle of this month. Our national priorities along with our framework for Pacific regionalism will be aligned to the interregional agenda of the SIDS-SAMOA Pathway and mainstreamed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

18.5 At the outset, sea-level rise is certainly a familiar topic among the 10,000 inhabitants of Tuvalu, a string of nine low-lying atolls and reef islands in the central Pacific Ocean. Early in March this year, tropical cyclone Pam devastated Tuvalu. Given its low elevation and small size, the devastation was significant and cross-sectoral. This confirms our vulnerability to the increasing occurrences and severity of natural disasters. On that note, Tuvalu welcomes external assistance to address the adverse aftermaths of tropical cyclone Pam.

18.6 In conclusion, Tuvalu reaffirms its commitment to working with UNESCO at subregional, regional and international levels to achieve the goals of the Organization and contribute to sustainable development through supporting SIDS resilience in the face of environmental degradation and change, including climate change, and impact on oceans, freshwater, biodiversity and natural resources by drawing upon the strengths of the intergovernmental scientific programmes (International Hydrological Programme (IHP), International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), and Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)) and building synergies between scientific and indigenous knowledge. Mr President, thank you for this opportunity.

19. **Le Président :**

Merci, Excellence. Je pense qu'on va être à court de chocolats. Le prochain orateur est S. E. M. Jerome Fitzgerald, Ministre de l'éducation, des sciences et de la technologie des Bahamas. Vous avez la parole.

20.1 **Mr Fitzgerald (Bahamas):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, colleague ministers, representatives of the various delegations, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It is truly an esteemed honour and privilege to address this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as Minister of Education, Science and Technology. The Bahamas stands at the crossroads of the Americas and Europe

ready to embrace the opportunities that await our archipelagic nation. Like most civilizations, ours is rich in culture and history and through the years our people have been liberated, educated and celebrated.

20.2 UNESCO continues to be a pivotal participant in the realization of many aspirations, both individually and collectively. It provides a platform for the advancement of educational, scientific and cultural pursuits and to harness the power of education, science and culture to empower the citizens of the world. Specifically, UNESCO has helped the citizens of the Bahamas to think outside the realm of normalcy and to venture into areas infrequently travelled, highlighting the collective strength of a united people. We commit our unwavering support in all peace-centred initiatives. We must continue to be relentless in our peace-seeking initiatives and we must use peace not just as an antidote of war but as a means of spreading universal love.

20.3 This 38th session of the General Conference takes place at an important juncture in global events. The world over has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and while the focus remains aligned with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we have entered the next phase. Now, 15 years after the Millennium Development Goals, the world has experienced the evolution and revolution of a myriad of ideas and while there are still many uncertainties, one thing is certain - the need for global policies to preserve the world of and for future generations.

20.4 As Minister of Education, I wholeheartedly believe that education is the nucleus of the Sustainable Development Goals. While Sustainable Development Goal 4 is to "ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning", I believe that the success of all other SDGs hinges on our ability to educate and inform the people of the world of the impact and effects of not taking proactive measures to sustain our communities, colonies, countries, and by extension, the world. By 2030, there are some ambitious goals that we hope to have accomplished, and I am optimistic that with the political will and by properly informing and having optimal participation by our respective citizens, we can successfully achieve these goals.

20.5 The Bahamas recognizes the role of education in sustaining its people, environment, natural resources and economy. This year, the Government of the Bahamas had the privilege of hosting the 19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers and based on the Nassau Declaration there is now renewed focus on the importance of education to the success and longevity of all of our countries.

20.6 The UNESCO Office covering the Bahamas has had the opportunity to advance the objectives of UNESCO through a number of strategic initiatives since the last session of the General Conference in 2013. In keeping with the mandate of UNESCO, the following were realized: Nassau was designated as a UNESCO Creative City in arts and crafts; our country became party to three culture conventions; and we are in the process of recommending several potential sites to be considered as world heritage sites. Additionally, we have hosted a number of events, namely a regional conference on the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, and a science, technology and innovation (STI) workshop which brought together local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders with a view to developing a comprehensive policy and programme for science and technology for the entire Bahamas, in which UNESCO sponsored the various presenters and speakers.

20.7 Ladies and gentlemen, we must remain resolute in our commitment to ensuring that holistic policies are developed and enacted that will address issues of global importance. We must be united on educational, social and environmental issues. Education must remain paramount to the sustainability of the initiatives and outputs deemed necessary and important to the continued development of the world and its people. We have a unique opportunity to change the trajectory of millions of children through education. We must find ways to convey to every boy and girl the power of education to transform their lives. We must make education relevant and appealing and we must be creative and innovative in our approach. Hope must no longer be on the horizon, for the horizon seems unreachable. Hope must be at the shoreline – a footstep away and within our grasp. We must ignite the passion that flickers in the hearts and minds of humanity. The future is now.

20.8 We unequivocally give our support to the continued empowerment of UNESCO to "build peace in the minds of men and women" in order that the world again may achieve solidarity and unity in its pursuit for a happier, healthier, safer world. Together we can empower, educate and enlighten humanity for the greater good. Thank you very much.

21. **Le Président :**

Merci, Excellence. L'orateur suivant est S. E. M. Luis Jaime Saavedra Chanduvi, Ministre de l'éducation du Pérou. Vous avez la parole.

22.1 **Sr. Saavedra Chanduvi (Perú):**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Es un honor encontrarme ante esta asamblea en representación del Gobierno del Perú. Deseo felicitarlo por su elección y al pueblo de Namibia por acoger próximamente la 10ª reunión del Comité Intergubernamental para la Salvaguardia del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial. Hace solo tres o cuatro años, había una imagen de crisis en la UNESCO. Hoy, gracias a la conducción de la Directora General, Irina Bokova, la UNESCO se ha sobrepuesto al ajuste financiero y ocupa un lugar de vanguardia en las más importantes iniciativas internacionales vinculadas a los nuevos objetivos de desarrollo sostenible, a la nueva estrategia de educación hacia el año 2030 y a la introducción de la cultura como una variable central del desarrollo sostenible.

22.2 El Perú viene participando activamente en todas estas iniciativas. Ha sido sede y ha contribuido a un excelente resultado de la COP 20 y ve con mucho optimismo la reunión en París de la COP 21. Por otro lado, el Perú tendrá el honor de recibir en marzo del próximo año el 4º Congreso Mundial de Reservas de Biosfera que nos permitirá aprobar un nuevo plan de acción para la próxima década.

22.3 La importancia de la educación como elemento central del proceso de desarrollo ha estado siempre en el debate político. Y ciertamente, la inversión en educación en todos los países en desarrollo se ha incrementado, como lo muestran los aumentos en la tasas de asistencia escolar. Sin embargo, todavía hay retos pendientes: aumentar las tasas de escolaridad en la secundaria y en la educación inicial, e incrementar la calidad en todos los niveles educativos. Retos que no son grandes, sino inmensos. El Perú está comprometido con el Marco de Acción para aplicar la agenda Educación 2030 discutida en Incheon (Corea del Sur), y aprobada hace unos días aquí en París. El Perú está decidido a pasar de las promesas a las acciones. Nuestro país reconoce, que, siendo un país de renta media, el nivel de su sistema educativo está lejos de donde debería estar. Una educación pública gratuita de alta calidad, para todos es el mecanismo más eficaz para lograr una sociedad justa, en la que todos los ciudadanos tengan las oportunidades de desarrollar sus talentos y potencialidades al máximo. En el Perú, lamentablemente, el lugar de nacimiento o el nivel socioeconómico de la familia todavía tienen un impacto en las oportunidades educativas. Eso está cambiando, a través de inversiones significativas que priorizan las zonas rurales y programas masivos de becas para estudios universitarios y técnicos para jóvenes más pobres. Pero el camino que queda por recorrer todavía es largo.

22.4 El Perú se ha comprometido a implementar una reforma educativa integral. Trabajamos simultáneamente en cuatro líneas de acción: primero, un proceso de revalorización de la carrera docente, que apunta a duplicar los salarios en siete años y consolidar una carrera meritocrática y con oportunidades de desarrollo profesional para todos nuestros maestros. Segundo, un aumento en la calidad de aprendizajes a través de un conjunto de intervenciones pedagógicas, como, por ejemplo, una educación secundaria de jornada completa. Tercero, una modernización de la gestión del sistema escolar, incluyendo una gestión más eficaz de las escuelas, con directores con mayor capacidad de decisión y margen de acción, y cuarto, un aumento significativo en la inversión en infraestructura educativa. Es indispensable avanzar de manera simultánea en todas estas líneas de acción; solo así podemos tener una reforma educativa integral. Y para poder avanzar se requiere un mayor presupuesto. En los últimos cinco años el presupuesto destinado a educación se ha incrementado en 90%. Esto nos ha permitido aumentar la inversión en educación como porcentaje del PIB de 3 a casi 4%. Hemos avanzado, pero es todavía absolutamente insuficiente, ya que todavía el gasto por alumno en la educación básica es de solo 1.100 dólares. El esfuerzo fiscal necesario es muy grande y requiere el compromiso de toda la sociedad. Falta muchísimo por hacer. La educación debe ser, tiene que ser una política de Estado. La reforma educativa y el incremento de la inversión destinada a la educación deben mantenerse de manera agresiva, tenaz y persistente a lo largo de los distintos gobiernos y por los próximos años.

22.5 El rol de la UNESCO en esta tarea es fundamental. En el Perú hemos encontrado un nuevo *modus operandi* que nos permite el apoyo de la UNESCO en la gestión de actividades y proyectos utilizando recursos del Gobierno nacional. Esto nos permite implementar inversiones de manera más rápida y efectiva, así como contar con la asistencia técnica de la UNESCO. Estas innovaciones, así como el trabajo de esta institución para acompañar las acciones de todos los Estados Miembros, serán fundamentales para avanzar en el compromiso que tenemos con nuestros niños, niñas y jóvenes de darles una educación de calidad. ¿Una educación de calidad? Es una deuda que tenemos con nuestros estudiantes, es nuestro deber seguir trabajando de manera incansable, para darles a ellos la educación que se merecen, para que todos nuestros ciudadanos tengan la oportunidad de desarrollar su potencial al máximo, es nuestra responsabilidad y a eso estamos abocados. Muchas gracias.

(22.1) **M. Saavedra Chanduvi (Perú) (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. C'est pour moi un honneur de m'adresser à cette assemblée en tant que représentant du Gouvernement du Pérou. Je souhaite vous féliciter pour votre élection ainsi que le peuple de Namibie, qui accueillera prochainement la 10^e réunion du Comité intergouvernemental de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel. Il y a seulement trois ou quatre ans, l'UNESCO donnait l'image d'une institution en crise. Aujourd'hui, grâce à la direction de la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, l'UNESCO s'est relevée de l'ajustement financier dont elle a fait l'objet et se trouve à l'avant-poste des plus grandes initiatives internationales concernant les nouveaux objectifs de développement durable, la nouvelle stratégie d'éducation à l'horizon 2030 et la prise en compte de la culture comme variable centrale du développement durable.

(22.2) Le Pérou participe activement à toutes ces initiatives. Il a accueilli la COP 20 et contribué aux excellents résultats obtenus, et attend avec beaucoup d'optimisme la réunion de la COP 21 qui se tiendra à Paris. Par ailleurs, le Pérou aura l'honneur de recevoir en mars de l'année prochaine le 4^e Congrès mondial des réserves de biosphère qui nous permettra d'approuver un nouveau plan d'action pour la prochaine décennie.

(22.3) L'importance de l'éducation comme élément central du processus de développement a toujours été au cœur du débat public. Et il est certain que l'investissement en matière d'éducation a augmenté dans tous les pays en développement, comme le montre l'augmentation des taux de scolarisation. Cependant, il reste des défis à relever : augmenter les taux de scolarité dans l'enseignement secondaire et la formation initiale et accroître la qualité à tous les niveaux de l'enseignement. Ce ne sont pas de grands, mais d'immenses défis. En approuvant le Cadre d'action, le Pérou s'est engagé à appliquer l'agenda Éducation 2030 examiné à Incheon (Corée du Sud) et approuvé il y a quelques jours, ici à Paris. Le Pérou est décidé à passer des promesses aux actes. Notre pays reconnaît qu'en tant que pays à revenu intermédiaire, le niveau de son système éducatif est loin de ce qu'il devrait être. Une éducation publique gratuite et de grande qualité pour tous est le mécanisme le plus efficace pour parvenir à une société juste, dans laquelle tous les citoyens auraient des chances d'exploiter au mieux leurs talents et leur potentiel. Au Pérou, malheureusement, le lieu de naissance ou le niveau socioéconomique de la famille ont encore une influence sur les perspectives d'éducation. Cela est en train de changer, grâce à des investissements significatifs qui privilégient les zones rurales et à de vastes programmes de bourses finançant les études universitaires et techniques des jeunes les plus pauvres. Mais il reste encore un long chemin à parcourir.

(22.4) Le Pérou s'est engagé à opérer une réforme intégrale de l'éducation. Notre travail s'articule autour de quatre axes d'action : premièrement, un processus de revalorisation de la carrière d'enseignant, qui prévoit de doubler les salaires en sept ans et de renforcer la progression au mérite en offrant des possibilités de perfectionnement professionnel à tous les professeurs. Deuxièmement, une augmentation de la qualité des apprentissages au moyen d'un ensemble de mesures pédagogiques comme, par exemple, l'enseignement secondaire à temps plein. Troisièmement, une modernisation de la gestion du système scolaire, notamment une gestion plus efficace des écoles, en accordant aux directeurs une plus grande

capacité de décision et davantage de marge de manœuvre. Quatrièmement, une augmentation sensible des investissements dans les infrastructures éducatives. Il est indispensable de faire progresser simultanément ces axes d'action. C'est la seule façon d'aboutir à une réforme éducative intégrale. Et un budget plus important est nécessaire pour pouvoir progresser. Ces cinq dernières années, le budget alloué à l'éducation a augmenté de 90 %, ce qui nous a permis de porter la part du PIB dévolue à l'investissement en matière d'éducation de 3 à quasiment 4 %. C'est un progrès, mais qui reste tout à fait insuffisant si l'on considère que les dépenses par élève dans le domaine de l'éducation de base ne s'élèvent qu'à 1 100 dollars. L'effort budgétaire nécessaire est immense et requiert l'engagement de toute la société. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire. L'éducation doit être, c'est impératif, une politique d'État. La réforme de l'éducation et l'augmentation de l'investissement destiné à l'éducation doivent être poursuivis avec pugnacité, ténacité et persévérance tout au long des prochaines années et des gouvernements successifs.

(22.5) Le rôle de l'UNESCO dans cette tâche est essentiel. Le Pérou a mis un place un nouveau *modus operandi* qui nous permet de recevoir l'appui de l'UNESCO en matière de gestion d'activités et de projets en ayant recours aux ressources des autorités centrales. Cela nous permet de réaliser des investissements de manière rapide et efficace tout en comptant sur l'aide technique de l'UNESCO. Ces innovations, tout comme les efforts menés par cette institution pour accompagner les actions de l'ensemble des pays membres, seront essentielles pour nous aider à tenir la promesse que nous avons faite à nos enfants et nos jeunes de leur offrir une éducation de qualité. Une éducation de qualité ? C'est une dette que nous avons envers nos étudiants. Il est de notre devoir de continuer à œuvrer inlassablement pour leur offrir l'éducation qu'ils méritent, afin que tous nos citoyens aient la possibilité d'exploiter pleinement leur potentiel. C'est la responsabilité qui nous incombe et nous nous y consacrons. Je vous remercie.

23. **Le Président :**

Merci, Excellence. La parole, à présent, est à S. E. M. Minkailu Bah, Ministre de l'éducation, de la science et de la technologie de la Sierra Leone.

24.1 **Mr Bah (Sierra Leone):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, Ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions, directors and heads of UNESCO sectors and cluster offices, distinguished delegates. Let me start my presentation by congratulating UNESCO on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone for yet another General Conference. I wish to express our sincere appreciation of the collaboration between UNESCO and the Government and people of Sierra Leone especially during our current period of post-Ebola recovery and transition.

24.2 Mr President, as you may be aware, the Ebola virus disease ravaged the three Mano River Union countries, including my country, Sierra Leone. The epidemic devastated all areas of economic and social development. Before the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic, Sierra Leone was rated among the fastest growing economies in the world, but our gains have been reversed significantly. I am, however, consoled by the belief that Sierra Leoneans are resilient people and without doubt, we will rise above the challenges holding us down presently to a height never previously achieved. To achieve this ambition, we will obviously need the continued support of UNESCO.

24.3 Mr President, I am saddened to report that we lost over 200 medical personnel including doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, pharmacists and other paramedics to Ebola. Additionally, thousands of children in my country have become orphans. We are, however, encouraged by the fact that throughout our trying times UNESCO, and fellow African and other countries rendered help to our country in the form of medical personnel, medication and equipment to end the tragedy.

24.4 Mr President, distinguished delegates, I wish to inform you that the three countries of the Mano River Union have embarked on a massive post-Ebola recovery programme and will therefore welcome assistance in all the areas that have been tremendously hit, especially education and health.

24.5 Mr President, through the support of UNESCO and other international partners Sierra Leone continues, even in the face of Ebola, to make significant progress in a number of areas in education. School level enrolment continues to surge. Although we do not have all children of primary school age in school, enrolment at the primary level exceeds the number of 6- to 11-year-olds in the country. Enrolment at the secondary level is now increasing at a faster rate than at the primary level. Our challenge now is not just a matter of constructing more secondary schools but also ensuring that we have enough teachers that have the capacity to teach at all levels. Gender parity in enrolment has been achieved at the primary level and noteworthy progress has been made at the secondary level. In fact, in the majority of local council areas there are now more girls than boys in primary schools.

24.6 Mr President, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) continues to be at the heart of plans for the education of our youth. My delegation regards UNESCO as a partner who can support Africa to successfully implement the TVET strategy that was adopted by the African Union. Effective and successful implementation of this strategy would result in practical skills transferred to our youth. In this regard, with the support of UNESCO we have developed a TVET policy. We now anxiously look forward to action on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) UNESCO signed in October 2009 with the Government of Sierra Leone.

24.7 I wish to state at this point that all interventions detailed in our post-Ebola strategy document and recovery plan have their origin in our education sector plan (ESP) for 2014–2018 and our poverty reduction strategy paper III (PRSP III), "The Agenda for Prosperity 2013–2018". Our ESP has three goals: Goal 1 is to improve access, equity, and completion; Goal 2 is to improve the quality and relevance of education; and Goal 3 is to strengthen education service delivery.

24.8 Mr President, culture and tourism come in for much attention in our PRSP III. Our tourism potential is undeniable – we have beautiful beaches, many historical sites and relics as well as lush animal-rich mountain forests in the north of the country and great fishing spots. The Ebola epidemic has dulled our tourism potential a little but we are at the point of developing a re-branding package that we hope will help with our image in the world and change perceptions. In this

regard, we look forward to action being taken on the elements of cultural, historical and tourism support detailed in the October 2009 MoU that UNESCO signed with the Government of Sierra Leone.

24.9 In the information and communication sectors the Government has encouraged the growth of a free press and there are several private radio, print and television outfits all over the country. The Government is poised to design a long-term programme on information and communication in Sierra Leone, with a focus on developing a national communications strategy; training of journalists and capacity-building of media practitioners.

24.10 Mr President, there are a lot more development issues and constraints relative to the field of UNESCO's competence. The simple message of this short presentation is to inform this distinguished body that Sierra Leone needs strong collaboration in order to fully implement its post-Ebola recovery and transition programme. We need your support, and the time is now. Thank you very much.

25. **The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Simon Stiell, Minister of State of Education and Human Resource Development of Grenada. You have the floor.

26.1 **Mr Stiell (Grenada):**

Mr President of the 38th session of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, allow me to congratulate Mr Simataa upon his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference and wish him every success during his presidency.

26.2 As a fellow Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member I would like to start by welcoming the admission, by the General Conference, of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO on 3 November 2015. Mr President, today we are gathered here to consider how UNESCO's action could create, develop and promote the pathways to lasting peace and sustainable development. We welcome the adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all.

26.3 Grenada recognizes the importance of education, not only as a human right, but also as a prerequisite and a driver for its long-term sustainable development, in particular, to face the mountainous challenges of climate change adaptation, and the need for economic transformation.

26.4 Grenada is committed to providing meaningful education and training opportunities for its people. This starts with ensuring access to school for all children and extends to the promotion of quality, lifelong learning opportunities for all, including quality technical and vocational education and training (TVET), higher education, and research to meet the demands of the twenty-first century.

26.5 In this era of globalization, the world cannot genuinely prosper with inequalities between regions. Priority should continue to be given to Africa, but special attention should also be given to the needs of priority groups of countries, such as the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). This is absolutely necessary to allow them to address the unique conditions that render them disadvantaged.

26.6 Likewise, a global society cannot maximize its true potential with inequality among its members. Hence, attention must be paid to gender equality, as a fundamental pillar for social development. Advocating for gender equality also requires that specific attention be given to the needs and contributions of our young males in our Caribbean societies, where a disproportionate number of males are confronted by underachievement, poverty, violence, and exclusion.

26.7 The global environmental and ecological crisis manifested in climate change, biodiversity loss, oceanic over-exploitation and degradation, desertification, fresh-water shortages and rising sea levels highlights the need for a new approach to the management of our resources. As island States, the role of the oceans is of strategic importance to us. An integrated management approach of our oceans, and a strengthened global ocean governance framework, are prerequisites for the sustainable use of these valuable resources. Building on this, the continued support from UNESCO for the implementation of early warning systems for tsunamis and other marine hazards is of great importance to small island States, as of those of the Caribbean. We therefore urge greater focus on the mobilization of the necessary funds to complete this important programme in all regions, and in particular the Caribbean.

26.8 Culture can be a mainspring for the sustainable development of people, communities and our nations. We therefore applaud UNESCO for the importance it has placed on the protection, safeguard and the promotion of cultural tangible and intangible heritage, in particular the Organization's mandate through its normative action, and the implementation of all its cultural conventions.

26.9 Mr President, the extreme vulnerability and low resilience of small island developing States are recognized by UNESCO – the SIDS Action Plan outlines many of the steps to build resilience capacity. What is missing are the necessary resources to implement the plan. Greater focus is therefore required to identify and allocate those resources in the UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5) and in the preparation of the Programme and Budget for 2018-2020 (39 C/5).

26.10 Mr President, in conclusion, as UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary, it gives both the Organization and us, its members, the opportunity to reflect on the past, to look at the present and to take on board the many lessons learnt, as we chart the course for the future. Together we can make a difference. I thank you.

27. **Le Président :**

Merci, Excellence. Je donne maintenant la parole à S. E. Mme Khatuna Totladze, Vice-Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Géorgie.

28.1 **Ms Totladze** (Georgia):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates to UNESCO. It is my honour to address you today from this high tribune and to highlight UNESCO's achievements in building peace and sustainable development. UNESCO's founding principles are more than relevant today, but the challenges that we are facing need even more ambitious steps for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which strongly emphasizes the role of culture, education, and women's empowerment.

28.2 Distinguished delegates, we share the vision that each country has its own approaches, visions and tools according to their national circumstances to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, it is more than obvious that we can effectively move forward only through close international collaboration and enhancing global and regional partnerships.

28.3 In this regard, let me stress the historical importance of the Silk Road that throughout centuries played a crucial role not only in the economic development of the countries involved, but also had a great impact in establishing cultural exchanges and intercultural dialogue. We therefore welcome the creation of the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform that will be a great opportunity for a global audience to know more about the diversity of cultures and peoples along these routes. The Silk Road Forum, held in Georgia in 2015 on the initiative and high patronage of the Prime Minister, was a brilliant opportunity to launch new international initiatives which have the potential to become a resource for development and sustainability that determines the well-being of the people.

28.4 Empowering women and promoting gender equality is one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Georgia is particularly committed to this very issue – 2015 has been declared as the International Women's Year (IWY) by the President of Georgia. Furthermore, in two days' time, an international high-level conference "Achieving Gender Equality - Challenges and Opportunities in the European Neighbourhood", organized in cooperation with the European Union and the United Nations, will start in the capital of Georgia. The conference will adopt the Tbilisi Declaration with explicit commitment towards the advancement of gender equality and women's rights as an integral part of sustainable development.

28.5 We deeply believe that education really empowers people, promotes democracy and development. Education can play a crucial role in overcoming violent extremism, the main challenge the global community is facing today. Georgia's Government sees culture as a driving force for social cohesion and economic prosperity. I am confident that the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is a key instrument for developing policies in support of culture. Effective implementation of the Convention is particularly important for us, *inter alia*, due to the fact that, according to the European Union-Georgia association agreement, the 2005 Convention creates the main framework of cooperation in the sphere of culture between Georgia and the European Union.

28.6 UNESCO's cultural conventions provide a unique platform, not only for safeguarding the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity, but also for intercultural dialogue and cooperation. Georgia has achieved impressive progress in the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at a national level. We hope that the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity will be further enriched by the new Georgian nominations. The Georgian Government has fostered its collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and intensified its efforts to meet all the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

28.7 Distinguished delegates, we firmly condemn the recent barbaric acts of destruction of cultural heritage sites and welcome the new strategy for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict. This issue is of utmost importance to my country, as the Georgian Government is deprived of the possibility to preserve the cultural heritage monuments located in Georgia's occupied territories. This situation underlines the urgent need to dispatch a UNESCO expert mission for the evaluation of the condition of monuments in the occupied territories and prevention of their further destruction. Convinced of the need to further strengthen international efforts for protection of cultural properties, Georgia reconfirms its strong commitment to the principles of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and, as a member of the Committee, expresses its readiness to contribute to relevant multilateral cooperation.

28.8 Ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by congratulating all of you on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Let me assure you that the Georgian Government will spare no effort to further promote the values upon which the Organization was created. Thank you very much for your attention.

29. **Le Président :**

Merci, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est S. E. M. Pham Cong Tac, Vice-Ministre des sciences et des technologies du Viet Nam.

30.1 **Mr Tac** (Viet Nam):

Mr President, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation to extend warm congratulations to the President of General Conference. Mr President, this Conference takes place at a special time, when the United Nations has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development last September, putting forward a new vision and reflecting humanity's common desire to live in a peaceful, safe, equal, green and clean world. The 2030 Agenda also lays down a new framework and orientation for countries to respond to common economic, social and environmental challenges. Through 70 years of development, UNESCO has

achieved many successes. Viet Nam commends UNESCO on its recent efforts to accomplish its noble mission to contribute to the building of peace, poverty reduction, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue. This month, we are preparing for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

30.2 We support UNESCO's priority goal of gender equality and acknowledge the effort made by UNESCO's Director-General in promoting gender equality and education for girls. We are drawing on all resources available to raise people's awareness of gender equality, eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and promote education programmes and initiatives for women. In this endeavour, we have set up a focal point on gender equality under the Vietnamese National Commission for UNESCO.

30.3 Education for sustainable development has always been one of UNESCO's main goals. We believe that it is essential to enhance cooperation among teachers, parents, communities and public-private partnerships together with mass media in order to promote education and increase responsibility and the role of all in society. Viet Nam has gained many successes in comprehensive education reform. Viet Nam supports the global partnership for education and cooperation with UNESCO, which can be seen as a vivid example of South-South cooperation in enhancing the quality of education through innovative teaching and learning methods. As a candidate to the Executive Board of UNESCO for the term 2015-2019, Viet Nam wishes to contribute to the formulation and implementation of long-term and short-term policy in UNESCO's fields of competence. Thank you in advance for your support on this election.

30.4 Ladies and gentlemen, we are ready to work with other UNESCO members to preserve and promote the value of culture, nature, habitats and cultural diversity. We support the "#Unite4Heritage" initiative launched by UNESCO. Ladies and gentlemen, we would like to thank Members of the Executive Board of UNESCO for adopting the resolution to establish an International Centre of Physics and an International Centre for Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics in Viet Nam as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO. This is first time that we have proposed the establishment of a category 2 centre in our country. We are all aware of the importance of biosphere reserves. We look forward to UNESCO's continued support in the activity of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and promoting the initiative on green growth and local biosphere reserves.

30.5 In the field of information and communication, we try to ensure that no one is left behind today in this interconnected world. We know that increasing cooperation between policymakers and scientists in social management is more important than ever before. We have established a sub-committee on the management of social transformations to deal with relevant matters in social management. Finally, we always support UNESCO's endeavours to contribute to world peace and development. Thank you very much

31. **The President:**

Thank you Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Delma Nedd, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education of Guyana.

32.1 **Ms Nedd (Guyana):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The Senior Minister of Education, Dr Rupert Roopnaraine, sends his greetings and congratulations to Mr Simataa on his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

32.2 Some 70 years ago, the United Nations was founded in the aftermath of a world torn apart by great and terrible conflict. This agency, UNESCO, was a central part of that fundamental infrastructure with the specific mission to foster peace through collaboration and cohesion via the vehicles of education, science and culture. Within that mandate, was the wisdom of critical relevance which endures to this day.

32.3 Twenty years after the creation of this august Organization, Guyana, a young country was born. As a former plantation colony, we were faced with structural inequity, injustice and impoverishment, yet today we are the embodiment of the truest form of innovation that exists, that which underlies the survival of a reasonably cohesive society and the endurance of human spirit. While we are a young country in the reckoning of the world, we are rich with the experience of avoidance of devastating division, as well as rich with the potential of lasting social cohesion, within a milieu of contrasting ethnic and religious communities.

32.4 As is true of the United Nations, Guyana, as a country, has often fallen short of its founding ideals of compromise, cohesion and conciliation. Nonetheless, its new administration has taken a giant step towards realizing those ideals, although it is merely a single step in a long journey forward. Next year, as Guyana celebrates the 50th anniversary of its independence, running through all the grand plans will be three central themes: reflection, celebration, and preparation.

32.5 Our national anthem exhorts us to strive to be more worthy our heritage, this land of six peoples, thrown together by history, from Asia, Africa, Europe and the indigenous civilizations of the Americas. Over the next year, we will reflect on the richness of this heritage and of our land itself – from Pakaraima's peaks to Corentyne's lush sands – and seek to establish ways and means to protect and preserve our heritage.

32.6 Mr President, even as we reflect and celebrate, we are preparing our society for all the challenges and opportunities that exist ahead. Under the stewardship of His Excellency David Granger, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, our Government will seek to address educational issues via a holistic approach, thereby embarking on an integrated curriculum reform from the learning environment to pedagogy. Our ultimate goal is an education system that is culturally relevant, technologically sustainable, and contextually adaptive, all with a central aspiration towards creativity and innovation.

32.7 Mr President, over the years, UNESCO has been a strong and reliable partner in education, culture and science. To this end, the Government of Guyana is appreciative of the opportunity afforded by UNESCO in piloting the inquiry based science programme, which provides hands-on experience in facilitating the learning of concepts in mathematics and science. UNESCO's support towards our efforts in introducing climate change education for sustainable development and, giving us the opportunity of being a part of UNESCO's global micro-science regional joint project in the Caribbean should also be acknowledged.

32.8 Mr President, Guyana looks forward to UNESCO's continued support in our efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Government of Guyana has already crafted and designed policies in ensuring equal access to quality education, information technology, immediate remedial programmes for dropouts focusing on literacy, numeracy and matriculation, and the provision of opportunities for young people to enter technical training institutes. It is our strong belief that every child has a right to knowledge, skills and values which would allow them to be the type of Guyanese citizen required for the twenty-first century development of our country. To this end, Guyana calls on UNESCO to partner with us in fostering the sustainable implementation of these programmes, and thereby affording us community access to a good life. I thank you.

33. **Le Président :**

Merci, Madame Nedd. La parole est à présent à Mme June Chandler, Secrétaire permanente au Ministère de l'éducation de la Barbade.

34.1 **Ms Chandler** (Barbados):

Mr President, Your Excellencies, heads of delegations, distinguished delegates. On behalf of the Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Barbados, I take this opportunity to offer warmest congratulations to Mr Simataa on his assumption of the Presidency of this 38th session of the General Conference. I also wish to thank his distinguished predecessor for his contribution to the success of this Organization during the last biennium. I take special pleasure in congratulating Montserrat on being admitted as an Associate Member of this Organization.

34.2 Mr President, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados we are especially pleased to celebrate the 70th anniversary of this august Organization. This is indeed a critical moment in the history of the Organization and a perfect time to reaffirm Barbados' commitment to the founding principles of UNESCO, while pledging our continued support to the work of the Organization.

34.3 Distinguished delegates, in 1945, 37 countries decided to found UNESCO. Today, 70 years later, and on the eve of Barbados' own celebration of our 50th anniversary of independence in 2016, UNESCO's Constitution remains highly relevant to achieving the purpose articulated so long ago.

34.4 Mr President, we recognize that an important crossroads has been reached for the international community. In May of this year, global leaders in education gathered at the World Education Forum in Incheon to review progress made since 2000 with the education for all (EFA) goals, and the related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The convening of the 2015 Forum presented an opportunity for the global education community to reach consensus on a common vision for education in the post-2015 period. The Incheon Declaration articulated agreement on a new Education 2030 Framework for Action agenda, inspired by a humanistic vision of education and underpinned by the principle that education is a public good, a fundamental human right and a basis for guaranteeing the realization of other rights. It is also essential for peace, human fulfilment and sustainable development. Barbados is deeply committed to all these ideals. We also recognize the important role of science, technology and innovation in sustaining development and therefore support UNESCO's promotional efforts in this area. Mr President, Barbados pledges its support for the implementation of the Education 2030 Framework for Action. Indeed, we commit ourselves to developing the programmes and activities necessary to ensure its success.

34.5 Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we are heartened by the efforts and work of the Director-General over this last biennium to lead and manage the Organization in difficult circumstances. We generally support the reforms that have been initiated in light of the financial challenges in order to ensure the Organization's ability to deliver effectively in its fields of competence.

34.6 Mr President, the recent disaster in our sister Caribbean island of Dominica, as a result of tropical storm Erika, reminds us of the vulnerabilities of small island developing States (SIDS) and the need for a global response to climate change that is binding. We therefore look forward to strong and assertive action to address issues of climate change and disaster risk reduction being taken and a strong commitment to supporting the sustainability of SIDS. Indeed, within this context, Barbados has demonstrated its strong commitment to the tsunami and coastal hazards early warning system through the hosting of the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC).

34.7 Mr President, preserving and accessing information and documentary heritage continue to be priorities for Barbados. In this regard, we have worked closely with the Secretariat and other Member States throughout the development of the new normative instrument to support the sustainability of UNESCO's action in this area. Such a standard-setting instrument can be an essential tool to strengthen international cooperation and raise public awareness to address the challenges of safeguarding documentary heritage.

34.8 Barbados shares the conviction that no development can be sustainable without a strong culture component. Indeed, only a human-centred approach to development based on mutual respect and open dialogue among cultures can lead to lasting, inclusive and equitable results. We have closely engaged in the elaboration of the new Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society, and look forward to its initiation. Barbados remains committed to the implementation of the culture conventions to which we are signatory.

34.9 We further lend our support to the global efforts in the protection and preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, particularly in the context of UNESCO's initiatives for disaster risk reduction, and our elaboration of plans for the creation of a category 2 centre for world heritage and SIDS, as a lasting legacy of the 21-year-old Barbados Programme for Action and in keeping with the Samoa Pathway. Mr President, I thank you.

35. **The President:**

Thank you, Ms Chandler. Our next speaker is Mr Ian McKinnon, Chairperson of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. I give you the floor, Sir.

36.1 **Mr McKinnon (New Zealand):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished people. I greet you in the language of the first people of New Zealand Mauri. *E nga mana, e nga reo, e nga iwi, e rau rangatira ma. Nau mai, haere mai, piki mai. Tena kotou, tena kotou, tena tatou katoa. Kia ora hui hui mai tatou katoa.* (All peoples of the world, all speakers, all the chiefly peoples here, all groups. Welcome, welcome, welcome to you all. Greetings to all gathered here). And I particularly pass greetings to our friends of the Pacific. *Talofa lava, malo leilei, bula vinaka, kia orana.*

36.2 Mr President, New Zealand considers that UNESCO's mandate remains as relevant today as it did in 1946. This year and next year New Zealand is serving on the United Nation's Security Council. We are seeing first hand results when States and communities are at war. We are seeing conflicts that defy national borders, conflicts that draw on ideologies of hatred and violence. We are reminded time and again that we must build the defences of peace in the minds of men and women. UNESCO's mandate to foster international connections in the promotion and protection of culture, in education, and in the sciences is fundamental to this, as is UNESCO's work in highlighting the importance of freedom of expression, including ensuring the safety of journalists.

36.3 UNESCO also has a special role in working with the United Nations Security Council, including making sure the illicit trade in cultural property is not allowed to fund conflicts, and to ensure those tasked with keeping the peace know that this also includes safeguarding heritage. UNESCO Member States must ensure that we all work constructively here in Paris to build peace. We must not use our Organization to add fuel to the fires of conflicts.

36.4 Mr President, 2015 has been a big year for the United Nations system with the agreement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). What an achievement they are! The SDGs commit all countries, big and small, rich and poor, to work towards shared goals. UNESCO's work is integral to many of the SDGs. New Zealand will be looking to UNESCO to continue to ensure its education, science, culture and communication efforts contribute to our collective achievement of these goals. And we will be drawing on UNESCO's collective expertise in our own implementation of these strategic Sustainable Development Goals. We acknowledge the work here of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in our region and we also acknowledge the leadership of Etienne Clément in addressing issues affecting the area.

36.5 We strongly support the view that small island developing States' (SIDS) interest must be accorded high priority. There is urgency. It is imperative that the actions outlined in the SIDS Action Plan be prioritized in UNESCO's Programme and Budget. We know that funds are tight, but so too is time.

36.6 Mr President, New Zealand was delighted that our region was chosen to host the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014. We congratulate the Government and people of Samoa for an outstanding conference. I should add that we hope that all States will support Samoa's candidacy for UNESCO's Executive Board.

36.7 Mr President, New Zealand also wishes to commend UNESCO for the emphasis it is placing on the importance of education. I was delighted and honoured to be present at the launch of the Education 2030 Framework for Action. While return on investment is not necessarily immediate, investment in education always brings value to a society. We must not forget, taking the 1982 theme of Neil Postman, that young people are the living messages we send to a time we may, in fact, not see. UNESCO's role for 70 years is, and continues to be, to foster the development of creative and innovative ideas. May this continue, not least in education, thus ensuring that new ideas are available to all members for their deliberations in this important area.

36.8 Mr President, New Zealand has been a strong supporter of UNESCO since the beginning. Our National Commission works effectively in New Zealand to take the Organization's mission and make it real to communities, supporting programmes across the range of UNESCO sectors. The New Zealand Government remains committed to supporting our National Commission in this work.

36.9 Our country is an independent, fair-minded, principled and constructive small State. We will play our part within the United Nations. We are involved obviously in New York. We are playing our part in Paris. We continue to play our part in our own region. Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished people, we greet you again, and wish you well. *No rei ra, tena Koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa.*

37. **The President:**

Thank you Mr McKinnon. Our next speaker is Mr Rudolph Anthony, Secretary-General of Belize National Commission for UNESCO.

38.1 **Mr Anthony (Belize):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. It is an honour and a privilege once more to stand before you today at this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO to present Belize's position.

38.2 Mr President, we at UNESCO represent the world, and so "we are the world." Belize stands firm and tall with UNESCO as we are proud to be a member of this extraordinary body of Member States. Belize continues to embrace the

ideals, principles, policies, strategies, mission, and Constitution of UNESCO. And you know why Mr President? Because “we are the world”. I want to declare that Belize has benefited handsomely from being a partner with UNESCO. We have benefited from the Participation Programme, from the Young Professionals Programme, from the Youth Forum, from the collaboration and synergies between Directors-General and our field office in the Caribbean, from collaboration and participation with Secretaries-General from across the universe through interregional National Commission meetings. And we continue to move forward and you know why, Mr President? Because “we are the world”.

38.3 We continue to make strides in education, in primary education, secondary education, higher education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), early childhood education, education for those with different abilities, teacher training, literacy campaigns by encouraging all to read at specific times, and developing quality child-friendly school initiatives. We have approved projects for the Cancer Society, Belize Red Cross, the National Council on Ageing, and Restore Belize, which is an organization to help young men and women to choose an alternative to crime, violence, and killings. We have made Belizeans more aware of UNESCO through training, workshops and conferences in statistics, in TVET, higher education, tsunamis, freedom of the press, underwater cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage, nomination dossiers, world heritage awareness, early childhood training, arts and crafts, and training of young journalists. Thanks to UNESCO for all the assistance. Why? Because UNESCO knows that “we are the world”. We benefit from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the World Heritage Centre, their knowledge and expert guidance for our world heritage sites in danger.

38.4 Mr President, we should not and cannot continue to try and be the big police of the world who want to lock out other countries from becoming members of UNESCO. We must be inclusive and learn to share, care, love and live in peace, for “we are the world”. Mr President, let us team up together as one family and fight against violent extremism, fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and against any hate- and war-mongers that try to destroy our way of life, which should include peace, love, harmony, patience, compassion, cooperation, freedom and non-violence, one to the other. Mother Teresa once said, “Intense love does not measure, it just gives”. She also said, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love”. and Mother Teresa also said, “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other”. Mr President, remember who we are, “we are the world”.

38.5 Belize has benefited from science, social and human sciences, culture, and the information and communication programmes. We have implemented micro-science kits in some of our high schools and expect to expand the programme. We have ratified the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions this year. We are also looking for key results to be achieved during 2016-2017. We embraced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 4. We embrace education for sustainable development (ESD). We embrace the Education 2030 Framework for Action and the Incheon Declaration. We will work to increase more access to schools, and increase quality in educational teaching and learning. We will continue to secure a healthy environment for our children to learn and will continue to address violence and discrimination of all types. Why? Because “we are the world”. We stand to respect diversity, practice fundamental human rights, provide safe spaces for our children to learn without fear and respect the dignity of every human being.

38.6 UNESCO is the world, Mr President. We, as a body and family, have been transformed because of some difficulties we had. But it worked out for the best. We did more with less. Nelson Mandela once said, “Difficulties break some men but make others”. We have been made through difficulties so “we are the world”. I want to make an appeal to the sheikh. Remember the sheikh who came here and gave us some good money? I want to make an appeal to Japan, to Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, South Korea, Germany, China, and all the rich countries. When you bring in your extrabudgetary funds, please remember to give Belize some and please remember to give some to the Caribbean. You know, I am scared to beg because “we are the world”.

38.7 Mr President, President John F. Kennedy said, “Change is the law of life”. And so if we will change for the better, let us not just utter words, but live by them. Maya Angelou once said, “We may encounter many defeats, but we must never be defeated”. UNESCO will never be defeated. I believe in UNESCO because “we are the world”. And if I had time I would sing the chorus for you “We are the world”. Thank you and God bless.

39. **The President:**

Thank you, Mr Anthony, for this passionate speech. And our next speaker is Ms Armgard Weihe, Deputy Secretary General of the Faroes National Commission for UNESCO. You have the floor.

40.1 **Ms Weihe (Faroes):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The role of UNESCO in “building peace in the minds of men and women” is more relevant than ever. Celebrating the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, we look forward to working together in the years to come. It is a great pleasure for me to attend this 38th session of the General Conference and on behalf of the Faroese Minister of Education, Research and Culture, Ms Rigmor Dam, to speak at this prominent session. Being an Associate Member since 2009, the Faroes value the opportunity of cooperation in this global forum, and I would like to congratulate Montserrat on becoming an Associate Member of UNESCO.

40.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out to take bold and transformative steps to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. The global and broad mandate puts UNESCO in a central position in contributing to reaching the ambitious goals formulated for the next 15 years. With an ambition of eradicating extreme poverty and securing peace, human rights, education, gender equality and freedom of expression are central to a successful outcome of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

40.3 The challenges are immense: poverty, inequalities, unemployment, conflicts, disasters and related humanitarian crises are present in an excessive degree. We face natural resources depletion and environmental degradation, and the impacts of climate change are increasingly affecting our lives. How can we overcome these adverse impacts on our planet? The global partnership calls for every single one of us to act.

40.4 Situated in the North Atlantic Ocean, the Faroe Islands for more than 70 years has developed a prosperous society and an increasingly self-governed nation under the external sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark. This development has called for continued capacity building in all parts of our society. Visioning a sustainable future with renewable energy, the Faroese Power Company, owned by the municipalities in the Faroe Islands, has set a target for the islands being 100% supplied by renewable energy by 2030. To an island society that only a few years ago was heavily dependent on fossil fuels these are ambitious targets and it was with much pride that the company received the Nordic Council Nature and Environment Prize 2015 at a prestigious ceremony held last week by the Nordic Council in Reykjavík. Immense effort and focused action will be needed in order to achieve the ambitious goal by 2030. Sharing knowledge and cooperation are key to achieving sustainable development and are highly relevant issues for UNESCO to foster.

40.5 UNESCO's work on education is of particular importance, as we strongly believe that the right to education for all is essential for societies to thrive. The Faroes welcome the commitment in the Education 2030 Framework for Action to inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all. Education is a basic human right and fundamental to sustainable development and so is creativity, art and heritage. The destruction of our shared cultural heritage is heart-breaking and we welcome actions taken by UNESCO in this matter including the "#Unite4heritage" campaign. We find that the standard-setting instruments in UNESCO's conventions and recommendations are of huge importance to national heritage management. Freedom of expression and the safety of journalists are issues that concern all of us and are valuable parts of UNESCO's work.

40.6 In terms of gender equality, I am proud to inform you that for the first time, the Government of the Faroes has achieved gender equality, as the share of men and women holding posts as ministers in the Government is fifty-fifty – after all, gender equality is a necessary foundation for the creation of a sustainable and peaceful society. Thank you for your attention.

41. **Le Président :**

Merci, Madame Weihe. Le prochain orateur est S. E. M. Federico Renjifo, délégué permanent de la Colombie à l'UNESCO.

42.1 **Sr. Renjifo (Colombia):**

Señor Presidente, señoras y señores ministros, jefes de delegación, embajadores y delegados: deseo comenzar citando las palabras del Presidente de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, al dirigirse a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas este año: "La paz es el bien supremo de una sociedad —el más sagrado— y la razón de ser del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. El legado más valioso que podemos dejarle a las futuras generaciones es la paz. ¡Nada puede haber más importante ni más urgente!". Colombia está recorriendo el camino final hacia una solución real a un conflicto armado que inició hace cincuenta años, y que confiamos concluya en el año 2016 con los acuerdos de paz. Una Colombia en paz será una Colombia con más oportunidades para todos donde sigamos disminuyendo la pobreza, garantizando más y mejor educación y generando empleo. Esa paz tan anhelada nos lleva a inventar una nueva forma de convivencia. Nos conduce al perdón, a la reconciliación, a la esperanza. Y esto hace que nuestra presencia en esta Conferencia cobre un nuevo sentido.

42.2 Pero una paz verdaderamente duradera solo se podrá construir fundamentada sobre una sociedad más justa e incluyente. Y por ello en este momento histórico para mi país, los valores esenciales de la UNESCO coinciden con la bitácora que orienta nuestro desarrollo. No en vano los tres pilares del gobierno de Colombia son la paz, la equidad, y la educación. En este contexto, la educación juega un papel central en el escenario del posconflicto. A través de las Cátedras para la Paz y del Sistema Nacional de Convivencia del Ministerio de Educación Nacional, se abren espacios de diálogo en el interior de las aulas en torno a la construcción de una sociedad más democrática, participativa y pluralista. Este camino recorrido nos permitirá cumplir mejor los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la Agenda 2030. Colombia integró el Grupo Trabajo Abierto de la Asamblea General sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y en esa medida saluda la reciente aprobación del Marco de Acción Educación 2030 y reafirma su profundo compromiso con él.

42.3 En el ámbito de la cultura, Colombia ha trabajado en la aplicación efectiva de las convenciones de la UNESCO, desarrollando políticas apropiadas para el contexto nacional. El país reconoce que hay grandes retos que exigen profundizar y priorizar su implementación, como las amenazas al patrimonio, incluidas las situaciones de conflicto, y el tráfico y la expropiación ilícita. Resaltamos la importancia de todas aquellas políticas que vinculen a la cultura con el desarrollo. Este año Colombia logró la inscripción, junto con cinco países de la región, del sistema vial andino Qhapaq Ñan en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial, bien que precisa una gestión transnacional a escala continental. Asimismo, Colombia destaca el retiro de la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial en Peligro del Parque Nacional Los Katíos, ejemplo único en materia de cumplimiento de las recomendaciones del Comité para reforzar su estructura de manejo. Finalmente, reiteramos nuestra solidaridad con los países que están siendo víctimas de la destrucción de su patrimonio cultural. Entendemos el enorme impacto de la pérdida de vidas y del patrimonio de la humanidad como la pérdida irreparable de la memoria, y apoyamos decididamente los esfuerzos de la UNESCO en reacción a estos lamentables hechos.

42.4 Es preciso señalar que para Colombia la riqueza biológica representa una herramienta única para el desarrollo económico y social a largo plazo. El país cuenta con cerca del 14% de la biodiversidad del planeta, y por ello considera fundamental el Programa MAB, a través del cual ha trabajado para lograr una relación equilibrada entre el ser humano,

su medio ambiente, y el desarrollo sostenible en sus cinco reservas de biosfera. Aplaudimos la presentación de la Estrategia del MAB para 2015-2025 y valoramos el trabajo preparatorio hacia la formulación de un plan de acción. No obstante, somos altamente vulnerables a los efectos del cambio climático. La mitigación y la adaptación son prioridades en la política ambiental nacional y esperamos que la COP 21 incluya compromisos vinculantes que reemplacen el Protocolo de Kyoto. Colombia también otorga la mayor importancia a los océanos y a su incidencia en el cambio climático, reafirma su compromiso con la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental como miembro de su Consejo Ejecutivo, y como país sede de su Subcomisión para IOCARIBE en Cartagena.

42.5 En concordancia con el mandato de la UNESCO, reconocemos en el deporte una herramienta de cohesión social y promoción del desarrollo integral. Nuestras políticas se dirigen en forma prioritaria a las poblaciones en situación de vulnerabilidad, en condición de desplazamiento forzado y en proceso de reintegración social. Estamos abocados a hacer de Colombia un país donde el deporte esté a la vuelta de la esquina de la casa de cada niño, en la ruta hacia su colegio, en su barrio. Por eso participamos de manera activa y comprometida en el Comité Intergubernamental para la Educación Física y el Deporte. Colombia reafirma el mandato de la UNESCO de ampliar y asegurar el acceso a la información y el conocimiento, principio fundamental de la libertad de expresión, derecho sin el cual es imposible pensar en la democracia.

42.6 La estrategia de Colombia para el mejoramiento del acceso a las comunicaciones es el Plan Vive Digital, mediante el cual se ha dado un gran salto tecnológico a través de la masificación del uso de Internet con el fin de reducir la pobreza y generar empleo. Este Plan fue reconocido como la mejor política del mundo en su género en el año 2012, logrando transformaciones que incluyen haber pasado de 2 a 10 millones de conexiones a Internet en el territorio nacional, y de 24 a 9 niños que comparten un computador o tableta en las escuelas públicas. Para concluir, deseo agradecer los esfuerzos de la Irina Bokova para sacar adelante los objetivos de esta Organización; permítanme reiterar en nombre del Presidente de Colombia, nuestra convicción de que la UNESCO tiene un papel trascendente que cumplir en la construcción de la paz y la efectiva implementación de una nueva agenda de desarrollo para fomentar un futuro más equitativo y sostenible. Muchas gracias.

(42.1) **M. Renjifo** (Colombie) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, chefs de délégations, ambassadeurs et délégués, permettez-moi de commencer par citer les mots prononcés par le Président de la Colombie, M. Juan Manuel Santos, lorsqu'il s'est exprimé devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies cette année : « La paix est le bien suprême d'une société – le plus sacré – et la raison d'être de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. La paix est ce que nous pouvons transmettre de plus précieux aux générations futures. Rien n'est plus important ni plus urgent ! » La Colombie est en passe d'aboutir à une réelle solution face au conflit armé qui a éclaté il y a cinquante ans, et auquel nous espérons mettre fin en 2016 grâce aux accords de paix. Une Colombie en paix sera une Colombie offrant davantage d'opportunités à tous et où nous continuerons à faire reculer la pauvreté, à garantir une éducation plus étendue et de meilleure qualité et à créer de l'emploi. Cette paix tant désirée nous invite à inventer une nouvelle forme de cohabitation. Elle nous conduit au pardon, à la réconciliation et à l'espoir. Et cela confère une signification nouvelle à notre présence lors de cette Conférence.

(42.2) Mais il ne sera possible d'inscrire la paix dans la durée qu'en la fondant sur une société plus juste et plus inclusive. Et c'est pourquoi, en ce moment historique pour mon pays, les valeurs fondamentales de l'UNESCO s'accordent avec la feuille de route qui guide notre développement. En effet, les trois piliers du Gouvernement colombien sont la paix, l'égalité et l'éducation. Dans ce contexte, l'éducation joue un rôle central dans le scénario post-conflit. Par le biais des Chaires pour la paix et du système national de cohabitation du Ministère de l'éducation nationale, des espaces de dialogue s'ouvrent au sein des salles de classes autour du thème de la construction d'une société plus démocratique, participative et pluraliste. Ce chemin parcouru nous permettra de mieux atteindre les objectifs de développement durable du Programme 2030. La Colombie a participé au Groupe de travail de l'Assemblée générale sur les objectifs de développement durable et salue à cet égard la récente approbation du Cadre d'action Education 2030 en réaffirmant son profond engagement en la matière.

(42.3) Dans le domaine de la culture, la Colombie a œuvré en faveur de l'application effective des conventions de l'UNESCO, en mettant en place des politiques adaptées à la réalité nationale. Le pays est conscient des grands défis qui exigent que leur mise en œuvre soit renforcée en lui accordant la priorité, comme les menaces contre le patrimoine, y compris les situations de conflit, ainsi que le trafic et l'expropriation illicite. Nous soulignons l'importance de toutes ces politiques qui font le lien entre la culture et le développement. Cette année, la Colombie a obtenu l'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, avec cinq pays de la région, du réseau de routes andin « *Qhapac Ñan* », qui nécessite une gestion transnationale à l'échelle du continent. De même, la Colombie appelle l'attention sur le retrait de la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril du Parc national *Los Katíos*, exemple unique en matière d'application des recommandations du Comité prônant de renforcer sa structure de direction. Enfin, nous réaffirmons notre solidarité avec les pays victimes de la destruction de leur patrimoine culturel. Nous considérons les lourdes conséquences des pertes de vies humaines et du patrimoine de l'humanité comme une perte irréversible de la mémoire, et appuyons résolument les efforts de l'UNESCO en réaction à ces événements regrettables.

(42.4) Il faut signaler ici que la richesse biologique représente pour la Colombie un facteur unique de développement économique et social à long terme. Le pays, qui renferme près de 14 % de la biodiversité de la planète, juge essentiel le Programme MAB, avec l'aide duquel il s'est efforcé d'instaurer des relations équilibrées entre l'être humain, son environnement et le développement durable dans ses cinq réserves de biosphère. Nous nous félicitons de la présentation de la Stratégie du Programme MAB pour 2015-2025 et saluons le travail préparatoire à l'élaboration d'un plan d'action. Cependant, nous sommes extrêmement vulnérables face aux effets du changement climatique. L'atténuation de ses effets et l'adaptation à ceux-ci sont des priorités de la politique environnementale nationale et nous espérons que la COP-21 prévoira des engagements contraignants en remplacement du Protocole de Kyoto. La Colombie, qui accorde également la plus haute importance aux océans et à leur incidence sur le changement climatique, réaffirme son attachement à la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale en tant que Membre du Conseil exécutif et que pays hôte de la Sous-commission de la COI pour l'IOCARIBE à Cartagena.

(42.5) En accord avec le mandat de l'UNESCO, nous considérons le sport comme un instrument de cohésion sociale et de promotion du développement intégral. Nos politiques s'adressent en priorité aux populations qui connaissent une situation de vulnérabilité ou de déplacement forcé, ou sont en cours de réinsertion sociale. Nous sommes déterminés à faire de la

Colombie un pays où chaque enfant pourrait accéder au sport au coin de sa rue, sur le chemin de l'école, dans son quartier. C'est pourquoi nous participons de manière active et engagée au Comité intergouvernemental pour l'éducation physique et le sport. La Colombie réaffirme le mandat de l'UNESCO qui vise à élargir et garantir l'accès à l'information et au savoir, principe fondamental de la liberté d'expression et droit sans lequel il est impossible d'envisager la démocratie.

(42.6) La stratégie de la Colombie en vue d'améliorer l'accès aux communications s'applique dans le cadre du Plan *Vive Digital*, qui a permis d'effectuer un grand bond technologique en généralisant massivement l'usage d'Internet afin de réduire la pauvreté et créer de l'emploi. Ce plan, reconnu comme la meilleure politique de ce type dans le monde pour l'année 2012, a obtenu des résultats tels que le passage de 2 à 10 millions de connexions Internet sur le territoire national, et d'un ordinateur ou tablette pour 9 enfants au lieu de 24 dans les écoles publiques. Pour conclure, je souhaite remercier Mme Irina Bokova pour les efforts qu'elle déploie en vue de mener à bien les objectifs de cette Organisation. Permettez-moi de réaffirmer, au nom du Président de la Colombie, notre conviction que l'UNESCO a un rôle déterminant à jouer dans l'édification de la paix et la mise en œuvre effective d'un nouveau Programme de développement, en vue de promouvoir un avenir plus équitable et plus durable. Je vous remercie.

Mr Simataa resumes the Chair

43. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Janeil Henry, Secretary-General of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission for UNESCO. You have the floor, Madam.

44.1 **Ms Henry (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines congratulates you on your election to the Presidency of the General Conference and wishes you every success. May I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Mr Hao Ping, and the Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, for their outstanding leadership and commitment during their respective tenures. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes Montserrat, our sister Caribbean Island, as an Associate Member of UNESCO.

44.2 Mr President, small island developing States (SIDS) are a priority target group for the Organization. We look to UNESCO to ensure that programmes and activities in all areas of competency meet the needs of this special group of countries and are adequately funded. Our priorities are education and climate change and its negative effects on the islands. We look forward to deepened cooperation that would also enable us to build inclusive knowledge societies for sustainable development and to protect our heritage and foster creativity.

44.3 We therefore welcome UNESCO's draft action plan for SIDS and look forward to adopting it at the 199th session of the Executive Board. We aim to integrate in the future a mechanism identifying the specific activities that would directly benefit SIDS. We are aware that extrabudgetary funds are needed to cover this action plan. This will require a structured dialogue with the donors.

44.4 Mr President, clearly the challenges, both for UNESCO and for Member States, arising from the post-2015 development agenda and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are considerable. SIDS will need your support if they are to achieve these goals by 2030 and we think UNESCO is well placed to help provide this through its high-level expertise, capacity building, policy advice and mutual cooperation.

44.5 Goals which are especially important to my country include SDG 4, that is, to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities" and SDG 13 to "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts". We look forward to UNESCO contributing in a leading and coordination role on education and also to participating in the delivery of SDG 13. In this regard, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believes that the functions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) are closely linked to Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 14 and that its role should be strengthened.

44.6 Mr President, our key challenge remains finding ways to adapt and mitigate climate change. Climate change is wreaking havoc on the social and economic life of Caribbean countries. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, we recall the destructive floods of December 2013 with many homes destroyed, lives lost, roads and other communications disrupted and extensively damaged. We cannot wait for more disasters to strike. We call upon UNESCO to help us to continue to improve our preparedness ahead of imminent natural disasters through early-warning systems; and identify and strengthen scientific communities across the region.

44.7 We welcome the Education 2030 Framework for Action, which UNESCO launched in response to Sustainable Development Goal 4. In line with the new targets, we call on UNESCO to prioritize quality teaching through appropriate methods, including quality teacher training and development. Our country continues to focus on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and the development of skills for the workplace, particularly among youth. We aim to reform TVET so that we have an enhanced and sustainable system.

44.8 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines hopes that efforts will continue to be made to strengthen the relationship between the Secretariat and field offices which are at the centre of delivering UNESCO's mandate. We remind the Secretariat that we need adequate resources so that our plans and programmes can be properly executed, ultimately raising the visibility of the Organization. We believe that UNESCO, through its intersectoral action, can contribute more than ever in a world of conflicts. Culture of peace should be a continuous action to encourage more dialogue and reconciliation, and to spread the message of tolerance and mutual understanding so as to build a better world. Mr President, I wish to reiterate my country's commitment to UNESCO and pledge continued support to achieving the mandate of this esteemed Organization. I thank you.

45. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. The next speaker is His Excellency Mr Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Switzerland to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

46.1 **M. Jauslin** (Suisse) :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, et, comme on dit dans mon pays, Grüezi mitenand! Il y a 15 ans déjà, le passage à l'an 2000 fut l'occasion d'innombrables promesses. Cette euphorie d'alors, désormais dépassée malheureusement, a été rattrapée par la complexité de la mondialisation, de ses interactions et de ses crises. Aujourd'hui, la communauté internationale est prise entre conflits et perspectives, entre attentes et responsabilités, à la recherche de propositions concertées. Afin d'éviter un repli plus grand, un danger plus imminent, nous avons le devoir de prendre nos responsabilités politiques tout en respectant l'esprit multilatéral souvent mis à mal. Ce défi est immense et pourtant, nous devons nous souvenir que les Nations Unies, et l'UNESCO en particulier, sont les enfants de la guerre. Nous sommes les porteurs de la paix. Il est donc de notre responsabilité de préparer l'avenir grâce à des organisations inventives et prospectives.

46.2 Ces dernières années, l'UNESCO a dû se réformer de manière drastique. Ses réformes sont positives. Pourtant, n'oublions pas qu'elle a été affaiblie, notamment par la suspension de la contribution américaine, et réduite dans sa capacité d'action. L'impact de cette décision nationale est regrettable. Dans ce sens, nous avons pris bonne note aujourd'hui des propos du délégué américain qui nous a fait des promesses, et nous espérons qu'il va les tenir. Si l'on veut que l'UNESCO joue un rôle primordial au sein de la communauté internationale, si l'on veut que l'UNESCO fasse partie d'une architecture onusienne modernisée, tous les moyens financiers et opérationnels doivent être mis en œuvre. Les défis frappent à notre porte, nous ne devons pas les laisser passer. Ces défis sont les extrémismes, les destructions culturelles, les dénis de démocratie, de justice ou de liberté ; ils doivent être impérativement combattus.

46.3 Dans ce contexte, la Suisse est attachée à trois objectifs. Le premier vise à une meilleure interaction entre les institutions onusiennes – de Paris, de Genève et de New York – afin de créer une synergie encore plus efficace. Le deuxième est un meilleur dialogue entre les membres de l'UNESCO, afin de déterminer nos objectifs communs. Le troisième est une meilleure gouvernance à exploiter avec audace, afin de faciliter la prise de décision. Je répète : interaction, dialogue et gouvernance sont les trois piliers de notre stratégie, au niveau de la Suisse, pour l'UNESCO. Nous devons davantage réfléchir à l'action de l'UNESCO, à sa fonction et à ses moyens. La Suisse estime que le projet de budget 2016-2017 de l'UNESCO représente un pas dans la bonne direction car il ouvre de nouvelles perspectives. C'est pourquoi nous le soutenons.

46.4 Dans le domaine de l'éducation, le budget doit permettre à l'UNESCO d'assumer son rôle de coordination de l'Objectif 4 de l'Agenda 2030. La Suisse est prête à accompagner activement la tâche qui revient à l'UNESCO d'animer le dialogue politique participatif requis pour la mise en œuvre du Cadre d'action Education 2030, celui que nous avons adopté formellement ce 4 novembre. La Suisse va continuer à appuyer le travail de suivi et d'évaluation de l'UNESCO. Ce travail doit servir les États membres dans l'application de leur politique et dans la réalisation de leurs objectifs.

46.5 Dans le domaine de la science, il est impératif que la recherche de nouvelles technologies nous concerne tous. L'innovation change profondément nos règles économiques, politiques et sociales. L'UNESCO a un devoir fondamental vis-à-vis de la science. Elle doit se placer en précurseur en facilitant les échanges entre les milieux académiques et les milieux diplomatiques.

46.6 Enfin, il est urgent de répondre aux enjeux culturels. Il s'agit tout d'abord d'accroître la ratification des Conventions, de soutenir leur transcription dans les législations nationales et de s'assurer de l'effectivité de leur mise en œuvre. En outre, l'agenda de la culture doit trouver un écho bien au-delà de l'UNESCO. Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, le Conseil des droits de l'homme, la Cour pénale internationale, les forums humanitaires doivent tous être mobilisés afin de compléter et de renforcer la protection de la culture dans sa dimension tant matérielle qu'immatérielle.

46.7 Enfin, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'aimerais terminer mon propos sur un aspect qui nous importe au plus haut point dans mon pays : la protection du patrimoine culturel en danger. La Suisse a développé et mis en vigueur une législation innovante en la matière. Elle est notamment le premier pays au monde à proposer la mise à disposition d'un refuge pour la mise à l'abri temporaire de biens culturels en danger (*Safe Haven*). Sachez que ce refuge est opérationnel dans mon pays et que ses modalités d'application – qu'il s'agisse du transport, du stockage, de la conservation ou de la restitution des biens – sont clairement définies. C'est la raison pour laquelle, Madame la Directrice générale, la Suisse attend avec impatience de l'UNESCO qu'elle se fasse la promotrice de cet engagement pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine et y apporte sa caution morale et que des accords concrets puissent être conclus. Certaines parties de notre patrimoine culturel mondial sont aujourd'hui en grand danger, il est de notre devoir de les sauver. La Suisse est prête à jouer un rôle actif dans ce domaine. La Suisse est prête à jouer un rôle actif et significatif à l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Elaine Ayotte, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

48.1 **Mme Ayotte** (Canada) :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le représentant de la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis honorée de prononcer cette allocution au nom du Canada en ce 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO. Le Canada a une longue et fière tradition de chef de file sur la scène internationale. Nous avons joué un rôle constructif dans la création de l'UNESCO – avant, pendant et après la Conférence de Londres. Notre nouveau Premier Ministre, Justin Trudeau, compte affirmer haut et fort que le Canada renforcera ce rôle actif et constructif dans le système onusien et d'autres

organisations multilatérales. Qu'il s'agisse de la lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent, de la lutte contre la pauvreté, de la lutte contre les inégalités basées sur le genre : un multilatéralisme efficace « inscrit à l'enseigne du dialogue des cultures » n'a jamais été aussi urgent.

48.2 En matière d'éducation, l'UNESCO doit servir de plate-forme entre les différents partenaires et ordres de gouvernements compétents en la matière, et favoriser le développement d'indicateurs, la collecte de données et le suivi de la mise en œuvre de l'Objectif de développement durable (ODD) 4. Le Canada retient l'importance de l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO (ISU), dont le siège est chez nous, à Montréal, et appuie fièrement la préparation du Rapport mondial de suivi de l'Éducation (GEM). Source première de données fiables et comparables en éducation à travers le monde, ce rapport s'inspire fortement de données de l'Institut.

48.3 Il y a beaucoup à faire pour soutenir les plus pauvres et les plus vulnérables, particulièrement ceux qui sont touchés par des conflits armés ou des situations d'urgence. Nous le martelons à notre tour, 120 millions d'enfants et de jeunes, dont la majorité des filles, ne sont toujours pas scolarisés. C'est inadmissible. Nous devons trouver les moyens de faire en sorte que tous les enfants et les jeunes aient accès à une éducation de qualité dans un environnement sécuritaire, et qu'ils apprennent et développent des compétences qui leur permettent de contribuer à cette « communauté de destinées » qu'a évoquée M. Hao Ping.

48.4 Je suis donc heureuse d'annoncer que l'UNESCO et notre commission nationale organiseront à Ottawa, en 2017, année du 150^e anniversaire du Canada, le Forum d'évaluation du Programme d'action global pour l'éducation au développement durable et le 3^e Forum de l'UNESCO sur l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale. L'UNESCO et la Commission canadienne uniront à nouveau leurs efforts afin de positionner l'inclusion, la diversité et l'élimination de toute forme de discrimination comme vecteurs d'un développement urbain durable et équitable lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le logement et le développement urbain durable (Habitat III).

48.5 L'UNESCO contribuera aux Objectifs de développement durable en s'assurant que ses programmes ciblent l'égalité des genres et l'autonomie de toutes les femmes et filles et en veillant à ce que ses indicateurs y soient sensibles. L'UNESCO doit, sans relâche, promouvoir la liberté d'expression, l'accès du public à l'information, les données ouvertes, et le respect des libertés fondamentales. La sécurité des journalistes est cruciale. Tout aussi essentielle est la promotion d'un Internet accessible et libre d'entraves, s'appuyant sur les droits de la personne et un modèle de gouvernance multipartenaires.

48.6 Monsieur le Président, la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, notamment à l'ère du numérique, est également une priorité pour le Canada, et pour le Québec qui, depuis neuf ans, joue un rôle actif au sein de notre délégation auprès de l'UNESCO. Je salue, ici, la contribution supplémentaire du Gouvernement du Québec au Fonds international pour la diversité culturelle, et sa mise à disposition chaque année au service de l'UNESCO de plusieurs jeunes diplômés, en qualité de stagiaires.

48.7 S'inspirant des conclusions du Forum des jeunes, l'UNESCO doit donner vie à son cadre d'action intégré « Engager la jeunesse pour une paix durable » qui souligne l'importance des interventions intersectorielles. Ce bel exemple doit faire boule de neige.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais.)

48.8 Mr President, unfortunately, racism and anti-Semitism remain scourges which affect all societies to different degrees. This year, Canada supported the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, and co-financed a follow-up seminar to help countries integrate Holocaust education into their educational curricula. Remembering the victims of the Shoah, learning about this dark chapter in world history and reflecting on the dangers of anti-Semitism give new resolve to the words "never again".

48.9 Recent attacks on heritage, the study of history, and science must be seen as attacks on our common humanity. Intentional destructions, notably in the ancient city of Palmyra and the murder of its former curator, are truly unspeakable acts. As a country built on, and strengthened by, its multicultural diversity, Canada supports the Director-General's efforts to reinforce UNESCO action to protect cultural heritage and stress the importance of heritage and diversity in other United Nations fora.

48.10 Mr President, perhaps no issue reminds us more that we are all part of one world than the threat to our collective well-being posed by climate change. Canada takes this challenge seriously and will make real contributions to reductions in our emission of greenhouse gases in support of an effective post-2020 climate change agreement. UNESCO will, of course, have an important follow-up role to play in its areas of competence. In this regard, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) remind us of the important role that sound and independent science must play in government decisions.

48.11 One critical question we still face is how to finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Canada therefore welcomes a structured financing dialogue within UNESCO. A key objective must be further progress in implementing results-based budgeting and in demonstrating results. Mr President, let us make the Director-General's call for dialogue and consensus our own in order to push forward UNESCO's mandates. Thank you.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Hersey Kyota, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Palau to the United States of America. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

50.1 **Mr Kyota (Palau):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Members of the Executive Board, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of my delegation, let me congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I would also like to commend you, Madam Director-General, for your wisdom and commitment to the principles of UNESCO, and your leadership and hard work in keeping this House in order.

50.2 Sixteen years ago, I had the distinct honour and privilege to give our inaugural and acceptance address to the 30th session of the General Conference, after signing the legal instrument in London to become the newest member of UNESCO on September 20, 1999. We have treasured our membership in this august body in the last 16 years and are looking forward to the next 16 years.

50.3 In Palau, we continue to reform and improve our education system. Our culture and traditions are practised every day in homes, in schools, workplaces and public and private public gatherings as we strive to preserve our way for life for generations to come. Thanks to UNESCO, Palau has received funding assistance in the areas of education, gender equality, language, cultural preservation and environmental protection.

50.4 Because environment is so important to us as an island State, my remarks today will focus on conservation and protection of the environment. "Preserve the best and improve the rest" - a simple phrase coined by President Remengesau in the early 1990s, which quickly became a popular slogan, synonymous with the environment. From that very slogan, conservation and protection of the environment became his passion. In 2005, he issued an initiative and challenged the leaders of our Micronesia region to sign up to it. This initiative launched in Rio in 2006 is known as the Micronesia Challenge, designed to preserve 20% of our terrestrial areas and 30% of our offshore area by 2020. Little did we know, the Challenge inspired other regions to do the same. Under the Micronesia Challenge, protected area networks (PAN) were established in designated reefs and marine areas around Palau. In 2009, at the United Nations General Assembly, Palau declared its territorial water as a shark sanctuary, becoming the first country in the world to do so.

50.5 About a year and half ago, President Remengesau took yet another challenge, and I am happy to report today that with the approval of our Congress, such a challenge has become a reality. On 28 October 2015, just a few days ago, President Remengesau signed into law the Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act, creating one of the world's largest marine sanctuaries, designating over 80% of our exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as a safe haven for sharks, whales, tuna and countless other precious marine species. This law will protect and preserve our marine species by banning commercial fishing and deep sea mining in 80% of our EEZ. With the negative effects of climate change and decline of our fish stocks threatening our livelihood and food security, Palau saw the need to protect and preserve its oceans for the sake and future of our people.

50.6 For thousands of years, our ancestors depended on the ocean for sustenance and survival. Today our dependency has expanded to include economic and recreation activities. But with the threat of climate change and over-fishing by illegal and unlicensed fishing vessels poaching in our oceans, our economic security and survival are being threatened. Palau, like many small island developing States (SIDS), continues to face challenges in protecting our oceans and sea-based resources. Our President has emphasized time and again that "our environment is our economy and our economy is our environment". We are convinced that our action to close off our EEZ is a step in the right direction if we are to save our ocean and we welcome technical and scientific support from UNESCO and donor partners to achieve this goal.

50.7 On behalf of the President, the traditional leaders, the people and the Government of Palau, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to UNESCO, and especially to the Director-General, Ms Bokova, for her continued support and assistance. We look forward to engaging and working with you to meet our obligations to this great Organization. I am confident that through our collective effort and cooperation, we can make a difference. Thank you very much.

51. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr George Mina, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

52.1 **Mr Mina (Australia):**

Mr President, Mr Deputy Director-General, distinguished delegates. May I, Mr President, congratulate you on your election to this important post and wish you well for the challenges that lie ahead. You take up this important role in UNESCO's 70th year. At its inception, the founders of the Charter of the United Nations recognized there was a need for a body such as UNESCO to reinforce the United Nation's broader objectives. International peace and security could not be achieved through political and economic might alone. Australia is proud to have been one of UNESCO's founding members.

52.2 Today, we are just as committed to UNESCO – and the United Nations system more broadly – as we were when it was established. Our Prime Minister, the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, reiterated this commitment only a few weeks ago at our own 70th anniversary celebrations, when 35 iconic sites across Australia were lit blue. Two of these were UNESCO world heritage sites: the Sydney Opera House and Uluru. He spoke about the vitally important role the UNESCO and the United Nations continue to play in maintaining international peace and security; protecting the world's most vulnerable people; bringing together nations to address global challenges. He noted that the United Nations is alone in having the legitimacy and convening power to bring together 193 Member States to cooperate on issues that affect us all.

52.3 We all know that the United Nations and UNESCO's anniversary celebrations come at a time when countries must, more than ever, work together to address global challenges. We face multiple seemingly intractable conflicts, new

manifestations of terrorism and the struggle to win over minds to the cause of radicalization, particularly among our youth. Indeed, since we last gathered here in Paris, only two years ago, we have seen how these conflicts are impacting not only on the lives and livelihoods of millions of innocent people, but destroying precious antiquities and our cultural heritage. This deliberate destruction is an abhorrent crime and an assault on the very essence of humankind. It represents nothing less than an attempted assault on civilization itself.

52.4 We have witnessed an alarming rise in violent extremism, with terrorist activity no longer just the remit of large, identifiable organizations, but promulgated amongst an increasing number of rogue, disaffected individuals, with crude but effective tools to inflict significant damage on innocent lives. For these reasons, we welcome UNESCO's engagement in resolutions to support the protection of our common cultural heritage. We congratulate the Director-General on her particular efforts to condemn destruction of cultural heritage. We also support the High-Level Side Event on Preventing Violent Extremism through Education, which is continuing in parallel with this session today, recognizing as we do the importance of grassroots, community engagement to prevent the radicalization of youth at risk. We support the Director-General's focus on engaging youth in this effort.

52.5 World heritage is also under threat from competing pressures associated with development and human-induced climate change. In Australia, we have faced our own challenges with the Great Barrier Reef. A year ago, the Reef was facing the possibility of being inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee had sent a very strong message to those responsible for the management of the Reef. A year later, the Committee was pleased to see that its message had been acknowledged and acted on in a powerful and well-resourced set of policies and actions. Our experience has reinforced the role of the world heritage regime as a powerful global tool in accompanying national efforts to preserve our common heritage.

52.6 With the move to a knowledge-intense society, human capital and the power of education are ever more critical. It is time now to unite in support of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on education. Articulating and agreeing on this goal was a major achievement. Just two days ago, we adopted the Education 2030 Framework for Action. It is now time to contribute practically on the ground. We need to shape education norms in this era of globalization. Never before have there been so many students studying outside their own countries, developing skills and qualifications that can and should be transferable. That is why Australia supports a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications to support the growing global mobility of our best minds.

52.7 UNESCO is celebrating its 70th anniversary and we would like to congratulate the Organization for achieving this remarkable milestone. Mr President, Australia is proud to have associated itself through the 70-year journey as a founding member, as an active contributor through the years and as a strong supporter today of its mission, values and contribution to our common future.

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Rachel Annick Ogoula Akiko, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Gabon to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

54.1 **Mme Ogoula Akiko (Gabon) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, au moment où il me revient de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée au nom de mon pays, le Gabon, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre désignation judicieuse à la présidence de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je suis convaincue que votre riche expérience sera pour nous le gage d'un succès assuré.

54.2 Je salue également la présence parmi nous de Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de notre Organisation. Son engagement sans faille a su insuffler un nouvel élan à notre Maison, et ce dans un contexte inédit.

54.3 Monsieur le Président, la tenue tous les deux ans de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, instance privilégiée d'échange et de partage entre nos différents pays, a toujours été un moment fort de notre Organisation. Je saisis cette opportunité pour réaffirmer l'engagement du Gabon aux côtés de l'UNESCO et réitérer avec force notre complète adhésion aux valeurs énoncées dans son Acte constitutif. En effet, le Gabon croit également en l'édification d'un monde de paix, par la prévention des conflits, l'élimination de la pauvreté, le développement durable, le dialogue interculturel, l'éducation, les sciences, la culture et les technologies de l'information et de la communication. C'est donc dans cet esprit, et mobilisé autour de ces valeurs, que le Gabon s'emploie à investir ses efforts aux côtés de l'UNESCO. Les nombreuses visites d'amitié et de travail que la Directrice générale a effectuées au Gabon, à l'invitation de S. E. M. Ali Bongo Ondimba, Président de la République, Chef de l'État, en sont la preuve. Aussi voudrais-je ajouter que ce partenariat nous est précieux dans la poursuite de nos objectifs de développement et de construction nationale.

54.4 Monsieur le Président, en matière d'éducation, le Gabon a été présent tout au long du processus qui a conduit à la mise en place du nouveau programme appelé « Éducation 2030 », après celui de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) adopté en 2000 et dont l'échéance arrive à terme. Comme chacun sait, ce programme a conduit à l'inscription, dans l'agenda mondial post-2015, d'un cadre d'action qui vise à assurer une éducation inclusive et équitable pour tous et à promouvoir les possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie. Nous nous réjouissons de son adoption, qui place la problématique de la qualité de l'éducation au centre de la stratégie. Cette question interpelle au plus haut point mon pays, dont le système éducatif est caractérisé par un accès réussi à l'éducation universelle et par une parité parfaite entre filles et garçons, mais qui doit améliorer davantage la qualité de l'enseignement.

54.5 Monsieur le Président, dans le domaine des technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC), l'UNESCO et Airtel Gabon ont signé un accord de partenariat, le 16 octobre 2014, pour appuyer la formation scientifique

de 5 000 jeunes Gabonais âgés de 17 à 35 ans afin de promouvoir l'entrepreneuriat africain dans ce secteur. Ce projet, dénommé « Train My Generation », a été initié par le Président de la République, Chef de l'État, lors de la deuxième édition du New York Forum Africa.

54.6 Dans le domaine de la communication, le Gabon enregistre, depuis plusieurs années, des progrès encourageants en termes de pluralisme des médias ainsi que de liberté d'expression et d'information. Ceci est d'ailleurs confirmé par l'adoption, au cours de cette année 2015, d'une loi fixant les conditions d'exercice des activités de communication. Cette législation innovante consacre la dépénalisation des délits de presse et établit l'application des peines pécuniaires.

54.7 En matière de culture, notre pays a adopté un instrument normatif intitulé « Les grands axes de la politique culturelle en République gabonaise », qui fixe un cadre de travail concerté. En effet, le Gabon souhaite faire de la culture un outil au service du développement, de la lutte contre la pauvreté et de la paix, en conformité avec les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) adoptés en septembre dernier à New York. Nous sommes heureux que les priorités qui y sont définies soient en parfaite cohérence avec celles prévues par l'UNESCO en matière de préservation du patrimoine, de promotion de la créativité et de démocratie culturelle.

54.8 Par ailleurs, notre pays a réalisé de nombreux progrès dans le Secteur des sciences humaines et sociales au cours de ces dernières années. Ainsi, en matière de droits de l'homme, après avoir adopté en 2005 le Plan d'action du programme mondial en faveur de l'éducation aux droits de l'homme, le Gabon a élaboré un manuel sur les droits de l'enfant destiné aux écoles nationales de formation professionnelle. L'objectif de cette action est de développer les connaissances des enseignants sur les droits de l'enfant. Ce manuel sera utilisé, à partir de cette année académique, dans les écoles de la magistrature, de la police et de la gendarmerie nationales.

54.9 Monsieur le Président, c'est sur ces mots que je voudrais clore mon propos, sans oublier de rappeler une fois de plus, à l'occasion de son 70^e anniversaire, notre attachement à l'UNESCO qui reste la structure irremplaçable pour la poursuite des idéaux de paix, de tolérance, de respect de l'autre, de dialogue, de protection de l'environnement et, partant, de promotion du développement durable. Je vous remercie.

55. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Mariano Ebang Ebang Anguesomo, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Equatorial Guinea to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

56.1 **Sr. Anguesomo** (Guinea Ecuatorial):

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General de la UNESCO, honorables delegados, señoras y señores: ante todo felicito al Presidente por su brillante elección para dirigir los trabajos de esta 38^a reunión de la Conferencia General, así como saludamos la acertada integración a esta gran familia de la UNESCO del Estado caribeño de la Isla de Montserrat como Miembro Asociado. Transmito a esta Conferencia General los saludos fraternales del pueblo de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial y de su Presidente, su excelencia Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, quienes se congratulan por la celebración del septuagésimo aniversario de la UNESCO y del Foro de Dirigentes, actos que van a tener lugar durante la presente reunión. Auguramos asimismo que las recomendaciones y resoluciones que se tomen constituyan el mejor catalizador para construir una sociedad más equilibrada y libre de los actuales conflictos que provocan los incesantes flujos migratorios y desequilibrios sociales que frenan la evolución y desarrollo normal de la humanidad.

56.2 En este sentido, me complace, señor Presidente, expresarle los mejores deseos de que los trabajos de esta Conferencia General sirvan de orientación a los Estados Miembros para promover una cultura de paz, una educación de calidad para todos los seres humanos, así como reafirmar los valores positivos de la cultura para su emancipación, su seguridad e integridad física y moral, con vistas a alcanzar los objetivos de la Educación para Todos (EPT) (2015-2030). Nuestro país valora en alto y reconoce la valiosa contribución de la UNESCO que por su misión histórica ha tenido que liderar la conducción del tema de la educación en el mundo, diseñando estrategias dentro de un marco programático cada vez más progresivo y exigente con el fin de legar a la futura generación una herencia cultural, científica y técnica mucho más provechosa.

56.3 Señor Presidente, honorables delegados: Guinea Ecuatorial, como Estado Miembro de la UNESCO comparte plenamente las metas, objetivos y enfoques estratégicos marcados por la nueva agenda Educación 2030, que atribuye a los sistemas educativos el deber de responder a las necesidades de los mercados laborales, a los avances tecnológicos, a los desafíos demográficos, y a la persistencia de la pobreza y amenazas de la paz mundial; todo eso conlleva y supone que los Estados Miembros deben hacer el esfuerzo necesario para garantizar a los niños, jóvenes y adultos, las habilidades y competencias que requieran para vivir y trabajar en un mundo cada vez más exigente e interdependiente. Desde su accesión a la independencia nacional en 1968, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial ha mantenido una estrecha cooperación y colaboración con la UNESCO en los dominios de la formación de docentes, la asistencia técnica y el asesoramiento en diversas esferas de competencia y sobre todo cuando se ha creado la Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (UNGE). En este sentido, me complace asegurarles que mi país ha logrado aumentar su cobertura escolar a través de programas de construcción de escuelas en sus 857 comunidades rurales, ha implementado programas de educación infantil y preescolar, los cuales albergan hoy en día, el 72% de los niños y niñas de esa edad. Asimismo, ha implementado un programa de formación de docentes, tanto desde la vertiente inicial como en reciclaje de los actuales, todo ello, señoras y señores, ha permitido que la tasa de matrícula alcanzara al día de hoy el 97 % en todo el país.

56.4 En cuanto a la enseñanza superior, se acaba de crear la nueva Universidad Americana en la localidad de Djibloho, que impartirá a partir del próximo curso sus clases en inglés y en español y con acceso a cualquier estudiante

de la subregión que lo desee. Y la propia Universidad Nacional, la UNGE, que lleva funcionando desde hace 20 años, también se ha visto reforzada con la inclusión de otras nuevas facultades con más acceso al empleo para los nuevos egresados. Durante los últimos cinco años, también han sido desplegados esfuerzos colosales en cuanto a la enseñanza técnica y profesional, creando varios centros profesionales tanto públicos como privados en todas las cabeceras de provincia del ámbito nacional, todo ello en consonancia con el programa del Gobierno con proyección a la emergencia de Guinea Ecuatorial para el "Horizonte 2020". Finalmente auguramos los mejores éxitos a la UNESCO, con el deseo de que este célebre organismo del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, llegue a asumir cada vez más su papel de laboratorio, y artífice de la verdadera paz mundial, a través del dialogo, la tolerancia y el respeto mutuo en todos los sentidos y en base a los principios éticos y programáticos de los sectores de Educación, Ciencias, Cultura y Comunicación y en las actividades relacionadas con el género. Muchas gracias.

(56.1) **M. Anguesomo** (Guinée équatoriale) (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, distingués délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je tiens avant tout à féliciter le Président pour sa brillante élection à la direction des travaux de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale, et saluer la légitime admission dans la grande famille de l'UNESCO de l'État caribéen de l'Île de Montserrat en tant que Membre associé. Je transmets à cette Conférence générale les salutations fraternelles du peuple de la République de Guinée équatoriale et de son Président, Son Excellence Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, qui se félicitent de la célébration du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO et de la tenue du Forum des dirigeants, qui auront lieu durant la présente session. Nous formons également le vœu que les recommandations et résolutions qui seront adoptées constitueront un véritable catalyseur en vue de l'édification d'une société plus équilibrée et délivrée des conflits actuels, à l'origine de flux migratoires incessants et de déséquilibres sociaux qui freinent l'évolution et le développement normal de l'humanité.

(56.2) À cet égard, Monsieur le Président, je tiens à vous souhaiter sincèrement que les travaux de cette Conférence générale puissent guider les États membres en vue de promouvoir une culture de la paix et une éducation de qualité pour tous les êtres humains, ainsi qu'à réaffirmer les valeurs positives de la culture en matière d'émancipation, de sécurité et d'intégrité physique et morale, dans le but d'atteindre les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) (pour la période 2015-2030). Notre pays apprécie vivement et reconnaît la précieuse contribution de l'UNESCO, chargée dans le cadre de sa mission historique de diriger les efforts en matière d'éducation dans le monde, en élaborant des stratégies dans un cadre programmatique qui progresse de plus en plus et toujours plus exigeant, dans le but de transmettre à la future génération un héritage culturel, scientifique et technique encore plus profitable.

(56.3) Monsieur le Président, distingués délégués : la Guinée équatoriale, en tant qu'État membre de l'UNESCO, partage pleinement les buts, les objectifs et les approches stratégiques figurant dans le nouvel agenda Éducation 2030, qui impose aux systèmes éducatifs le devoir de répondre aux besoins des marchés du travail, aux progrès technologiques, aux défis démographiques et à la persistance de la pauvreté et des menaces pesant sur la paix mondiale. Il découle de tout cela que les États membres doivent déployer les efforts nécessaires pour garantir à l'ensemble des enfants, des jeunes et des adultes les capacités et les compétences indispensables pour vivre et travailler dans un monde toujours plus exigeant et interdépendant. Depuis son accès à l'indépendance nationale en 1968, la République de Guinée équatoriale entretient des relations étroites de collaboration avec l'UNESCO dans les domaines de la formation des enseignants, de l'assistance technique et du conseil dans plusieurs domaines de compétence, notamment avec la création de l'Université nationale de Guinée équatoriale (UNGE). À cet égard, je souhaite vous annoncer que mon pays a réussi à étendre sa couverture scolaire grâce à des programmes de construction d'écoles dans ses 857 communes rurales, et qu'il a mis en œuvre des programmes d'éducation pour la petite enfance et l'âge préscolaire, qui accueillent aujourd'hui 72 % des enfants de cette tranche d'âge. De même, nous avons mis en œuvre un programme de formation des enseignants, comprenant la formation initiale et la remise à niveau des enseignants en service. Tout cela, mesdames et messieurs, a permis que le taux d'inscription atteigne aujourd'hui 97 % dans l'ensemble du pays.

(56.4) Quant à l'enseignement supérieur, la nouvelle Université américaine qui vient d'être créée dans la localité de Djibloho dispensera dès la rentrée prochaine ses cours en anglais et en espagnol à l'intention de tous les étudiants de la sous-région intéressés. L'Université nationale (UNGE), fondée il y a 20 ans, a également été renforcée par l'intégration d'autres nouvelles facultés offrant aux nouveaux diplômés un meilleur accès à l'emploi. Ces cinq dernières années, des efforts considérables ont également été déployés en matière d'enseignement technique et professionnel, en créant plusieurs centres professionnels, publics et privés, dans toutes les chefs-lieux de province du territoire national, dans l'esprit du programme gouvernemental en vue de l'émergence de la Guinée équatoriale à « l'Horizon 2020 ». Enfin, nous souhaitons les plus grands succès à l'UNESCO, en espérant que cette célèbre institution du système des Nations Unies parvienne à exercer de manière croissante son rôle de laboratoire et d'artisan de la paix mondiale, à travers le dialogue, la tolérance et le respect mutuel dans tous les sens du terme et en s'appuyant sur les principes éthiques et programmatiques des secteurs de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture et de la communication, ainsi que sur les activités liées au genre. Merci beaucoup.

57. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. The next speaker is His Excellency Mr Abdulkadr El Maleh, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Libya to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

٥٨,١ السيد المالح (ليبيا):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. يسعدني أن أقف أمامكم ممثلاً لبلادي وأحمل رسالة ذلك المواطن الليبي المتألم الصبور، وأنقل تحياته لمنظمتنا الموقرة اليونسكو بعيدها السبعين. إن ليبيا بهذه المناسبة تؤكد المبادئ السامية التي تأسست من أجلها هذه المنظمة بعد أن عانت المجتمعات الإنسانية ويلات الحروب والقهر والنزاعات والتشرذم، فيها نحن اليوم وبعد مضي سبعة أعوام من العمل الجاد لهذه المنظمة من أجل إرساء أسس السلام والحب والمساواة، نرى أن عالمنا اليوم أصبح يشهد لوناً آخر من التخريب والدمار متمثلاً في ظهور جماعات الإرهاب الممنهج التي استهدفت روح الإنسان وعرقلت تقدمه الحضاري وحطمت إرثه التاريخي. وإن بلادي ليبيا، بل ومنظمتنا العربية ككل، تشهد قتل وتشريد الأطفال والنساء وتحطيم الصروح التاريخية للإرث الإنساني، الشاهدة على مدى التاريخ بمساهمة وطننا العربي في إرساء العلوم واحتضانه للحضارات الأولى مثل الحضارة السومرية والآشورية والبابلية والفرعونية والقرطاجية. وفي وطني العزيز

ليبيا، تجذرت حضارة ما قبل التاريخ، وازدهرت على سفوح جبال الحضارة الإغريقية وانطلقت منه الحضارة الرومانية لتعم مداخل أفريقيا وشواطئها الشمالية. كما كانت ليبيا ممراً آمناً للفاتحين الأوائل المبشرين بالدين الإسلامي الصحيح. فقد مر الفاتحون من هناك فلم يهدموا ديراً ولا كنيسة ولا معبداً، ولم يحطموا تماثلاً ولا نصباً حتى رست سفنهم على شواطئ شبه الجزيرة الإيبيرية، حيث تأسست مدارس العمارة ومعاهد الفنون وترجمت العلوم الإغريقية التي كانت مرجعاً وأساساً للحضارة المعاصرة. كما شهدت شبه الجزيرة الإيبيرية في ذلك الوقت أرقى وأسمى مراحل التسامح بين الأديان السماوية الثلاثة، اليهودية والمسيحية والإسلام. فأين نحن اليوم من كل ذلك؟ فقد انتشرت بيننا الجماعات الإرهابية المستترة وراء ستار الدين وهي أبعد ما تكون عن الدين. وقد تغلفت قلوبها بغلاف الحقد والكراهية، وشيدت في عقولها صروح الظلام فعمدت إلى إزهاق أرواح الأبرياء بغية إثارة الفتن بين الأمم وبين أبناء الوطن الواحد، وعبثت بمعاولها بمعالم التراث الإنساني.

٥٨،٢ بهذه المناسبة أيها السادة الأفاضل، يسعدني مرة أخرى أن أتوجه بالشكر مجدداً إلى السيدة المديرة العامة على الأهمية التي أعطتها للتراث الثقافي المهدي في ليبيا والعراق وسورية واليمن، ولأضرحة مدينة تمبكتو بجمهورية مالي. كما أشكرها على التذكير والإشادة بدور العرب في إرساء العلوم المعاصرة، وعلى وقوفها بجانب الشعوب المظلومة، وما وجود الولاية الفلسطينية أمام مبنى اليونسكو، واعتماد شعب جزيرة مونتسيرات، إلا شاهداً على ذلك. ويا حبذا لو تم في عهدها الميمون اعتماد عضوية جمهورية كوسوفو، وهذا ما أوصاني به معالي السيد رئيس مجلس النواب، السيد عقيلة صالح قويدر، الذي سيكون بيننا هنا بعد أيام قلائل إنشاء الله. وأنا أردت أن أصف هذه السيدة بشيء، فلا أصفها بأنها المرأة الحديدية لأنها ليست قاسية، بل أقول لها بإنها السيدة التي لا يظلم عندها أحد.

٥٨،٣ أيها السيدات والسادة، إن احتفالنا بالذكرى السنوية السبعين واعتمادنا لخطة التنمية المستدامة لسنة ٢٠٣٠ يعد من أولى اهتمامات الدولة الليبية. فليس أفضل من التصدي للفقر بجميع أشكاله، والقضاء على الجوع، وضمان التعليم والصحة للجميع، وتحقيق المساواة بين الجنسين، والتصدي للتغيرات المناخية، وحماية النظم الإيكولوجية، وإقامة المجتمعات المسالمة، وتنشيط الشراكة العالمية للوصول إلى التنمية المستدامة على أرض الواقع. ولكن قبل كل ذلك، يجب أن نتكاتف لتوطين السلام وتنازراً للتصدي لجماعات الموت والرعب والتطرف التي عرقلت المسيرة التعليمية في ليبيا بشكل فاضح، حيث تحولت رياض الأطفال والمدارس في بنغازي إلى تكتلات للمتطرفين، أما جامعة بنغازي العريقة فأصبحت ملاذاً للبولم. وفي بنغازي أيضاً تضرب المسيرات السلمية بالقذائف الصاروخية، وفي مدينة القبة ضرب تجمع للشباب ليموت فيه أربعون شاباً دفعة واحدة.

٥٨،٤ أيها السيدات والسادة، إن ليبيا لم تنج أيضاً من الانتهازين الساعين إلى القفز على الكراسي والمروجين لمقولة إن ليبيا بما حكومتين، لا إن ليبيا وشعبها وعلى رأسه السيد عقيلة صالح رئيس مجلس النواب أعطوا أروع مثال للحوار.

(58.1) **M. El Maleh (Libye) (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs et membres de délégations, que la paix, la miséricorde et la bénédiction de Dieu soient sur vous. J'ai le plaisir de me tenir devant vous en tant que représentant de mon pays et de vous délivrer le message de ce citoyen libyen qui souffre avec une infinie patience, et de raconter sa vie à l'UNESCO alors que cette dernière fête son soixante-dixième anniversaire. À cette occasion, la Libye réaffirme les nobles principes pour lesquels cette Organisation fut créée, suite aux souffrances des communautés humaines et aux plaies de la guerre, de l'oppression, des conflits et de la fragmentation. Nous voici aujourd'hui, après soixante-dix ans d'intenses efforts déployés par cette Organisation visant à jeter les bases de la paix, de l'amitié et de l'égalité, face à un monde qui connaît de nouvelles formes de sabotage et de destruction avec l'émergence de groupes terroristes qui visent systématiquement l'esprit de l'homme, empêchent son progrès civilisé et brisent son patrimoine historique. Mon pays, la Libye, ainsi que toute notre région arabe, voient des individus être tués, des femmes et des enfants déplacés de force, des monuments historiques du patrimoine de l'humanité détruits, témoins à travers l'histoire de la contribution de notre patrie arabe à l'avènement des sciences et leur développement par les civilisations premières, telles que les civilisations sumérienne, assyrienne, babylonienne, pharaonique et carthaginoise. Dans ma chère patrie la Libye, une civilisation préhistorique a pris racine : la civilisation grecque a fleuri sur les flancs de ses montagnes ; c'est d'elle qu'est partie la civilisation romaine pour atteindre les portes de l'Afrique et ses côtes septentrionales. La Libye fut un lieu de passage sûr pour les premiers prédicateurs de la vraie religion islamique. Les conquérants sont passés par là, mais ils n'ont détruit aucun monastère, ni aucune église, ni aucun temple ; ils n'ont brisé aucune idole ni aucune statue jusqu'à ce que leurs navires aient jeté l'ancre sur les côtes de la péninsule ibérique, où ont été fondés des écoles d'architecture et des instituts des arts, et où ont été traduites les sciences grecques qui ont servi de référence et de fondation à la civilisation contemporaine. À cette époque, la péninsule ibérique fut également témoin des plus grandes et nobles périodes de tolérance entre les trois religions révélées, à savoir le judaïsme, le christianisme et l'islam. Que sommes-nous aujourd'hui par comparaison ? Les groupes terroristes se sont faufilés parmi nous, camouflés derrière le rideau de la religion, alors qu'ils en sont en réalité terriblement éloignés. Leurs cœurs sont empreints de rancœur et de haine ; leurs esprits abritent les palais des ténébres, et ils ôtent la vie à des innocents afin de semer la discorde entre les nations et entre les fils d'une même patrie. Ils se sont attaqués, avec leurs pioches, aux monuments du patrimoine de l'humanité.

(58.2) À cette occasion, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai le plaisir, de nouveau, d'adresser des remerciements à Mme la Directrice générale pour toute l'attention qu'elle a accordée au patrimoine culturel menacé en Libye, en Iraq, en République arabe syrienne et au Yémen, ainsi qu'aux mausolées de la ville de Tombouctou, au Mali. Je la remercie également d'avoir rappelé et salué le rôle des Arabes dans le développement des sciences contemporaines, et leur solidarité avec les peuples opprimés : la présence du drapeau palestinien devant le bâtiment de l'UNESCO et l'acceptation du peuple de l'île de Montserrat sont autant de témoignages de cela. Il serait bienvenu que ce soit pendant le mandat béni de la Directrice générale que la République du Kosovo soit acceptée comme membre de l'UNESCO. Voilà ce que m'a recommandé le Président de la Chambre des députés M. Uqaila Saleh Quwaider, qui sera des nôtres dans quelques jours, si Dieu le veut. Je voulais décrire cette dame comme – je ne dirai pas qu'elle est une Dame de fer, car elle n'est pas dure – je dirai simplement d'elle que c'est une femme avec qui personne ne subit d'injustice.

(58.3) Mesdames et Messieurs, notre soixante-dixième anniversaire et l'adoption du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 sont parmi les premières priorités de la Libye. Il n'y a pas mieux que de s'opposer à la pauvreté par tous les moyens, d'éliminer la faim, d'assurer l'éducation et la santé pour tous, de réaliser l'égalité entre les sexes, de faire

face au changement climatique, de protéger les écosystèmes, d'édifier des sociétés paisibles, et de dynamiser le partenariat global afin de parvenir au développement durable en pratique. Mais avant tout cela, nous devons nous épauler afin d'instaurer la paix, nous entraider afin de résister aux groupes qui sèment la mort, la terreur et l'extrémisme et qui entravent de façon flagrante la marche de l'éducation en Libye : les maternelles et les écoles de Benghazi ont été transformées en casernes pour les extrémistes. La vénérable université de Benghazi est devenue un repaire d'oiseaux de nuit. Toujours à Benghazi, les manifestations pacifiques sont réprimées avec des roquettes, tandis que dans la ville d'al-Qubba, un rassemblement de jeunes a été pris pour cible et 40 d'entre eux y ont perdu la vie le même jour.

(58.4) Mesdames et Messieurs, la Libye n'a pas échappé non plus aux opportunistes qui tentent d'occuper les fauteuils politiques et qui propagent l'idée que la Libye aurait « deux gouvernements ». Non : la Libye et son peuple, avec à leur tête M. Uqaila Saleh, le Président de la Chambre des députés, ont donné l'un des plus merveilleux exemples de dialogue.

59. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, that statement concludes our speakers for the day. However, before adjourning the meeting, you will recall that this morning I, as President of the General Conference, in accordance with Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and with your agreement, agreed to grant Azerbaijan the right of reply to the statement that was delivered by Armenia. I now have the pleasure to call upon the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan to take the floor for two minutes only. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

60.1 **Azerbaijan:**

Thank you, Mr President. I would like to use my right of reply to the statement the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, made this morning. The need for this reply is grounded on the statement, which was full of false accusations, animosity and hatred against my country.

60.2 As you know, the occupation by Armenia of almost 20% of internationally recognized and historic territories of Azerbaijan has continued for many years, regardless of four United Nations Security Council resolutions which demand immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territories.

60.3 More than one million Azerbaijanis have become refugees and internally displaced as a result of this conflict. The speech is yet another attempt to mislead the international community from the aggravated facts of cultural cleansing carried out not only within the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the seven surrounding districts, but also within the territory of Armenia itself. The cultural heritage such as mosques, monuments, cemeteries and museums are being purposefully destroyed with only one aim - to wipe out the evidence of the historical presence of Azerbaijanis in these territories. Destruction of ancient mosques and the Aga-dede cemetery in the Masis region of Armenia is one of the many examples of such a policy. Such acts are directly violating norms and principles of international law including aims and principles of UNESCO. It was mentioned that one mosque is going to be preserved, but what about the hundreds of mosques destroyed in occupied territories of Azerbaijan?

60.4 As a nation suffering from several consequences of the occupation, the protection of cultural heritage is always a significant and sensitive issue for Azerbaijan. Today, whereas Armenia is still a mono-ethnic and mono-religious State in a very ethnically and culturally diverse region, Azerbaijan continues to share its experience in religious and cultural tolerance with the international community through the implementation of concrete and efficient policy.

60.5 Ladies and gentlemen, in the end, we would like to share our confidence that UNESCO, as a genuine House of peace and tolerance, is not a place for emotional hatred and groundless accusations, and the valuable floor before us cannot be used for misleading the international community, but to call for just and fair solutions for a better and prosperous future. Thank you, Mr President.

61. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I had wanted to take Mr Anthony, the Secretary-General of the Belize National Commission for UNESCO at his word to lead us in singing a rendition of the chorus "We are the World". Now I thought that we had a gentleman's agreement, but it seems the gentleman's agreement expired before it could be delivered. So on that very sad note from your President, who is not good at singing, *the meeting is officially adjourned* until tomorrow at 10 o'clock. Thank you very much.

*The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.
La séance est levée à 18 h 20
Se levanta la sesión a las 18.20
Заседание закрывается в 18.20*

رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦,٢٠ بعد الظهر

会议于 18 时 20 分结束

Ninth plenary meeting

Saturday 7 November 2015 at 10.15 a.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Neuvième séance plénière

Samedi 7 novembre 2015 à 10 h 15
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Novena sesión plenaria

Sábado 7 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.15
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Девятое пленарное заседание

суббота 7 ноября 2015 г. в 10.15
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة التاسعة

السبت ٧ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحاً
الرئيس: السيد **سيماتاا** (ناميبيا)

第九次全体会议

2015年11月7日星期六 10时15分
主席: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)

General policy debate (*continued*)
Débat de politique générale (*suite*)
Debate de política general (*continuación*)
Обсуждение вопросов общей политики (*продолжение*)
مناقشة السياسة العامة (تابع)
总政策辩论 (续)

1.1 **The President**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I believe we can set our journey in motion for this morning. I declare open the ninth plenary meeting of the General Conference which will be dedicated to the general policy debate. At the end of this morning's meeting, we will also hear the reports of the APX Commission on item 1.3 concerning the report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c) of the Constitution. Before we start with our list of speakers for the day, I wish to remind the distinguished delegates that each statement will be limited to six minutes and six minutes only, with the exception of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, which will have three minutes to address the General Conference.

1.2 I now have the honour to call on our first speaker for this morning who has been patiently waiting for the President to set the meeting in motion, H.E. Mr Juraj Draxler, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia. Your Excellency you now have the floor.

2.1 **Mr Draxler (Slovakia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Deputy Director-General, distinguished delegates. At the outset, I wish to express Slovakia's alignment with the statement of the European Union which will be delivered later this morning. It is a great honour for me to address this distinguished gathering, where so many interesting ideas and suggestions have been raised throughout the past few days.

2.2 We should not miss the unique chance to reunite in the most crucial matters, while celebrating the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Slovakia highly appreciates the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes the efforts of UNESCO in leading the preparatory processes for the post-2015 education agenda. The new agenda, fundamental for educational, environmental, social and economic challenges and for the transformation of societies towards sustainable growth, is an important basis, which needs to become gradually implemented everywhere. In this context, we should not forget the less advantaged citizens of the world, and we should provide them with the conditions necessary for the same quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.

2.3 Slovakia is ready to take an active part in the implementation of the new programme. Many Slovak non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been active for the past 20 years in areas outside of Europe, as well as the Slovak Aid Organization, which has been active since 2003. Our development projects include education, rural development, agriculture and health services.

2.4 Slovakia, as a party to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which marks its 10th anniversary this year, and a proud member of the Committee, highlights the importance of its founding principles. The Slovak Republic strongly condemns the recent acts of deliberate destruction of cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and elsewhere in the wider region, and has decided to make a substantial contribution to the fund for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. We also support the UNESCO call for solidarity "#Unite4Heritage" as an important signal not only to unite for a strong cause, but also to fight against unacceptable cultural purges by a strengthened promotion of cultural pluralism.

2.5 Distinguished colleagues, let me conclude my statement by inviting all of us to rethink UNESCO by refreshing our thinking as to how we can start promoting UNESCO again with renewed drive and energy in our home countries. We have the experience, the tools and we have the responsibility. Let us make the next 70 years of UNESCO even more successful than its past. Thank you for your attention.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for the brevity of your statement. Now unfortunately it seems that I have run out of boxes of chocolates. I would have given you two. I will see what can be done. Thank you very much. Our next speaker is His Excellency, the Honourable Mr Shawn Richards, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

4.1 **Mr Richards (Saint Kitts and Nevis):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Your Excellency, the Honourable Mr Stanley Simataa, President of the 38th session of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, esteemed Director-General, dear colleagues, fellow Honourable Ministers, distinguished Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. On behalf of the Government and people of St Kitts and Nevis, and on my own behalf as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and UNESCO affairs, I wish to heartily congratulate UNESCO on the attainment of an important milestone in reaching 70 years of fruitful existence. My Government also wishes to express our gratitude to UNESCO for its overwhelming support to my country in providing expertise and assistance on the ground, notably in education, human sciences, information, society and culture.

4.2 We live in a world where emerging crises arising from economic, environmental and sovereign State challenges continue to have an adverse impact on the quality of life of citizens who inhabit this Earth. By any measure, UNESCO has successfully weathered the impact of these storms over the years in delivering its mandate to its Member States,

especially in the field of education for all (EFA), and, importantly, at all levels. In speaking from the perspective as part of a group of small island developing States (SIDS), faced with immense vulnerabilities, and external economic and climatic challenges to our open-market island economies, our continued survival in a world of rapid upheaval and transformation requires continued, structured intervention and expertise by UNESCO, and especially at this time.

4.3 Earlier this year, I had the honour to attend and actively participate in the World Education Forum 2015 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in order to contribute to the Education 2030 Agenda. My Government remains more convinced than ever that quality education at all levels holds the key to alleviate poverty and boost sustainable growth, especially in the context of SIDS, which includes my own country. We urge UNESCO to give special emphasis to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes as a critical priority, especially taking account of the high dropout rate of our young males, and the concomitant consequences of youth violence. We endorse the strong emphasis on the need for moral values, attitudes and behaviours conducive to a culture of peace and non-violence, respecting cultural diversity and human rights, with youth at the centre of this philosophy.

4.4 We must be able to unleash and discover the full potential and immense talent that lies within our young people in more innovative and creative ways. On this account, I encourage the ethical use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a means for enhancing education and training among the student population. Our cultural heritage and its role in boosting tourism, considering our rich and vibrant history and legacy, must be deployed in a more professional manner as a means of adding value to the tourism sector. This is why my Government will be shortly ratifying two additional UNESCO cultural conventions. My delegation applauds UNESCO for its work on the draft action plan for small island developing States. We are confident that this work will help us to achieve our national and global agenda, and the ensuing sustainable use of our human and natural resources. I thank you.

5. **Mr President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Nesmy Manigat, Minister of Education and Vocational Training of Haiti.

6.1 **M. Manigat (Haïti) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, chers collègues, distingués délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand honneur de pouvoir m'adresser, au nom de la République d'Haïti, à cette auguste assemblée pour réaffirmer l'engagement et l'attachement de mon pays aux valeurs et idéaux fondateurs de l'UNESCO à l'occasion de son 70^e anniversaire.

6.2 Monsieur le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord vous présenter les félicitations d'Haïti pour votre élection à la présidence de la Conférence générale. Je vous souhaite plein succès dans la direction des travaux de cette 38^e session. Je voudrais également féliciter la Directrice générale, le Président du Conseil exécutif ainsi que les membres de cet organe pour l'immense travail accompli au cours de ces deux dernières années.

6.3 Mesdames, Messieurs, face à la montée des intolérances, à la persistance des inégalités sociales, aux problèmes de migration et aux crimes contre le patrimoine culturel mondial, les idéaux de l'UNESCO n'ont rien perdu de leur actualité et de leur pertinence après 70 années d'action. Les défis sont encore là et nous devons rester constamment vigilants pour la sauvegarde de nos valeurs. Défendre et promouvoir le dialogue, la tolérance, le respect et la valorisation des différences, le sens du partage et de la solidarité, tel devrait être notre leitmotiv en vue de construire un monde meilleur pour les générations futures. Comme nous l'affirmons – dans ma langue maternelle – dans le cadre de notre campagne d'éducation nationale à la citoyenneté : « *Nou tout sanble men lè nou diferan* », « Nous sommes tous semblables au-delà de nos différences ».

6.4 Voilà pourquoi il nous faut renforcer la capacité de notre Organisation pour lui permettre de continuer à contribuer au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité en resserrant les liens entre les nations et en influençant le quotidien de chaque citoyen afin que chacun soit acteur du changement, acteur de son devenir. Dans cette perspective, chaque État membre doit donner plus d'importance aux idéaux et programmes de l'UNESCO et aux Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et travailler à leur mise en œuvre. Haïti prend pleinement l'engagement de jouer son rôle à cet effet au sein de la communauté internationale. Au niveau national, le renouvellement des institutions démocratiques en cours augure de bonnes perspectives pour la mise en œuvre des ODD.

6.5 Le Gouvernement haïtien s'est déjà engagé à permettre à chaque enfant d'avoir accès de manière équitable à une éducation de qualité. Dans cette optique, les mesures qu'il a prises ont permis de parvenir à un taux net de scolarisation de 46 %. Aujourd'hui, environ 4 % de notre PIB est investi dans l'éducation, contre 2 % il y a 10 ans. Un ensemble de 12 mesures ont été adoptées, une vaste réforme des programmes d'enseignement est lancée, le secondaire est en cours de rénovation, le préscolaire est réorganisé et un plan de formation des maîtres est en train d'être actualisé, un registre des maîtres devant donner accès à un permis d'enseigner. En plus de ces actions, une mobilisation citoyenne est lancée à travers un pacte national pour une éducation de qualité afin que tous les gouvernants et la société civile s'engagent dans cette dynamique de rénovation du système éducatif. Il s'agit de doter le secteur de moyens à la hauteur de ses ambitions en doublant notamment le budget et en consacrant 8 % du PIB à l'éducation. Des actions sont aussi engagées pour renforcer le secteur de la formation professionnelle afin d'offrir d'autres opportunités aux jeunes et de favoriser leur employabilité.

6.6 Un autre programme de l'UNESCO important pour mon pays est le Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère. Après avoir déclaré sa première réserve de biosphère en 2012, la République d'Haïti vient de soumettre une déclaration pour une deuxième réserve. Je profite de cette tribune pour encourager l'UNESCO à renforcer tous ses programmes de sciences.

6.7 En ce qui concerne le programme relatif à la culture, Haïti met en œuvre les conventions à travers le renforcement des capacités des institutions concernées et l'inventaire des éléments du patrimoine en vue de leur appropriation par les communautés locales, de leur conservation et de leur transmission aux jeunes générations. Au nom du peuple haïtien, au nom de mon Gouvernement, au nom de la communauté éducative et de tous les enseignants, je renouvelle à cet égard mes remerciements à l'UNESCO, en particulier aux membres de son équipe en Haïti ainsi qu'à tous ses partenaires pour leur appui continu.

6.8 Mesdames, Messieurs, en 70 ans, l'UNESCO a fait son travail de réflexion transdisciplinaire prospective et préventive. Mais les défis sont tels qu'il nous faut constamment nous remettre au travail afin d'atteindre l'homme/la femme ordinaire dans son quotidien et faire de lui/d'elle un instrument de paix, un instrument de liberté, d'égalité et de fraternité. Continuons la mobilisation afin de permettre à l'UNESCO de disposer de davantage de ressources pour la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable. Merci de votre attention.

7. Mr President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Honorable Ms Fatou Lamin Faye, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education of Gambia. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

8.1 Ms Faye (Gambia):

Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate). Your Excellency Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, Mr Chair and Members of the Executive Board, Permanent Delegates, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Let me first and foremost congratulate His Excellency, Stanley Mutumba Simataa on his election to the Presidency of the 38th session of the General Conference, and by the same token thank his immediate predecessor, His Excellency, Mr Hao Ping, for the successful conduct of the 37th session held in 2013. As a Member State of UNESCO, Gambia continues to support the promotion of the ideals upon which this Organization was founded and the prominence given to its fields of competence for which I am exceedingly pleased to share our country's impressions with this session.

8.2 On education, Gambia heartily recognizes the leadership role UNESCO has played in the preparatory, consultative and finalization processes of the post-2015 education agenda culminating in a framework for action that will guide the implementation of our future education endeavours in education. Accordingly, Gambia has concluded recently a national education conference aimed at formulating a sector-wide education policy for the period 2016-2030 with a clear focus on the provision of inclusive and equitable quality education and training from early childhood development to university education for sustainable development.

8.3 On natural sciences, Gambia is appreciative of UNESCO's global initiative in convening the Second Ministerial Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa coupled with the important place that science has been accorded in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the oceans, freshwater and biodiversity. It is therefore no coincidence that UNESCO provided support to Gambia to finalize its science, technology and innovation (STI) policy.

8.4 On the social and human sciences, Gambia applauds UNESCO on the first phase of consolidating the integration of social transformations, foresight and intercultural dialogue. Gambia would like to put on record its sincere appreciation of the successful organization in Baku of the first global forum on youth policy in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) giving the potential for enhanced intercultural dialogue and social transformations of this laudable initiative. Through the 2014-2015 UNESCO Participation Programme, Gambia has received funding to accelerate youth governance with emphasis on improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the national youth policy. In the area of gender, the Government of Gambia has made encouraging advancements in the formulation and implementation of the gender equality and women's empowerment policy of 2010-2020 and has enacted and is enforcing the Women's Act of 2010, the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, both of 2013.

8.5 Gambia salutes UNESCO for the progress registered in the implementation of the culture conventions; notably the priority focus on statutory meetings, the developed responses to emerging crisis situations, and the substantial work being undertaken to ensure the recognition of culture in the post-2015 development agenda. In accordance with the 2003 and 2005 conventions, the cultural sector in Gambia has continued to gain momentum. The new management plan (2014-2018) for the world heritage site of Kunta Kinteh Island and related sites has been finalized with support provided by the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF).

8.6 Under the 2014-2015 Participation Programme, the sector received funding to train 25 young Gambians, including women, on the Motion Pictures Arts Certificate (MPAC) programme in the various specializations of cinematography, script writing and directing. This is expected to change the lives of these graduates significantly through the self-employment opportunities it provides.

8.7 On communication and information, Gambia is satisfied with the action taken thus far relative to freedom of expression, media development and building knowledge societies through information and communication technology (ICT). The Government of the Gambia knows the challenges of our national and international telecommunications connectivity infrastructure and realizes the need to overhaul the national communication infrastructure to keep up with the progressive advancement of information and communication technologies. In this regard, steps were taken to address the challenges and assure that Gambia can now boast of connectivity to the global information superhighway through its own submarine cable landing station. This high bandwidth cable is being exploited by the roll-out of national transmission through fibre-optic cable country-wide and fully supported by the next-generation networks to foster an all-inclusive broadband development programme.

8.8 In conclusion, Gambia wishes to recognize the efforts of UNESCO over the past 70 years towards the realization of peace and sustainable development in the Member States. To this end, I am pleased to reaffirm Gambia's

continued resolve to promote and uphold the principles and ideals of this great Organization to which our country proudly belongs. I thank you all for your kind attention.

9. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Souad Abdelrazig Saeed, Minister of Education of Sudan. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

١٠,١ السيدة سعيد (السودان):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيد رئيس المؤتمر، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السادة أصحاب المعالي الوزراء والرؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا المديرية العامة، السادة والسيدات، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته. الأخ الرئيس، اسمحو لي أن أتقدم إليكم بالتهنئة على انتخابكم بالإجماع رئيساً للمؤتمر العام في دورته هذه، كما نتقدم بالتهنئة لسلفكم السيد هاو بينغ الذي أدار أعمال الدورة السابقة باقتدار وحكمة وصبر، وبالشكر والتقدير لرئيس المجلس التنفيذي ولكافة الزملاء والزميلات المنتخبين. كما أرجو أن تسمحوا لي بالتقدم نيابة عن وفد بلادي بالشكر والتقدير للسيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، لما ظلت تبذله من جهود مضيئة مع فريق عملها لاستنباط الوسائل كافة لتعزيز دور المنظمة في بناء مجتمع العلم والسلام والوثام الاجتماعي. وباسم حكومة السودان، تمنى نجاح مداورات هذه الدورة المهمة من دورات المؤتمر العام، التي تأتي تزامناً مع الذكرى السنوية السبعين لإنشاء المنظمة.

١٠,٢ لقد شارك السودان بفاعلية في النقاش والتشاور الذي بادرت به المنظمة مع الدول الأعضاء ابتداءً من مسقط وانتهاءً بإنشيوين لتحديد هدف التعليم للجميع، ألا وهو ضمان التعليم الجيد والمنصف والشامل للجميع، وتعزيز فرص التعلم مدى الحياة، ضمن أهداف التنمية المستدامة لما بعد عام ٢٠١٥. وتؤكد بأن السودان قد اعتمد ما توصلنا إليه في خطته العامة للتعليم. وإن أهم العقبات التي تقف في طريق مسيرتنا التربوية والعلمية والثقافية تتمثل في العقوبات الاقتصادية القسرية الأحادية التي تعيق تنفيذ كل خططنا الرامية إلى تحقيق تلك الأهداف السامية. وكانت بلادي تتطلع، عقب إكمال تنفيذ اتفاقية السلام الشامل في عام ٢٠٠٥ وعقب إنفاذ اتفاقية السلام في الدوحة في عام ٢٠١١، إلى أن يولي المجتمع الدولي عناية خاصة للقضايا الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية في السودان. كما كنا نتطلع أيضاً إلى استئناف العون التنموي والدعم المؤسسي لبلادنا أسوةً ببعض الدول التي خرجت من النزاعات.

١٠,٣ إن بلادي على قناعة تامة بأن التعليم هو محور التنمية البشرية. وقد أخذ حقه من الاهتمام مما أفضى إلى تحسين مؤشرات التعليم في السودان من حيث زيادة فرص التعليم وتحسين جودته، وزيادة نسب الاستيعاب في التعليم الأساسي والثانوي، وإيلاء عناية خاصة لتعليم البنات والفتيات لتحقيق المساواة بين الجنسين، وتوفير الدعم اللازم من الحكومة ومن الشراكة المجتمعية والدولية في مجال التربية مثل الشراكة العالمية من أجل التعليم (GPE) ومنظمة اليونسكو وغيرها من المنظمات، وتوسيع استخدام معامير العلوم الصغيرة في المدارس الثانوية، وتحقيق التوسع الرأسي والأفقي في التعليم العالي. ويقدّر السودان الدور الذي ظلت تضطلع به منظمة اليونسكو في مجال العلوم الطبيعية في السودان، فقد كان لها الفضل في تجديده سياسة العلوم والتكنولوجيا والابتكار من خلال الاستجابة لمبادرة السيد رئيس الجمهورية الخاصة بإنشاء المركز الإقليمي لتنمية القدرات وإجراء البحوث في مجال حصاد المياه، وهو مركز من الفئة ٢ يعمل تحت رعاية اليونسكو ويتوافق مع استراتيجيتنا في الحفاظ على هذا المورد الحيوي.

١٠,٤ وتولي بلادي أهمية خاصة لتشجيع التفكير العلمي، لتحديد وتحليل التحديات الراهنة من أجل تعبئة المعارف والقدرات التي تنطوي عليها العلوم الاجتماعية لتمكين المرأة والشباب، باعتبارها عنصرتين رئيسيتين في التنمية المستدامة، وتحقيق التنمية الوطنية والاجتماعية والسلام، والمشاركة في الجهود الرامية إلى التصدي لتعاطي المنشطات والمخدرات، والنهوض بواقع التعدد الثقافي والاجتماعي، وتوظيف القيم الإنسانية النبيلة من أجل الحوار والتعايش والتسامح والتواصل. ونسعى إلى نشر الوعي بالجوانب الأخلاقية للتقدم العلمي في الميادين الحديثة لعلوم الأحياء والتقنيات البيولوجية، وذلك من أجل تحديد آثارها الأخلاقية والقانونية والاجتماعية، وبناء الجسور وتعزيز العلاقة بين الباحثين وواضعي السياسات، والاستفادة من الفرص المتاحة لإقامة الشراكات. وننوه هنا بالدور الذي يقوم به كرسي اليونسكو الجامعي لأخلاقيات البيولوجية، الذي يتبع لجامعة الخرطوم. وإن السودان يقدر دور اليونسكو في بناء وتنمية القدرات في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات ووسائل الإعلام التابعة للمجتمعات المحلية، والانتفاع الحر بالمعلومات، وسد الفجوة الرقمية لتمكين المجتمعات من استغلال إنتاجها والترويج لآثارها.

٥,١٠ ويتميز السودان بمساحته الواسعة وتنوع ثقافات مجتمعاته المحلية، ويذخر بتراث غير مادي غني ومتنوع في كثير من مناحي الحياة. وإننا نقدر المساعدة الدولية التي حصل عليها السودان من اليونسكو من أجل حصر وتوثيق التراث الثقافي غير المادي في جنوب كردفان والنيل الأزرق. ولا شك أن السودان يُعد من بين أقطار العالم التي تذخر بالآثار والمواقع الأثرية والتاريخية المتمثلة في الأهرامات والمدافن والإرث الإسلامي والمسيحي والحضارات النوبية القديمة التي عرفها الإنسان والتي قامت على ضفاف النيل. وقد تم إدراج بعضها في قائمة التراث العالمي كجبل البركل وأهرامات مروى والنقعة والمصورات، وبعضها في طريقه للتسجيل كجزيرة سنجنيب في البحر الأحمر. وفي هذا السياق، اسمحو لي أن أتقدم بالشكر والتقدير الخاص لدولة قطر الشقيقة لجهودها المتواصلة في الاهتمام بالآثار النوبية بالسودان، بالتعاون مع اليونسكو. سيدي الرئيس، السادة والسيدات، تمنى لمؤتمركم هذا النجاح في تعزيز سعي جميع دول الأعضاء إلى الارتقاء بالأهداف السامية للمنظمة في بناء مجتمع العلم والثقافة والمعرفة والسلام، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته.

(10.1) Ms Saeed (Sudan) (translation from the Arabic):

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ministers and heads of delegations, Ms Bokova, Director-General, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. Brother President, allow me to congratulate you on your unanimous election as President of the General Conference at its current session. We also congratulate your predecessor, Mr Hao Ping, who steered the work of the previous session with great ability, wisdom and patience, and offer thanks and appreciation to the Chair of the Executive Board and all other elected colleagues. I also beg you to allow me, on behalf of my country's delegation, to express thanks and appreciation to Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, for her unflagging efforts, together with her colleagues, to devise all possible ways to strengthen the role of the Organization in building the society of science, peace and

social harmony. On behalf of the Government of Sudan, we wish every success to the deliberations of this important session of the General Conference, which coincides with the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Organization.

(10.2) Sudan has participated effectively in the debate and consultations which the Organization launched with the Member States, beginning in Muscat and ending in Incheon, to define the objective of education for all (EFA), which is to ensure good-quality, equitable and comprehensive education for all, and to strengthen lifelong education opportunities, within the sustainable development goals beyond 2015. We recall that Sudan has adopted its own general plan for education. The main obstacles on our path to education, science and culture are unilateral coercive economic obstacles which prevent us from implementing our own plans to achieve those lofty goals. Following the completion of the 2005 peace agreement and the entry into force of the 2011 Doha peace agreement, my country was looking forward to seeing the international community devote particular attention to economic, social and cultural issues in Sudan. We were also looking forward to a renewal of development assistance and institutional support for our country, on the model of a number of other post-conflict countries.

(10.3) My country is absolutely convinced that education is crucial to human development, and has received a fair share of attention, which has helped it to enhance education indicators in Sudan by increasing education opportunities, enhancing quality, increasing attendance rates at the primary and secondary levels, devoting particular attention to the education of girls and young women in order to achieve gender equality, providing the necessary support from the Government, community partnerships and international sources in the field of education, such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), UNESCO and other organizations, expanding the use of small science laboratories in secondary schools, and achieving vertical and horizontal expansion in higher education. Sudan appreciates the role played by UNESCO in the field of the natural sciences in Sudan, where it has helped to renovate the policy for science, technology and innovation by responding to the initiative of the President of the Republic for the establishment of the Regional Centre on Capacity Development and Research in Water Harvesting, a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with our strategy for the preservation of this vital resource.

(10.4) My country devotes particular attention to encouraging scientific thinking in order to identify and analyse current challenges and to mobilize the knowledge and skills of the social sciences to enable women and youth, both key elements in sustainable development, to achieve national and social development and peace, and to contribute to efforts aimed at combating stimulants and narcotics and promoting cultural and social pluralism, as well as drawing on noble humanitarian values in the interests of dialogue, co-existence, tolerance and communication. We are endeavouring to build awareness of the ethical aspects of scientific progress in the modern fields of the biological sciences and biotechnology, in order to determine their ethical, legal and social impact, build bridges, strengthen the relationship between researchers and policy-makers, and benefit from the opportunities available in order to conclude partnerships. Here we commend the role played by the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, located in the University of Khartoum. Sudan appreciates the role of UNESCO in building and developing capacities in information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the information media in local communities, free access to information, and closing the digital gap to enable communities to exploit their own production and promote their heritage.

(10.5) Sudan, with its vast area and diversity of cultures and local communities is proud of its rich and diverse intangible heritage in many aspects of life. We appreciate the international assistance Sudan has received from UNESCO to inventory and document the intangible cultural heritage in South Kordofan and, the Blue Nile. Sudan is probably one of the world's countries that has the most historical archaeological monuments and sites such as pyramids, necropolises, both Islamic and Christian heritage as well as the ancient Nubian civilizations which arose on the banks of the Nile. Some of them have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, such as Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region and Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe, and some are in process, such as Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park in the Red Sea. In this connection, allow me to offer thanks and appreciation to fraternal Qatar for its constant efforts to provide assistance with the Nubian remains in Sudan, in cooperation with UNESCO. Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, we hope that this General Conference will be successful in strengthening the determination of all Member States to promote the noble goals of the Organization in building a society of science, culture, knowledge and peace. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

11. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Ashraf Mohamed El-Shihy, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

١٢،١ السيد الشيجي (مصر):

أصحاب السعادة، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، السيدات والسادة، معالي الوزراء ورؤساء الوفود وممثلي الدول الأعضاء، اسمحوا لي في مستهل كلمتي أن أتقدم بخالص التهنية لسعادة السيد ستانلي موتومبا سيماتا، نائب وزير الاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات بدولة ناميبيا، لانتخابه رئيساً للدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو، مع تمنياتنا لسيدته بالتوفيق في أداء مهمته الجديدة. كما أتقدم بخالص شكري وامتناني للسيد هاو بنغ، رئيس المؤتمر العام خلال دورته السابقة على جهوده المتميزة، ولا يفوتني في هذا المقام أن أحيي الأستاذ الدكتور محمد سامح عمرو، رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، على حسن إدارته طوال رئاسته للمجلس التنفيذي للعامين الماضيين. كذلك أود باسم بلدي مصر أن أتوجه بخالص الشكر إلى السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا على ما تقوم به من جهد من أجل تعزيز دور منظمة اليونسكو، وتطويرها، وإعادة هيكلة أنشطتها وتحقيق أهدافها الإنمائية في ظل الأزمة المالية التي مازالت تلقي بظلالها على المنظمة.

١٢،٢ سيدي الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، مع اعتماد خطة التنمية المستدامة لعام ٢٠٣٠، ومجموعة الأهداف العالمية الجريئة، يتطلع العالم، وكله أمل، إلى غد أفضل يتم فيه احتواء التوترات والنزاعات الإقليمية المعلقة التي لم تتم تسويتها بطريقة عادلة ومتوازنة، وتُعزز فيه منهجية العمل المتعدد الأطراف واحترام الشرعية الدولية وحقوق الإنسان واحترام ثقافة الآخر وكفالة حرية الرأي والتعبير وضمان المساواة بين الجناس. وعلى اليونسكو، هذه المنظمة العريقة في عيدها السبعين، أن تستفيد من المناخ الإيجابي الذي نعيشه للعمل على تفعيل دورها الرائد في صون التراث الإنساني، وتنشيط الحوار بين مختلف الأطراف.

١٢،٣ السيدات والسادة، إن مصر اليوم تنهض بقوة للعمل على إرساء قواعد الديمقراطية وتعمل على احترامها، فها نحن قربنا من الانتهاء من خريطة الطريق التي بدأنا العمل على تنفيذها منذ عام ٢٠١٣. ويصاحب ذلك جهد كبير تبذله الدولة من أجل تحقيق التنمية المستدامة لشعب يسعى للبناء والتقدم وتحقيق الرخاء، شعب يسابق الزمن من أجل تحقيق حلمه في بناء مستقبل أفضل للأجيال القادمة، ويناضل في ذات الوقت من أجل محاربة الإرهاب ودحره. لقد ساهمت مصر بفاعلية في صياغة الأهداف التنموية حتى عام ٢٠٣٠، من أجل النهوض بأوضاع العديد من الدول والشعوب التي تتطلع إلى تحقيق التنمية المستدامة. والتزاماً منها بتنفيذ هذه الأهداف وفقاً لأولوياتها الوطنية ورؤيتها، تم وضع استراتيجية مصرية للتنمية المستدامة حتى عام ٢٠٣٠، بالتعاون مع منظمات المجتمع المدني، تعكس آراء وآمال وطموحات مختلف فئات المجتمع، وتتسم بالديمقراطية والتوازن والمشاركة في صنع واتخاذ القرار، أولت فيها اهتماماً خاصاً للعديد من القضايا المحورية مثل تمكين المرأة التي تمثل نصف المجتمع، وكذلك تمكين الشباب والاستفادة من حماسهم وتحويلهم إلى طاقة إيجابية ببناء، باعتبارهم يمثلون قادة المستقبل.

١٢،٤ إن موضوع التغيرات المناخية يأتي على رأس اهتمامات مصر، وفي ضوء رئاسة مصر الدورية للجنة رؤساء الدول والحكومات الأفريقية المعنية بتغير المناخ، وما أبحرته مصر في هذا الملف خلال الفترة الماضية ورؤيتها، فمن المنتظر أن يكون الموقف الأفريقي قوياً ومؤثراً في "قمة تغير المناخ" المرتقبة في باريس. إن الحكومة تعمل على تطوير المناهج وإصلاح العملية التعليمية مع الاهتمام بالأنشطة التربوية وتطوير التعليم من خلال تدريب المدرسين بشكل مستمر. وتستند خطة مصر للارتقاء بالتعليم إلى ثلاث ركائز أساسية وهي "الجودة وإدارة النظام التعليمي والإتاحة"، إيماناً منا بأنه ليس هناك اقتصاد قوي بدون منظومة تعليمية قوية، وأن التعليم والبحث العلمي في أي دولة هو المحرك الرئيسي للتنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية.

١٢،٥ وإذ ننتهز هذه الفرصة لنعبر عن تقديرنا لجهود المنظمة تجاه مصر حيث حرصت المنظمة منذ إنشائها على تقديم كافة سبل الدعم مثل المساعدة في نقل معابد أبو سمبل بالنوبة بصعيد مصر، التي تعدّ من أهم ركائز التراث الإنساني والعالمي، ومروراً بمشروع إحياء مكتبة الإسكندرية. وقد تواصل التعاون خلال العامين الماضيين في مجال التعليم وتطويره، والمساعدة في تنفيذ خطة تطوير التعليم في مصر، وتقديم سبل المساعدة لحماية مواقع الآثار والتراث ذات القيمة العالمية في مصر. ولا يسعنا إزاء كل ذلك إلا أن نقدم جزيل الشكر إلى السيدة المديرية العامة والأمانة على كل ما قدموه، ويحدونا الأمل في أن يستمر هذا التعاون المثمر. إن على اليونسكو أن تتخذ كافة الخطوات والإجراءات اللازمة لحماية المقدسات الدينية والمواقع الأثرية الموجودة بمدينة القدس، ونرجو أن يتم تفعيل قرارات المجلس التنفيذي الخاصة بقيام بعثة فنية بزيارة مدينة القدس، وتقديم تقرير إلى المجلس التنفيذي خلال دورته القادمة. وختاماً، فإن مصر، التي كان لها شرف المشاركة في صياغة الأفكار والمبادئ التي عكسها الآباء المؤسسون في ميثاق اليونسكو، تجدد التزامها غير المحدود بالعمل على تحقيق أهداف المنظمة بما يحقق السلام والتنمية لشعوب العالم. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(12.1) **Mr El-Shihy (Egypt) translation from the Arabic:**

Excencies, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, ministers, heads of delegations and representatives of Member States, allow me at the outset to offer sincere congratulations to His Excellency Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa, Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology of Namibia, on his election as President of the General Conference of UNESCO at its 38th session, and to wish him every success in the performance of his new functions. I also offer sincere thanks and appreciation Mr Hao Ping, President of the General Conference at its previous session, for his outstanding efforts. In this connection, I am bound to salute Professor Doctor Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the Executive Board, for his outstanding stewardship during his term of office as Chair of the Executive Board over the past biennium. On behalf of my country, I should like to offer sincere thanks to Ms Irina Bokova for her efforts to strengthen and develop the role of UNESCO and restructure its activities and achieve its development goals against the backdrop of the financial crisis which still overshadows the Organization.

(12.2) Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a bold set of global goals, the whole world is hoping for a better tomorrow in which the tensions and suspended regional conflicts which have not been resolved in a just and balanced manner may be contained, and in which the methodology of multilateral work may be strengthened, international legality and human rights respected, the culture of the Other respected, freedom of opinion and expression ensured, and gender equality guaranteed. UNESCO, that venerable Organization, on its 70th anniversary, must benefit from the positive climate we enjoy to work to dynamize its pioneering role to preserve the human heritage and activate the dialogue among various parties.

(12.3) Ladies and gentlemen, Egypt is today firmly engaged in implanting the rules of democracy and ensuring that they are respected. Now we are nearing the end of the roadmap which we began to implement in 2013, and this has been accompanied by a great effort exerted by the State to achieve sustainable development for a people which is endeavouring to build, progress, achieve well-being; a people which is trying to race time to achieve its dream of building a better future for the coming generations. At the same time, we are doing our level best to fight against and repel terrorism. Egypt has contributed effectively to framing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation with civil society organizations; these reflect the views, hopes and aspirations of various social actors; they are characterized by democracy, balance, and participation in decision-making, and particular attention has been paid in them to such key issues as the empowerment of women, who make up half of society, the empowerment of youth in order to benefit from their enthusiasm and make them a positive and constructive force, since they are the leaders of the future.

(12.4) Climate change is one of Egypt's top concerns, especially in view of Egypt's presidency of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, and Egypt's achievements and vision in this regard in recent times. It is expected that the African position will be strong and influential at the forthcoming climate change summit in Paris. The Government is busy developing curricula and reforming the teaching process, paying close attention to educational activities and developing education by means of continuing teacher training. Egypt's plan to promote education has three basic mainstays: "quality, education system management, and access", given that we are convinced that there cannot be a strong economy without a strong educational system, and that education and scientific research in any country is the main engine of economic and social development.

(12.5) We take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the Organization's efforts towards Egypt. Ever since its inception, UNESCO has endeavoured to offer all possible support, from assistance with the relocation of the Abu Simbel temples in Nubia, Upper Egypt, one of the greatest monuments of the human world heritage, to the project for the revival of the Alexandria Library. Cooperation has continued over the past biennium with regard to education and its development, assistance with the implementation of the education development plan in Egypt, the provision of assistance with the protection of archaeological sites and heritage of global value in Egypt. In view of all that, we are bound to offer sincere thanks to the Director-General and the Secretariat for all that they have done. We hope that such fruitful cooperation may continue. UNESCO must take all necessary steps and measures to protect the religious places and the archaeological sites in Jerusalem, and we hope that effect will be given to the decisions of the Executive Board on dispatching a technical mission to visit Jerusalem, and that a report thereon will be submitted to the Executive Board at its forthcoming session. In conclusion, Egypt, which had the honour to participate in drafting the ideas and principles that the founding fathers enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution, reiterates its full commitment to working to achieve the goals of the Organization and to bringing about peace and development for the peoples of the world. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

13. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Philneas Magagula, Minister of Education and Training of Swaziland. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

14.1 Mr Magagula (Swaziland):

Mr President, kindly allow me on behalf of the Kingdom of Swaziland to warmly and heartily congratulate you for being elected to the Presidency of this session. Let me reaffirm and reassure you of Swaziland's unwavering commitment and support you in your new and demanding duties. The Government of Swaziland would like to pay its tribute and appreciation to UNESCO for the enormous support afforded the country for the past 37 years. The last biennium is no exception as we continued to receive great support from UNESCO, as will be highlighted in this statement.

14.2 We pay our tribute to UNESCO for continuing to support the country through the Participation Programme. The support extended through the programme contributes to the development of the country and has assisted in the development of critical national policies. This support has also contributed to the visibility of UNESCO in Swaziland and we advocate that this programme is sustained and strengthened.

14.3 Swaziland is elated to be among the countries that have participated and contributed to the Education 2030 Framework for Action and pledges to put efforts into the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Swaziland subscribes to SDG 4, which stresses inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. Indeed, Swaziland has placed quality high on its agenda for education. The support of UNESCO, through the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), to analyse the quality of education in the country in a bid to improve the quality, is highly valued.

14.4 Swaziland has recognized more than ever that there is need to put more effort in proper technical and vocational education and training (TVET) provision, which has been recognized as critical for enhancing the gains of education as a sustainable developmental tool. Hence, we applaud UNESCO's support for the development of national policies to enhance effective TVET provision among our nations and support the inclusion of TVET in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14.5 Swaziland strongly applauds support for the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. Swaziland is a country that is rich in culture and aims to preserve and promote it. UNESCO's support, both technical and financial, has contributed enormously to this goal. One has to highlight the fact that with UNESCO's support, for the first time in the national multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS), culture-related indicators were included. These indicators show how culture through social participation can contribute to the development of the country.

14.6 We urge UNESCO to continue support for the advancement of science and technology, especially in relation to policy. Swaziland has benefited from UNESCO support in the development of the national science, technology and innovation (STI) policy, and the science, mathematics and technology education policy. The existence of these policies has paved a way forward for the advancement of science and technology in the country.

14.7 Last but not least, Swaziland would like to extend its special appreciation to the Director and staff of the Regional Office for Southern Africa for the support extended to the National Commission for UNESCO in Swaziland. With their support and guidance, the National Commission has been able to effectively carry out activities related to the mandate of UNESCO with more focus and direction. This has had a great impact in increasing the visibility of UNESCO in the Kingdom, within the Government sectors, civil society and even at grass-roots level. Above all, this has contributed to the welfare and development of the Swazi people. On behalf of the Kingdom of Swaziland, I pledge our continued support and commitment to UNESCO and its mandate. I thank you.

15. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Mirela Kumbaro, Minister of Culture of Albania. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

16.1 Mme Kumbaro (Albanie) :

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis honorée de m'adresser à vous aujourd'hui au nom de l'Albanie. Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Conférence si importante.

16.2 Personne ne peut se passer de la culture. La seule limite, c'est notre volonté. Mon pays, l'Albanie, fier d'appartenir à la famille de l'UNESCO, a fait preuve d'une ferme volonté pour respecter et poursuivre notre objectif

commun de sauvegarde des cultures et de développement de l'éducation. À cette occasion, je voudrais remercier sincèrement le Centre du patrimoine mondial, non seulement d'avoir accompagné nos institutions dans leur action de sauvegarde du patrimoine, mais aussi d'avoir accueilli favorablement les efforts entrepris par l'État albanais pour répondre à ses recommandations. C'est l'occasion de souligner à quel point la coopération du Centre est utile à chacun des pays membres de l'UNESCO, car sa philosophie, ses méthodes de travail, ses objectifs sont universels.

16.3 Permettez-moi à ce propos d'attirer votre attention sur la demande d'adhésion du Kosovo à l'UNESCO. En décidant de recommander à la Conférence générale l'adhésion du Kosovo à l'UNESCO suivant un projet de décision proposé par l'Albanie, le Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO a été dans son rôle institutionnel. Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Kosovo – reconnu par 111 États membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et membre de plusieurs organisations internationales – est déjà une réalité géopolitique en Europe du Sud-Est. Fortement attaché aux principes de démocratie, de défense des droits de l'homme et d'état de droit, le Kosovo ne cesse d'affirmer son aspiration européenne. Il vient de le prouver notamment en signant, à Strasbourg, l'Accord de stabilisation et d'association avec l'Union européenne. Dans leur approche du patrimoine culturel, les autorités kosovares ont fait preuve de responsabilité institutionnelle et culturelle, de même que les élites du Kosovo. L'Église orthodoxe serbe est reconnue au Kosovo, et son identité et ses droits sont protégés par la Constitution et d'autres lois. Les sites de l'UNESCO et tous les sites du patrimoine culturel sont sûrs et visités par des milliers de touristes chaque année car ils sont protégés par un cadre juridique consolidé et moderne adopté par le Kosovo et parrainé en grande partie par la communauté internationale présente au Kosovo. La grande majorité des objets endommagés par les émeutes de 2004 sont aujourd'hui restaurés et reconstruits grâce aux financements du Gouvernement du Kosovo et de ses partenaires internationaux.

16.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, depuis l'aube de la civilisation balkanique, le patrimoine culturel au Kosovo a été le socle commun d'hommes et de femmes qui ont tout partagé des siècles durant. Un conflit, et les animosités d'une génération, voire de deux, ne peuvent pas changer ce que la terre contient dans sa matrice culturelle et historique. Il n'e s'agit pas simplement d'adhésion à l'UNESCO. C'est une question d'émancipation de la société – de toutes nos sociétés – et surtout d'ouverture d'esprit. L'adhésion du Kosovo à l'UNESCO est non seulement nécessaire mais aussi méritée. Le Kosovo, par son histoire, ses habitants, ses monuments et sa culture, a préservé une partie de la mosaïque culturelle des Balkans. Tous les autres États de la région – tous les autres pays des Balkans – sont membres de l'UNESCO et il ne serait pas logique qu'un membre de la famille balkanique ne soit pas formellement à l'intérieur de l'organisation qui est la plus importante en matière de culture et d'éducation, alors qu'il en fait déjà partie par son lien organique et historique.

16.5 La culture ne connaît pas de frontières administratives. La culture ne se protège pas par l'exclusion de l'Autre. Au contraire, elle s'enrichit par l'échange et l'inclusion. C'est l'essence même de l'existence de l'UNESCO. L'adhésion du Kosovo à l'UNESCO profitera non seulement à ce pays, mais également à ses voisins, la Serbie, l'Albanie, la Macédoine et le Monténégro, qui ont autant à y gagner. On ne peut protéger et promouvoir sa propre culture et son patrimoine culturel sans protéger et promouvoir ceux des voisins, ceux de l'Autre. Sous le contrôle et avec l'assistance de l'Organisation, le pays devra veiller avec une attention toute particulière sur un patrimoine matériel et immatériel, y compris les monuments déjà inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Loin de menacer ce patrimoine essentiel à la mémoire des Serbes du Kosovo, l'adhésion du pays à l'UNESCO créera en fait des conditions et des garanties supplémentaires pour sa protection.

16.6 Mesdames et Messieurs, il est grand temps que les Balkans, auxquels est longtemps resté attaché le cliché de « poudrière de l'Europe », deviennent « un tonneau de culture » en Europe. Nous exhortons nos amis serbes à saisir cette opportunité pour faire preuve d'esprit de coopération et de loyauté par rapport aux engagements pris, qui invitent à regarder vers un avenir européen auquel Serbes et Albanais doivent accéder ensemble. C'est le sens même de l'Histoire et ce sera, à n'en pas douter, l'énième et discrète victoire de la Culture. Merci.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Jose Antonio Zepeda Lopez, Member of Parliament of Nicaragua. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

18.1 **Sr. Zepeda Lopez (Nicaragua):**

Su excelencia Stanley Mutumba Simataa, Presidente de la Conferencia General, su excelencia Mohamed Sameh Amr, Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, su excelencia Irina Bokova, Directora General de UNESCO, estimados delegadas y delegados de esta Conferencia: permítanme iniciar esta intervención recordando a nuestro fundador y padre de la revolución popular sandinista, Comandante Carlos Fonseca Amador, quien en una fecha como hoy pasó a la inmortalidad, dejándonos el legado de garantizar el derecho a la educación, la cultura y el bienestar, ya que desde tiempos de la dura lucha contra la dictadura afirmó que no solo era importante enseñar el uso de armas sino que era necesario enseñar a leer a las y los campesinos en la lucha por liberar a nuestro pueblo y asegurar el progreso y la paz. Hemos escuchado con mucha atención las diferentes intervenciones de las y los representantes de los gobiernos y ha sido unánime el deseo e interés por la formación e incorporación de las y los maestros en los procesos de cambio educativo. Por ello consideramos importante para nuestra región que se fortalezca y mantenga el Instituto Internacional de la UNESCO para la Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe (IESALC). De igual manera consideramos que debe mantenerse y fortalecerse el Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, en particular el Programa MOST, a fin de continuar compartiendo experiencias y mejores prácticas en la integración de nuestras sociedades. Saludamos la iniciativa tendiente a que las escuelas en zonas en conflicto sean protegidas y preservadas. Nicaragua en su profundo compromiso con la paz y el bienestar de los pueblos del mundo lamenta la destrucción y pillaje de nuestro patrimonio material e inmaterial en las zonas ocupadas y en conflicto. ¡No es posible que se continúe con la ocupación ilegal de Palestina, esta debe terminar! ¡La barbarie y el terrorismo, en todas sus expresiones, deben ser detenidos!

18.2 Señor Presidente: hoy, me dirijo a ustedes como educador y dirigente sindical, presidiendo nuestra delegación como expresión práctica de la política de nuestro Presidente de resaltar el diálogo, el consenso y el protagonismo como instrumento de representación y solución de los problemas del Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional que encabeza el Presidente Comandante Daniel Ortega y la compañera Rosario Murillo. Nuestro Gobierno asume y hace suyo el Marco de Acción Educación 2030, marco destinado a desarrollar y cumplir los compromisos de restitución del derecho a la escuela pública gratuita y de calidad. Las rutas educativas fijadas para el desarrollo de las personas se centran en la formación y prácticas de valores, sustentadas en nuestras tradiciones, cultura y costumbres, una educación humanística que gira en torno al fortalecimiento de la familia como eje fundamental de la sociedad. Señor Presidente: nos queda mucho por construir, las políticas son ajustadas conforme a los retos y desafíos pero se avanza con paso firme, construyendo alternativas para nuestro desarrollo; los programas educativos como la secundaria rural, las escuelas de oficios, el fortalecimiento de la educación técnica, la transformación metodológica del primer grado así como la incorporación de la educación preescolar en las zonas rurales, la atención de la educación especial, la educación para jóvenes y adultos son, entre otras, acciones que facilitan el ejercicio del derecho a la educación por nuestro pueblo. La formación y la práctica de valores basados en el amor y el respeto permiten forjar personas conscientes, que aceptan las diferencias existentes y luchan por hacer realidad la equidad y construir un mundo mejor, un mundo sustentado en respetar la vida, erradicar la pobreza y el hambre, un mundo en paz en donde las niñas y niños no sean asesinados por las balas y bombas, un mundo en donde se permita a los pueblos regirse por sus decisiones y no se les impongan condiciones que lleven al desplazamiento forzado hacia otros países, países que hoy se alarman por esta inmigración y no combaten sus causas, se culpabiliza a los que perdieron la tranquilidad y el bienestar por las decisiones de los que se consideran gendarmes del bien y del mal.

18.3 En este 70º aniversario de la UNESCO, es importante reflexionar sobre lo avanzado en los compromisos educativos adquiridos y sobre los retos y desafíos que nos imponen los avances y el desarrollo científicos y técnicos; no debe ser el desarrollo del capital la única referencia para el fortalecimiento educativo, se deben retomar la educación centrada en el desarrollo y fortalecimiento de las habilidades y destrezas de las personas, una educación que brinde capacidades para las oportunidades, una educación para la paz y el respeto a la vida y a la madre tierra. Nuestro orgullo de ser nicaragüense se sustenta en tener patria, tener sueños convertidos en realidad y tener conciencia de que el camino es largo pero hemos comenzado a andar conducidos por nuestro Comandante Daniel Ortega con paso firme y seguros de la victoria. Nicaragua asume y continuará destinando los recursos financieros para avanzar no solo con la cobertura escolar universal sino para alcanzar una calidad educativa que fortalezca la creatividad y la innovación, una calidad educativa que permita a las personas utilizar la tecnología para el bien y el bienestar, una educación que restituya los derechos para que se forme en el cumplimiento del deber, solo de esta manera tendremos desarrollo sostenible y en armonía con el medio ambiente.

18.4 Señor Presidente: en 2016 y 2017 se celebrarán en Nicaragua el centenario y sesquicentenario de la muerte y nacimiento del padre del modernismo nuestro insigne poeta Rubén Darío. Agradecemos a los Estados Miembros y en particular a la Directora General, Irina Bokova, su entusiasmo en acompañar nuestra conmemoración y en contribuir a su universalización. Muchas gracias.

(18.1) **Mr Zepeda Lopez** (Nicaragua) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Your Excellency Stanley Mutumba Simataa, President of the General Conference, Your Excellency Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the Executive Board, Your Excellency Irina Bokova, Director-General de UNESCO, dear delegates attending this Conference, allow me to begin this statement by recalling our founder and father of the Sandinista people's revolution, Commander Carlos Fonseca Amador, who, on a date like today, passed into immortality, leaving us the legacy of guaranteeing the right to education, culture and well-being. Since the time of the bitter struggle against dictatorship, he affirmed that it was important not only to teach the use of weapons but also to teach the rural population to read, in the struggle to free our people and ensure progress and peace. We have listened very carefully to the various statements by the representatives of the governments, who have been unanimous in their desire for and interest in the training of teachers and their inclusion in processes of change in education. We believe that it is vital for our region that the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) should be maintained and strengthened. We also believe it is important to maintain and strengthen UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector, in particular the MOST Programme, to continue sharing experiences and best practices in the integration of our societies. We welcome the initiative to ensure that schools in conflict zones are protected and preserved. Given its profound commitment to peace and well-being for the peoples of the world, Nicaragua regrets the destruction and looting of our tangible and intangible heritage in occupied and conflict zones. The illegal occupation of Palestine must not continue; it must end! Barbarity and terrorism, in all their forms, must be stopped!

(18.2) Mr President, today I address you as an educator and a trade-union leader, leading our delegation as a practical expression of our President's policy of emphasizing dialogue, consensus and leadership as tools to represent and resolve the problems facing the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity led by the President, Commander Daniel Ortega, and comrade Rosario Murillo. Our Government adopts and endorses the Education 2030 Framework for Action, a framework destined to develop and fulfil the commitment to restore the right to free and quality public education. The educational paths established for the development of peoples focus on the training and practice of values based on our traditions, culture and customs, a humanistic education that revolves around the strengthening of the family as the fundamental pillar of society. Mr President, much remains to be done; policies are adjusted according to the challenges faced, but we are steadily making headway, building alternatives for our development; education programmes such as rural secondary education, vocational schools, strengthening of technical education, methodological transformation of the first grade as well as the incorporation of pre-school education in rural areas, special needs education, education for youth and adults are just some of the actions that can enable our people to exercise their right to education. Training and practice of values based on love and respect allow us to forge conscientious people who accept peoples' differences and fight to achieve equity and to build a better world, a world based on respect for life, the eradication of poverty and famine; a world in peace, where children are not killed by bullets and bombs; a world where people are allowed to be governed by their decisions and not by imposed conditions that lead to their forced displacement to other countries, countries that are alarmed by this immigration and do not fight their causes; and blame is laid on those who have lost peace and well-being because of the decisions made by those who consider themselves to be the police of good and evil.

(18.3) On this 70th anniversary of UNESCO, it is important to reflect upon the progress made in educational commitments and the challenges imposed by scientific and technical progress. Capital development should not be the only reference for educational strengthening; education should be focused on the development and strengthening of people's skills and abilities, education that provides capacities for opportunities, education for peace and respect for life and mother Earth. Our pride in being Nicaraguan is based on having a country, having dreams come true and being aware that the road is long, but that we have begun to walk it, led by Commander Daniel Ortega, with the steady and sure step of victory. Nicaragua contributes and will continue to allocate financial resources to make progress not only in the area of universal school coverage but also to achieve quality education that strengthens creativity and innovation, enabling people to use technology for good and well-being; and education that restores rights, so that people are trained in the fulfilment of duty. Only then will there be sustainable development in harmony with the environment.

(18.4) Mr President, in 2016 and 2017, Nicaragua will be celebrating the centenary of the death and the 150th anniversary of the birth of our distinguished poet Rubén Darío, Father of Modernism. We thank the Member States and, in particular, the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for their enthusiasm in accompanying our commemoration and contributing to its universalization. Thank you very much.

19. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Anar Karimov, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

20.1 Mr Karimov (Azerbaijan):

Dear Mr President of the General Conference, dear Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election and express my heartfelt wishes for a successful presidency. Allow me also to thank the outgoing President, Mr Hao Ping, for the excellent work during his mandate.

20.2 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO has passed through 70 years with the sacred goal of "building peace in the minds of men and women". Several legal instruments were established, important conferences were held, and messages were sent all around the world in order to better protect and promote a culture of peace, to establish and ensure the continuity of intercultural dialogue, provide better access to education for all, preserve the environment and thus create better social and economic conditions for citizens of the world irrespective of their race, religion or ethnic background.

20.3 Unfortunately, the world is still witnessing wars and conflicts, extremism, radicalization, destruction of cultural and religious heritage. The international community cannot stay indifferent vis-a-vis such violence. We are glad that UNESCO, through its existing mechanisms and resources, spares no effort to keep this issue high on the agenda. In this regard, we welcome the "#Unite4Heritage" campaign launched by the Director-General, as well as the elaboration of the strategy to reinforce UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict.

20.4 We are living through historic moments, when the United Nations just recently adopted new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the aim of achieving a better and safer world built upon sustainable economic and social development. I am confident that with its expertise and knowledge on education, UNESCO will successfully lead the international community to achieve the targets incorporated in the SDGs.

20.5 Distinguished delegates, Azerbaijan attaches great importance to cooperation with UNESCO. This cooperation has become more intensive after the signing of the framework agreement on cooperation between UNESCO and Azerbaijan in July 2013. Azerbaijan decided to sign this agreement with the primary goal of supporting UNESCO in this difficult time to advance its activities in core areas. This includes supporting UNESCO in such priority areas as education for all, girls' education, safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, science and innovation technologies, disaster risk preparedness and many others.

20.6 Let me give you a few examples of the projects that are being implemented within the framework agreement: girls' education in east African countries; support for the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sub-sector through the Capacity Building for Education for All (CapEFA) programme in Liberia; and the Avicenna Virtual Campus in Central Asia, a large-scale programme for teacher training in science and technology. While mentioning all these activities, I am delighted to underline the tremendous support of Her Excellency, Ms Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, in making these projects possible, as well as in promoting the message of peace and UNESCO's core values worldwide.

20.7 Ladies and gentlemen, situated on the crossroads of civilizations, cultures and religions, Azerbaijan is a place for intercultural dialogue, and we are proud of that. The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held in Azerbaijan for the third time is one of the best examples of our commitment to promote inter-religious and intercultural dialogue. I would like to thank UNESCO as official partner of the Forum for its support and contribution to the success of this important event.

20.8 However, it is with profound regret that I must add that peace, security and stability in our region continue to be endangered and UNESCO's principles and values remain violated by an ongoing military occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia. In fact, the deliberate acts of destruction of cultural heritage in different parts of the world is not something new to my people. Such and similar acts took place many years ago as a result of a cultural cleansing policy, and not a single historical monument, mosque or cemetery testifying to the centuries' old historical presence of the Azerbaijani population escapes destruction or desecration in the occupied territories and in Armenia itself. What is more interesting is that while being involved in all these crimes, and being a unique – I repeat – unique mono-ethnic and mono-religious country in a very diverse region, Armenia is trying to teach others about diversity and tolerance – dangerous, very flabbergasting logic.

20.9 Ladies and gentlemen, it is regretful that instead of using this forum to spread a message of peace and dialogue, yesterday we again heard hate and intolerance in the speech of the Foreign Minister of Armenia. But we still believe that

the whole international community should stand together with UNESCO in achieving all goals that are ahead for the creation of a safer world for humanity with sustainable peace, prosperity and development. Thank you very much.

21. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Mariam Katagum, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

22.1 Ms Katagum (Nigeria):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen. I bring you warm greetings and best wishes from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, Grand Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (GCFR), and the people of Nigeria. We warmly congratulate you, Mr President, on your election and are confident that you and your great country will provide guidance to the Organization as we make the first moves towards the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On this historic occasion, as we mark the 70th anniversary of our dear Organization, it is with pride and great pleasure that we in Nigeria acknowledge and celebrate the richness and fruitfulness of our 55 years of association with UNESCO.

22.2 Mr President, in recognition of its mandate and its proven achievements, the international community has placed UNESCO very much in the centre of several of the global activities for today and for the future. It is therefore up to us, as Member States, to ensure that UNESCO is provided with the means it needs to meet its ever-growing responsibilities. This is why Nigeria has often pleaded for more funds for UNESCO; if only some token increase in its budget, which has remained stagnant for several biennia.

22.3 Given the prevailing situation in the Organization, Nigeria is willing to go along with the emerging consensus for the proposed option for the zero nominal growth-plus (ZNG+) scenario for the 2016-2017 budget. Furthermore, we shall continue to provide core budget support for the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) and the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) in recognition of their excellent performance, although our membership and presidency of IBE is coming to an end.

22.4 Distinguished delegates, Nigeria commends the Director-General for the effective management of the Organization in spite of the lean financial resources, and particularly for intensifying UNESCO's relevance to Africa's development. However, we encourage a re-focusing of the Organization's programmes and structures in Africa, in the light of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluations and the whole concept of Global Priority Africa, which was launched 25 years ago.

22.5 Going forward, Nigeria pledges to continue its support for the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in West Africa, in Abuja, where last year we were able to second six senior staff to assist with the work in the subregion. We therefore call on other Member States to follow this example.

22.6 Mr President, Nigeria believes in the wisdom of taking a hard look at the governance of the Organization. We applaud all the efforts that have been made so far and believe that these can only be beneficial to the Organization if they are undertaken with care, with wisdom and with all-inclusive consultations.

22.7 In education, we commend UNESCO for its coordinating role in the development of the Education 2030 Framework for Action agenda. Education remains a priority for our Government, as we tackle issues of access and quality as well as the challenge of out-of-school children. Nigeria has taken proactive measures, such as the "Safe School Initiative", to address the effect of insecurity on education delivery. We invite the participation of development partners in our efforts to bring back education to north-eastern Nigeria which has been the worst hit by the scourge of the Boko Haram insurgency.

22.8 Science, technology and innovation (STI) together constitute one of the main pillars of the agenda for change of the new Nigerian administration. The second phase of the science component of the Nigeria/UNESCO special plan of cooperation will be developed as a pilot programme for the attainment of science-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the STI policy elaborated in cooperation with UNESCO. We are happy to report that the International Centre for Biotechnology, a UNESCO category 2 centre, focusing on food security and tropical diseases, has taken off with three programmes recommended by its international scientific advisory committee.

22.9 Mr President, the Government of Nigeria is committed to the letter and spirit of supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles. We strongly condemn the illegal destruction of cultural objects and shall continue our cooperation with UNESCO in the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, through the activities of the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding, whose designation as a UNESCO category 2 institute was recently renewed.

22.10 Nigeria recognizes the importance of communication and information in the socio-economic development of its citizens. In line with the Freedom of Information Act which guarantees the right of access to information and freedom of the press, and the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, we are happy to report that we have responded to the Director-General's request for a status report on the judicial enquiries conducted on journalists killed in Nigeria from 2006 to 2013. Nigeria has taken steps in the prevention of attacks against journalists through the establishment of a safe monitoring network.

22.11 Finally, Mr President, Nigeria wishes to thank the President of the 37th session of the General Conference and the Chair of the Executive Board for their contributions to the attainment of UNESCO's lofty goal of creating a better world where peace will reign supreme! I thank you for your attention.

23. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for the brevity of your intervention. Much appreciated. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Asein Isaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kyrgyzstan to Belgium and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

24.1 Mr Isaev (Kyrgyzstan):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, kindly allow me to greet all the participants of the anniversary session of the General Conference and to congratulate Mr Stanley Mutumbu Simataa upon his appointment and to wish him every success in this high and important post. I would also like to express our gratitude to the President of the 37th session of the General Conference, Mr Hao Ping, for his fruitful work.

24.2 It is with great delight that I congratulate Member States of UNESCO, and the Secretariat, presided over by Ms Irina Bokova, on the 70th anniversary of the Organization. This session of the General Conference, we are sure, will become a new point of reference for many countries regarding the progress of sustainable development, while we Member States will work together through UNESCO programmes, aiming at reaching peace by means of education, science, culture, information and communication.

24.3 Mr President, the end of the Second World War encouraged the implementation of such values as recognition of freedom, equality of peoples, and the universality of international principles of law, which do not divide the world into great powers and the rest of the world anymore. However, today there are unsolved questions related to, for example, the inclusion of our children in the system of primary education. The world has not eradicated conflicts, which spring up due to intolerance towards cultures and religions. The existence of an information gap still complicates the process of integration of many countries into the global space of education.

24.4 We hope that UNESCO will continue to play a key role in development and implementation of a new global post-2015 agenda, on all the levels of its mandate in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Today's challenges force us to be more proactive and to employ education, science and culture while working on development issues.

24.5 Mr President, sustainable development of every State depends mainly on ensured security and stability, at local as well as global levels. We believe that today, countries must put aside all differences and join forces to combat terrorism and violent extremism more actively. The systematic destruction of the world's cultural heritage has reached an unprecedented level. Kyrgyzstan decidedly condemns all acts of terrorism and vandalism of cultural and historical heritage, as has occurred in the Syrian Arab Republic, witnessed by all the international community. Terrorism has its roots and causes, but it does not have any justifications.

24.6 We would like to stress that the international community needs efficient joint action not only against extremism per se, but also against its violent effects. Today we see that the character of extremist threats is changing significantly. These violent effects depend less and less on geographic distribution – now we are dealing with extremist ideology infiltrating the minds of people in all regions of the world. Having consolidated their forces, based on common extremist ideology, various terrorist organizations are becoming powerful criminal structures with a vast network of followers. In this regard, we suggest that the phenomenon of extremism should be viewed not only on the level of the violent methods used, but primarily in the framework of implementing preventive measures discouraging the spreading of destructive ideological influence. Thus, we believe it necessary to aim State policy against extremist appearances in this sphere, and towards efficient protection of the State's civic character, to strengthen the interaction with traditional religions along with the realization of citizens' right to religious freedom.

24.7 In our country, we are paying special attention to the amelioration of the quality of education, educating adults, and we strive to frame it in the spirit of global citizenship. In this regard, we support the importance of values, views and skills that contribute to tackling the existing and newly appearing global challenges threatening our planet. Today, based upon its historical and cultural background, the Kyrgyz Republic continues to develop and strengthen the national model of State governance based on the principles of parliamentary democracy.

24.8 On this occasion, we would like to express our deep appreciation to all UNESCO Member States who voted for Kyrgyzstan on the anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly, electing Kyrgyzstan as a member of the Human Rights Council for 2016-2017. This, surely, is proof of the high evaluation and recognition of positive changes by the international community. These changes in our country indicate the building of an open, democratic and inclusive society.

24.9 Mr President, in conclusion, I would like to turn back to the subject of the creation of UNESCO 70 years ago, which has become the embodiment of the ideals of all humanity and the defender of the interests of all peoples of the world. As was noted by the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO was born of the principle of the stability of peace and development. Thank you for your attention.

25. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Tedson Kalebe, Ambassador of Malawi to Belgium. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

26.1 **Mr Kalebe (Malawi):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, allow me to add my delegation's sincere congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I am confident that we will benefit from your intellect and wisdom. I also bring fraternal greetings from His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi.

26.2 Mr President, as we celebrate UNESCO's 70th anniversary, the world is experiencing high levels of violence, intolerance and civil strife. This is leading to unprecedented levels of cultural destruction. It is therefore important that UNESCO play a major role in helping to bring lasting peace and offer solutions especially in its fields of competence, within the United Nations system. Our sincere gratitude, therefore, goes to the Director-General for the role UNESCO is playing in ensuring that heritages are preserved and protected. We also wish to commend Member States that continue to financially support UNESCO in its endeavour to strengthen the implementation of the cultural conventions.

26.3 Mr President, Malawi has made a strong commitment to accommodate the Incheon Declaration, the Education 2030 Framework for Action and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on education. This is reflected in Malawi's revised Education Act which embodies the tenets of access, equity and efficiency in priority areas stipulated under Major Programme I. We look forward to continued support in reforming our technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system through the Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR) project and the training courses organized by UNESCO institutes.

26.4 Mr President, we are pleased with the provision of cleaner energy and other priorities set out in the science programme. We also find strategies outlined in the social and human sciences programme very pragmatic. We believe the envisaged activities outlined in these two programmes will help us respond to climate change challenges and support Malawi's social and scientific transformation. We therefore wish to urge UNESCO to maintain the community radios programme which will assist countries such as Malawi to disseminate information related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

26.5 Mr President, allow me to commend the Director-General for her assurance to support the Participation Programme. I also wish to register my delegation's appreciation to the Korean National Commission for UNESCO's education for all (EFA) strategies. The two programmes have supported our National Commission by providing technical as well as financial assistance. Malawi would therefore encourage UNESCO to sustain programmes that promote information sharing and capacity building initiated under North-North, North-South and South-South cooperation.

26.6 Mr President, allow me to conclude by pledging Malawi's continued support to the welfare of UNESCO and look forward to our continued interaction in the matters of our mutual interest. Mr President, distinguished delegates, thank you very much for your attention.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, once again for the brevity of your intervention. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Marco Tulio Chicas Sosa, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Guatemala to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

28.1 **Sr. Chicas Sosa (Guatemala):**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Director General Adjunto, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señores jefes de delegación, distinguidos delegados: el marco que ofrece el septuagésimo aniversario de la UNESCO evoca positivismo y a la vez franqueza; vemos con entusiasmo cómo se entrelazan los logros tangibles a lo largo de la historia, junto a los retos que aún estamos llamados a superar. El balance es indudablemente positivo. La UNESCO constituye un actor internacional que por su naturaleza ha sabido promover la paz, la educación, la cultura, las ciencias y la libertad de expresión. Es por ello que no me queda la menor duda de que la UNESCO estará a la altura de las circunstancias, en los trabajos que se requieren para coadyuvar a alcanzar la Agenda 2030. Guatemala reafirma su compromiso: con el Marco de Acción Educación 2030, con la promoción de las ciencias naturales y sociales, continúa trabajando para garantizar la seguridad de los periodistas, así como en la protección y promoción de las expresiones culturales. Guatemala reitera los esfuerzos realizados para alcanzar la igualdad de género y el desarrollo de oportunidades para la juventud. Por otra parte, no puedo dejar de referirme a las irreparables pérdidas de vidas humanas, expresiones culturales y patrimonio cultural, a causa de la condenable intolerancia de grupos terroristas. Expresamos nuestra solidaridad a las víctimas, así como a todos aquellos que sufren o han sufrido violaciones de los derechos humanos y hacemos votos por la pronta solución de tan grave y alarmante problemática.

28.2 La destrucción reciente de sitios considerados patrimonio cultural de la humanidad, así como el pillaje y el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales son problemas de gran magnitud que demandan renovados esfuerzos de la UNESCO y sus Estados Miembros; aún tenemos grandes espacios para continuar mejorando la lucha contra el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales. Invito a la Directora General de la UNESCO a continuar promoviendo espacios de diálogo en la materia con diversos actores, incluyendo a las grandes casas de subasta. En Guatemala, tenemos un gran aprecio y admiración por los pueblos y gobiernos de aquellos países en donde se encuentran los grandes mercados para la venta de arte. De hecho, dichos pueblos y gobiernos nos han acompañado y continúan apoyando incondicionalmente en el desarrollo democrático y el fortalecimiento institucional, por lo cual les estamos eternamente agradecidos.

28.3 Hay un adagio que dice: "amor no quita conocimiento", y es que en algunos casos nos resulta difícil entender el ritmo con el que se avanza en la lucha contra el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales. Apelamos a la solidaridad internacional y hablamos a la conciencia de los pueblos y gobiernos para que avancemos sin dilación en la ratificación del Convenio de UNIDROIT sobre los Bienes Culturales Robados o Exportados Ilícitamente así como en la misma

Convención sobre las Medidas que deben Adoptarse para Prohibir e Impedir la Importación, la Exportación y la Transferencia de Propiedad Ilícitas de Bienes Culturales. Les ruego que reciban esta reflexión como el llamado a la conciencia que hace un amigo que sufre constantemente y en carne propia la profanación, el saqueo y el tráfico ilícito del patrimonio de su país. No creemos que la UNESCO tenga por objeto constituirse en un foro para hacer señalamientos y denuncias, sino un espacio constructivo para impulsar el diálogo y la comprensión mutua entre las diversas culturas y civilizaciones. De manera que no estamos en contra de los países que constituyen mercados para el arte, ni en contra de las grandes casas de subasta del arte, sino que sencillamente deseamos hacerles saber que nos duele y vemos con sumo pesar, perplejidad e impotencia la manera en que algunas sociedades conciben y comercializan el patrimonio cultural de las grandes civilizaciones del pasado. No estoy aquí para hacer cuestionamientos jurídicos, sino para compartir nuestra visión y llamar la atención sobre las diferencias de puntos de vista, en la manera que distintas sociedades conciben el patrimonio cultural de los pueblos. Lo que en algunos lugares es concebido como patrimonio cultural inalienable, en otros es concebido como un mero objeto de arte susceptible de ser enajenado.

28.4 ¿Qué de malo tiene aspirar a que nuestras sociedades evolucionen y dejen de considerar elegante y distinguida la comercialización del patrimonio de los pueblos? ¿Qué de malo tiene? Es cierto que tenemos por delante retos de gran magnitud, pero también es grande nuestra inquebrantable voluntad por superarlos. Y en esto, sí que navegamos en el mismo barco todos los pueblos y gobiernos representados en la UNESCO. La UNESCO ha demostrado ser un actor propositivo para encontrar soluciones a los retos que enfrentamos a nivel global, incluido el calentamiento global. Nosotros no podemos dejar de reconocer los esfuerzos del Gobierno de Francia por organizar y liderar ejemplarmente la COP 21. No puedo terminar mi intervención sin expresar nuestro respaldo a los trabajos que realiza la UNESCO en Guatemala, en el marco de la productiva visita que realizó la excelentísima señora Irina Bokova, Directora General de la UNESCO a principios del año en curso y del constante apoyo de la Oficina de la UNESCO en mi país. Finalmente, gracias a Azerbaiyán por el apoyo al desarrollo de la agenda de patrimonio inmaterial de Guatemala. Muchas gracias.

(28.1) **Mr Chicas Sosa** (Guatemala) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Deputy Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished delegates, the framework provided by the 70th anniversary of UNESCO evokes positivism and openness; we witness with enthusiasm how tangible achievements have been woven throughout history, along with the challenges that we have yet to overcome. The balance is undoubtedly positive. UNESCO is an international player that by its nature has promoted peace, education, culture, science and freedom of expression. That is why I have no doubt that UNESCO will rise to the occasion when it comes to the work required to help achieve the 2030 Agenda. Guatemala reaffirms its commitment to the Education 2030 Framework for Action and to the promotion of social and natural sciences, and continues to work to ensure the safety of journalists and the protection and promotion of cultural expressions. Guatemala reiterates the efforts made to achieve gender equality and the development of opportunities for youth. Also, I cannot fail to mention the irreparable loss of human lives, cultural expressions and heritage, owing to the reprehensible intolerance of terrorist groups. We express our solidarity with the victims, as well as with those who suffer or have suffered violations of human rights, and we hope for the prompt resolution of this serious and alarming problem.

(28.2) The recent destruction of sites considered to be the cultural heritage of humanity, and the pillaging of and trafficking in cultural property are major problems requiring renewed efforts by UNESCO and its Member States; we still have great opportunities to continue improving the fight against trafficking in cultural property. I invite the Director-General of UNESCO to continue promoting spaces for dialogue in this area with various players, including the large auction houses. In Guatemala, we have great appreciation and admiration for the peoples and governments of those countries in which the major art markets are located. These peoples and governments have accompanied us and continue unconditionally to support democratic development and institution-building, for which we are eternally grateful.

(28.3) There is a saying that “love does not remove knowledge”, and in some cases we find it difficult to understand the rate of progress in the fight against trafficking in cultural property. We appeal to international solidarity and we speak to the conscience of the peoples and governments to move ahead swiftly in ratifying the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. I urge you to receive this as an appeal to your conscience made by a friend who is constantly suffering owing to the profanation, plunder and trafficking of his country’s heritage. We do not believe that UNESCO is intended as a forum for pointing fingers and making allegations, but a constructive place to foster dialogue and mutual understanding between different cultures and civilizations. We are not against the countries in which the markets for art are located, nor against the big auction houses that sell art, we simply wish to let them know that we are hurting, and that we see with regret, perplexity and impotence the way in which some societies conceive and market the cultural heritage of the great civilizations of the past. I am not here to raise legal challenges, but to share our vision and draw attention to the differences of views in the way that societies conceive the cultural heritage of peoples. That which in some places is conceived as inalienable cultural heritage, in other places it is conceived as a mere object of art that can be sold.

(28.4) What is wrong with hoping that our societies may evolve and cease to consider the commercialization of peoples’ heritage as elegant and distinguished? What is wrong with that? It is true that we have considerable challenges ahead of us, but our unshakeable resolve to overcome them is also considerable. And in this respect, the peoples and governments represented in UNESCO are all sailing in the same boat. UNESCO has proven to be proactive in finding solutions to the challenges we face at the global level, including global warming. We cannot fail to acknowledge the efforts of the Government of France for its exemplary organization and leadership of the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21). I cannot end my speech without expressing our support for the work carried out by UNESCO in Guatemala, within the framework of the productive visit made by Her Excellency Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO at the beginning of the year, and the continued support of the UNESCO Office in my country. Finally, I express thanks to Azerbaijan for supporting the development of Guatemala’s intangible heritage agenda. Thank you very much.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Matthew Sudders, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

30.1 **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. Excellencies, Mr President of the Executive Board, fellow Ambassadors, dear colleagues. First of all, congratulations Mr President on your election to the important post and thank you for the leadership you have already shown, but more importantly thank you for the work I know you are going to do over the next two years.

30.2 Happy birthday UNESCO. At 70 years old, many are ready to retire, but just lately I see UNESCO with a new sense of purpose and a new lease of life. I see that for the first time since the financial crisis began, a new programme will formally come into being at this General Conference, the new International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was proud to support the development of this programme, and if it is adopted, we look forward to welcoming the first ever UNESCO global geoparks conference in the United Kingdom next year.

30.3 We also look forward to UNESCO's role in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In getting there, we saw UNESCO's intellectual leadership. Please keep it up. We know, too, that UNESCO will be needed to respond to new challenges, never envisaged 70 years ago. Art, artefacts and monuments are how civilizations tell their stories. We celebrate and recognize this in many UNESCO programmes such as world heritage, intangible heritage, and the Memory of the World Programme. And while those programmes bring obligations and recognition, they are also designed for a world with an international system of States, and rules, borders and justice. But today's challenges come from people who recognize no rules, norms, borders, authorities or justice. Their simple purpose is destruction and the prevention of social cohesion. This is why the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland last week hosted a cultural protection summit. We are working to establish a cultural protection fund, and the Government has also committed to ratify finally The Hague Convention. As a first step, we launched a £3 million Iraqi Emergency Heritage Management Project to be implemented by the British Museum. We will continue to work developing our fund and will work with others, including UNESCO, as we do so.

30.4 Of course preventing violent extremism is also a key challenge for us all today, and it encompasses many different strands of our work. Education has a key role, for we know hatred is taught not born. But terrorists and extremism are not our only challenge. Just this week, the launch of the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development report highlighted the vital role a free media plays in a functioning democracy, and just how often that is under threat. Our Communication and Information Sector plays a vital role in embedding the values which underpin a constitutional commitment to the free flow of ideas.

30.5 Mr President, we could all speak for hours about the importance of UNESCO's programmes, highlighting each different one and its need. But I think we should also talk about the challenge for UNESCO to adapt to the future, to make sure that it positions itself to deliver a clear and critical role within the wider United Nations system to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Those goals have several key characteristics which we need to understand to implement the best programme. Leaving no one behind is key. This means that we will need to know where the marginalized are, the excluded and the left behind. How do we reach them? How do we give them the opportunities we all want? This requires a data revolution, and adaptive policies.

30.6 When I talk about leaving no one behind, it is particularly important that we make small island developing States (SIDS) a priority, in actions, policies and resources. While the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were vertical and somewhat "siloeed", this new agenda has the potential to be much more integrated and horizontal. How will we make integrated solutions the norm rather than the exception? Where the MDGs drove a largely North-South agenda, the post-2015 development agenda is universal. In its work to make the United Nations system fit for purpose, the leadership of the United Nations has identified several key challenges. A key one for UNESCO is to become more transparent and accountable. That must specifically include accountability to beneficiaries and this is an area in which we still have much to do. We did not undertake the required beneficiary survey before we developed the new C/5 document. We do not evaluate routinely conferences or meetings. UNESCO staff are not able to benefit from client feedback as part of their appraisal. This is a real shame because we have many staff who are highly appreciated by those they work with and it would be nice to get this recognized.

30.7 Mr President, this has also brought challenges from within the institution. Five million dollars was spent on a staff separation scheme which could otherwise have been spent on priority programmes. Elsewhere we need to see consistent, coherent, transparent responses to the recommendations of the recent audits. This needs to see us properly adhering to our rules on tendering and contracting, paying more attention to the field offices, improving human resources management and improving transparency and tackling conflicts of interest.

30.8 Mr President, UNESCO's reputation for accountability and transparency depends on getting this right. I cannot close without putting on record formal thanks to someone who has been the heart and soul of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland delegation for more years than I am allowed to mention. I mean, of course, Hilary Izon. Hilary, you have been the heart and soul of our delegation. You have been a dedicated member of staff and I salute your service. I salute your service and everything you have done for your country and your delegation. I wish you every happiness in your impending retirement. We are really going to miss you. Thank you.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much Ambassador Sudders. Indeed for Hilary we shall all keep her in our thoughts. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Lorena Sol de Pool, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of El Salvador to UNESCO. Your Excellency you have the floor.

32.1 **Sra. Sol de Pool** (El Salvador):

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señor Director General Adjunto, distinguidos delegados: reciban los saludos del Presidente de El Salvador, profesor Salvador Sánchez Cerén, en esta ocasión de gran trascendencia histórica, cuando conmemoramos los 70 años de la creación de la UNESCO. Ahora más que nunca la UNESCO es pertinente en esta nueva etapa convulsa del futuro de la humanidad. En un entorno geopolítico complejo, donde la cultura de paz cada día se ve amenazada por grandes conflictos armados, pérdida de vidas, migraciones forzadas, terrorismo y destrucción de la cultura de los pueblos, debemos cerrar filas como UNESCO, siendo los defensores y promotores del respeto, la justicia e inclusión social, la solidaridad, la tolerancia y el diálogo intercultural. La UNESCO debe conservar su carácter de fuerza moral del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y de organismo líder en educación. Los desafíos que tenemos por delante son inmensos y necesitamos una Organización más participativa, más eficaz y más inclusiva; por ello la UNESCO debe respetar la distribución geográfica de su personal, especialmente, por lo que se refiere a los países no representados, como El Salvador. El Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 4 relativo a la educación impone a nuestros países retos con los cuales estamos comprometidos, pero también a la UNESCO se le presentan grandes desafíos, principalmente el de brindarnos un acompañamiento oportuno y realista para cumplir la responsabilidad histórica que hemos asumido. Por consiguiente, El Salvador reafirma que la educación es un derecho humano fundamental y un bien público, que promueve la prosperidad y el crecimiento pacífico, inclusivo, equitativo y sostenible de nuestras sociedades. El Objetivo 4, relativo a la educación, se gestó en la UNESCO, y fue producto de un intenso trabajo coordinado, de cuatro años, entre los Estados Miembros, la sociedad civil, los organismos asociados y la Secretaría. Este Objetivo mantendrá a la UNESCO en alta relevancia en la agenda de desarrollo post 2015, lo que agradecemos a su Directora General, quien será su mayor promotora.

32.2 La educación técnica es una excelente herramienta para lograr una mayor integración calificada de la juventud a la vida productiva, lo que ha permitido cambiar su enfoque de formación, iniciando esta transformación con la creación y puesta en marcha en El Salvador de programas que incentivan y apoyan con becas a los jóvenes que terminan noveno grado, a continuar sus estudios a nivel de bachillerato técnico y a los que terminan bachillerato técnico o general, a continuar sus estudios a nivel de educación superior técnica.

32.3 En los últimos años, y con mayor frecuencia, cada nuevo ítem de conocimiento se convierte en propiedad privada. Muchas veces se asume que esto es positivo, y que los beneficios económicos justifican la privatización. Este fenómeno se ha agudizado y constituye uno de los rasgos que están caracterizando a las llamadas “sociedades del conocimiento”. Por ello, debemos evitar la privatización del conocimiento, y promoverlo como un bien común libremente accesible y compartible.

32.4 El Señor Presidente de la República, profesor Salvador Sánchez Cerén, impulsó desde el inicio de su gestión el desarrollo sostenible de la reserva de biosfera, integrada por El Salvador, Honduras y Guatemala, que fue catalogada por la UNESCO de “región modelo”. Por ello, El Salvador considera de crucial importancia el Programa MAB y le preocupa mucho su drástica reducción de presupuesto, por lo que exhortamos a la Directora General a fortalecerlo. El Salvador, así como el resto de los países de Centroamérica, es altamente vulnerable al cambio climático; de ahí que nos asociemos al llamado de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo, nuestros amigos y aliados del Caribe, Pacífico Sur y océano Índico, para apoyar las acciones de la UNESCO que permitan llevar a cabo actividades de educación para el desarrollo sostenible y adaptación al cambio climático, que mitiguen los efectos destructivos que amenazan la subsistencia de nuestros pueblos.

32.5 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. Acordamos que se reactiven los marcos y mecanismos que contribuirán al desarrollo social mediante el intercambio de experiencias del Programa MOST y así lograr reducir mediante el intercambio de experiencias las desigualdades socioeconómicas. Para concluir, exhortamos a la UNESCO a asumir su rol de liderazgo dentro de la Agenda 2030 y que destine fondos de manera racional para su exitosa ejecución. Muchas gracias.

(32.1) **Ms Sol de Pool** (El Salvador) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Deputy Director-General, distinguished delegates, I extend to you the greetings of the President of El Salvador, Professor Salvador Sánchez Cerén, on this occasion of great historical importance, as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the creation of UNESCO. Now more than ever, UNESCO is relevant in this new phase of turmoil for the future of humanity. In a complex geopolitical environment, where the culture of peace is threatened every day by armed conflicts, loss of lives, forced migration, terrorism and destruction of the culture of peoples, we must close ranks as UNESCO, as the defenders and promoters of respect, justice and social inclusion, solidarity, tolerance and intercultural dialogue. UNESCO must maintain its status as a moral force in the United Nations system, and as lead agency in education. The challenges ahead are immense and we need a more participatory, more effective and more inclusive Organization; UNESCO must therefore respect the geographical distribution of its staff, especially as regards unrepresented countries such as El Salvador. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on education raises challenges for our countries, in which we are engaged, but UNESCO also faces great challenges, mainly to provide timely and realistic support to enable us to fulfil the historical responsibility we have assumed. Therefore, El Salvador reaffirms that education is a fundamental human right and a public good that promotes prosperity and the peaceful, inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth of our societies. SDG 4, on education, was developed at UNESCO, and was the product of intensive four-year coordinated work among Member States, civil society, partner agencies and the UNESCO Secretariat. With this Goal, UNESCO will remain highly relevant in the post-2015 development agenda, thanks to the Director-General, who will be its main promoter.

(32.2) Technical education is an excellent tool for greater integration of qualified young people into productive life, which has enabled a change in the approach to training, initiating this transformation with the creation and implementation in El Salvador of programmes that encourage and support with scholarships young people who complete lower secondary schooling to continue their studies to the level of technical baccalaureate, and those who complete a technical or general baccalaureate to continue their studies at the level of technical higher education.

(32.3) In recent years, and increasingly frequently, each new item of knowledge becomes private property. This is often assumed to be positive, as economic benefits justify privatization. This phenomenon has intensified and is one of the features characterizing the so-called "knowledge societies". We must therefore avoid the privatization of knowledge and promote it as a freely accessible and shareable common good.

(32.4) The President of the Republic, Professor Salvador Sánchez Cerén, since the beginning of his term in office has promoted the sustainable development of the integrated biosphere reserve in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, which has been categorized by UNESCO as a "model region". That is why El Salvador considers the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) to be of crucial importance, and is very concerned about its drastic budget cuts. We therefore urge the Director-General to strengthen the MAB Programme. El Salvador, like the other countries of Central America, is highly vulnerable to climate change; we therefore join the call of small island developing States, our friends and allies in the Caribbean, the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean, to support UNESCO's action to enable the implementation of educational activities for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change, in order to mitigate the destructive effects that threaten the livelihoods of our peoples.

(32.5) Evidence shows the need to generate knowledge and build capacity for adaptation in the face of a phenomenon that could significantly affect territories, ecosystems, economic activities and populations that are already vulnerable. We agree to the reactivation of the frameworks and mechanisms that will contribute to social development through the exchange of experiences under the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, and thereby reduce socio-economic inequalities. In conclusion, we urge UNESCO to assume its leadership role within the 2030 Agenda and to allocate funds in a rational manner for its successful implementation. Thank you very much.

33. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Ali Amir, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Comoros to UNESCO. Your Excellency you have the floor.

34.1 M. Amir (Comores)

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, chefs de délégation, honorable assistance, Mesdames et Messieurs, à la place de notre Ministre de l'éducation nationale retenu par des circonstances imprévues, l'honneur m'échoit de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président -votre Excellence M. Mutumba Simataa- de votre brillante élection à la tête de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation. Notre gratitude va tout naturellement à l'endroit de votre prédécesseur, S. E. M. Hao Ping. Nous adressons aussi nos vives et sincères félicitations au Président du Conseil exécutif, S. E. M. Mohamed Sameh Amr. Et nous exprimons notre chaleureuse gratitude à la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour défendre, de manière excellente, les nobles missions de notre Organisation malgré la profonde crise financière que celle-ci traverse. Je vous renouvelle, au nom du Président de l'Union des Comores, S. E. M. Ikililou Dhoinine, et au nom de mon pays, mes félicitations les meilleures.

34.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, au lendemain de la seconde guerre mondiale, il y a 70 ans, les peuples se sont mis d'accord pour construire l'UNESCO. Cet anniversaire mémorable est un moment solennel pour tous les pays membres. Aujourd'hui, après sept décennies marquées par de nombreux défis et de multiples menaces, l'UNESCO reste l'institution des Nations Unies par excellence. Elle revêt une importance capitale de par son leadership intellectuel, ses valeurs et les concepts fondamentaux forgés depuis sa création, en 1945.

34.3 En effet, nous savons que l'impact de l'UNESCO reste capital pour garantir un esprit de paix, de solidarité et d'humanisme international. Il nous faut maintenir le niveau d'excellence de notre Organisation intellectuelle mondialement reconnue, qui doit continuer à préserver les valeurs intellectuelles auxquelles tous les pays aspirent, en mettant l'accent sur l'éducation inclusive de qualité et la promotion de possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour tous, moteur des programmes phares.

34.4 Enfin, nous nous félicitons de l'Agenda 2030, cadre universel susceptible de renforcer la coopération Sud-Sud et Nord-Sud, mais nous pensons que, pour atteindre l'objectif 4 des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD), l'UNESCO doit s'attacher beaucoup plus aux pays les plus démunis, où les enfants sont privés de fournitures de base et où l'ordinateur reste un outil de luxe.

34.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, le 25 septembre dernier, à l'Organisation des Nations Unies, tous les pays se sont positionnés pour suivre un nouveau cap, avec le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 qui intègre bien les valeurs et les idées de l'UNESCO. À cet égard, nous nous réjouissons de voir que les pays du Sud et les petits États insulaires en développement se trouvent au cœur des préoccupations de l'UNESCO.

34.6 Par ailleurs, compte tenu des défis majeurs que pose le développement durable des petits États insulaires en développement, l'Union des Comores prie la Directrice générale de bien vouloir poursuivre ses efforts visant à garantir à ces pays une éducation de qualité et des possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie. Aussi, nous nous réjouissons de l'accord de principe qui a été donné à mon pays en 2009 concernant le campus virtuel et la politique nationale en matière scientifique, et nous émettons le souhait de voir, très rapidement, la mise en œuvre de ces deux importants projets engagés.

34.7 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'Union des Comores dispose d'un plan intérimaire pour l'éducation 2013-2015 qui a récemment fait l'objet d'une évaluation sectorielle destinée à renforcer les capacités d'exécution et à accroître le niveau des performances dans la mise en œuvre du processus de planification sectorielle. L'analyse des premiers éléments montre que le plan sectoriel est une réelle tentative d'élaboration d'un processus de planification globale du système éducatif comorien, ouvrant une dynamique de réformes en profondeur.

34.8 Dans le domaine de la culture, l'Union des Comores compte sur le soutien constant de l'UNESCO pour développer et pérenniser des initiatives en faveur de la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel et naturel. Dans cet ordre

d'idées, nous formulons le souhait de voir en Afrique les bureaux hors Siège travailler efficacement en bonne collaboration avec les délégations permanentes et les commissions nationales.

34.9 Honorable assistance, la tenue très prochainement à Paris de la COP 21 est l'occasion de placer en haut de l'agenda la question des conséquences du changement climatique sur les petits États insulaires en développement, dont fait partie mon pays qui est souvent frappé par des cyclones, des éruptions volcaniques, des tremblements de terre et de graves intempéries qui nous fragilisent. Comme l'a souligné S. E. M. le Président de l'Union des Comores, le Docteur Ikililou Dhoinine, à la 70^e session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies: « Nous ne pouvons pas imaginer l'épanouissement de l'homme sur Terre sans agir d'urgence pour lutter contre le changement climatique et ses impacts en préservant et en utilisant de manière durable les océans, les mers et les ressources marines pour le développement durable ».

34.10 Mesdames et Messieurs, qu'il me soit permis de souligner que le temps presse et qu'il nous incombe d'assurer la gestion durable de l'eau, la protection des océans, le développement des sciences et le renforcement des études stratégiques sur les énergies renouvelables, afin de garantir un développement durable.

34.11 Monsieur le Président, je voudrais préciser que l'éducation, la science et la culture constituent le socle sur lequel reposent la paix et le développement de l'humanité tout entière. L'accompagnement des Comores par l'UNESCO et par les partenaires internationaux est donc essentiel.

34.12 Avant de clore mon intervention, il me plaît de rappeler que le Gouvernement de l'Union des Comores souscrit au cadre d'action adopté, le 4 novembre 2015, à l'UNESCO, et de mentionner les grandes thématiques auxquelles mon pays encourage vivement la Directrice générale de s'atteler davantage, notamment la culture de la paix, la promotion de la jeunesse et ses préoccupations, l'autonomisation des femmes, l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale, la liberté d'expression, l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique et enfin, tout particulièrement, les problèmes qui touchent spécifiquement les petits États insulaires en développement et les pays les moins avancés, dont les Comores font partie. Je vous remercie.

35. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Ivo Goldstein, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Croatia to UNESCO. Your Excellency you now have the floor.

36.1 **Mr Goldstein (Croatia):**

Distinguished Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, allow me to express my congratulations to you for being elected as the President of the General Conference.

36.2 Being well aware of the important role UNESCO has to play, we would also like to express our support to Ms Irina Bokova for all the reforms of UNESCO and a clear redefinition of the Organization's priorities. The United Nations and UNESCO are celebrating their 70th anniversaries, and Croatia would like to confirm its strong support and commitment to these organizations, as well as to multilateralism in addressing the challenges we are all facing together.

36.3 In September this year, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the United Nations – a plan of action to try to change the world we all live in, for the next 15 years. The 2030 Agenda follows goals and achievements that were already set and some of them achieved in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and it shows new intentions and new paths in every part of UNESCO's agenda: culture, education, human rights, science, access to information, technology and innovation, to mention a few. The fundamental role of education, science, culture and communications is one of the main conditions for the maintenance of peace, accomplishment of social cohesion and sustainable development.

36.4 Croatia effectively promotes all of UNESCO's programme areas, and in coordination with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, supports UNESCO's long-term initiatives and projects. The unique structure of UNESCO creates a synergy between the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

36.5 Dear colleagues, as a member of the World Heritage Committee, Croatia wishes first of all to contribute to the preservation and protection of heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List, identifying new and extraordinary world heritage, encouraging international cooperation, and promoting a balanced World Heritage List. Croatia recognizes education and science as its priorities for development as a basis for long-term social stability, economic progress and security and, by all means, cultural identity.

36.6 That is one of the reasons we are proud that our initiative for the proclamation of 5 November as the "World Day of Romani Language" was endorsed by the Executive Board this October. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to UNESCO and all the Member States for having supported this proposal, thereby enhancing intercultural dialogue and the linguistic diversity of the world. Our gratitude goes especially to Hungary which co-signed the proposal, and Slovenia, Saudi Arabia and Greece for signing the proposal.

36.7 We would also like to thank you once more on behalf of Croatia for providing funds for flood-affected areas in Croatia last year, 2014, from the UNESCO Participation Programme and emergency assistance for the protection, preservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage in Sisak-Moslavina County, and specifically the Milivoj Cvetnić Town Library in Hrvatska Kostajnica which was severely damaged in the floods.

36.8 We are also very pleased that the project for education for schoolgirls to reduce poverty in the United Republic of Tanzania and the project for the information literacy of graduates in Ethiopia run by the National and University Library

in Zagreb were chosen in the framework of UNESCO's Participation Programme. We strongly believe that these programmes have the perspective of long-term cooperation.

36.9 Let me conclude with one important subject for us – and that is regional cooperation. Croatia has been actively cooperating with all countries in the region for years. In the forthcoming period, we are hoping to widen the scope of regional as well as European and non-European cooperation, and to carry out new innovative projects in the field of education, science and culture in order to support peace and development in all parts of the world, including our own. Thank you very much.

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Roberto Ramirez Aldana, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Honduras to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

38.1 **Sr. Ramirez Aldana (Honduras):**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General o su representante, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, excelencias: en la búsqueda del logro del objetivo mayor de la UNESCO, “la paz”, me permito hacer referencia a un principio bíblico que dice: “Cuando haya justicia, entonces habrá paz”. En ese propósito, la Directora General destacó en su discurso de inicio, “la necesidad de volver a la fuente”; habló ella de “volver a los valores”, esto es, a las tareas primarias encomendadas a la Organización. Reconocemos que aún podemos hacer más, pues muchas tareas aún están por resolverse, debido en parte a las mutaciones e interacciones de conflictos políticos, culturales y territoriales que nos obligan como Organización, a ver hacia atrás y revisar las políticas y trabajos, sin variar los objetivos. No se trata sólo del “qué” hacer, eso está claro, sino de cómo lograrlo.

38.2 Por otra parte, debemos reconocer que el dinamismo de la UNESCO corresponde a la acción de los Estados Miembros, que tenemos enormes responsabilidades para legar a nuestras generaciones un espacio más amigable con el medio ambiente, más tolerante con la diversidad y más consciente en la búsqueda creativa de soluciones que sean sostenibles a largo plazo, para construir un mundo con mayor igualdad, con mayor equidad y en un escenario de justicia, que produzca esa paz deseada. Honduras, ubicada en el centro geoestratégico y en el corazón del hemisferio americano, posee una exuberante riqueza natural que concentra el 6% de la biodiversidad del planeta, en fuentes hidrológicas, bosques, selvas, playas, bellos arrecifes coralinos, que son punto neurálgico del debate entre el desarrollo y la conservación. Los clamores de desarrollo de nuestros pueblos demandan mecanismos racionales y de sostenibilidad de los recursos a nuestro alcance, para procurar mejores posibilidades de preservación; es así como Honduras reafirma su apoyo y garantiza la credibilidad y eficacia en los trabajos del Sector de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales de la UNESCO, en particular el Programa sobre el Hombre y La Biosfera (MAB); el Programa Hidrológico Internacional (PHI); y la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental (COI). Estamos construyendo el impulso en investigaciones sobre sitios potenciales de aguas subterráneas para asegurar medidas claras de preservación de los recursos con capacidades innovadoras para el desarrollo sostenible.

38.3 Honduras se siente orgullosa y comprometida con sus sitios de patrimonio, y las reservas de biosfera del Río Plátano, Biosfera Cacique Lempira “Señor de las Montañas” y Biosfera Transfronteriza Trifinio Fraternidad, esta última que compartimos con las repúblicas de Guatemala y el Salvador, y que no es solamente un lugar destacado por su belleza natural, sino que representa la paz centroamericana que con mucho esfuerzo logramos construir alrededor de esa montaña, constituyendo un símbolo de fraternidad y armonía entre nuestros pueblos y un acto concreto de la conexión que debe existir entre la naturaleza y la paz. También nuestra riqueza multiétnica y multicultural nos compromete a seguir trabajando en reforzar las convenciones de la UNESCO relacionadas con la protección y promoción del patrimonio y de la diversidad cultural. Nos complace informar de que nuestro país ha iniciado tareas en la exploración e investigación, a partir de vestigios arqueológicos descubiertos este año, en la zona de la Mosquitia, donde pudo estar situada una misteriosa y fascinante cultura ancestral —única en América— llamada Ciudad Blanca. Honduras continuará impulsando el fortalecimiento de la Convención de 1970, para optimizarla como instrumento normativo en: propuestas de solución de conflictos, en negociaciones bilaterales y en la implementación de las medidas jurídicas y prácticas contra el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales. Es así como nos congratulamos por la aprobación de sus directrices operativas en la reciente Asamblea General de los Estados Partes, después de un esfuerzo que esperó más de 40 años. Este logro debe materializarse ahora en la voluntad de todos los Estados de respetar la historia y dignidad de los pueblos víctimas del tráfico de sus bienes culturales, que ha sido cubierto con una fachada de “comercialización formalizada” en un mercado del arte que muchas veces desconoce de manera deliberada esta Convención.

38.4 En educación, Honduras saluda la adopción —en el contexto de esta Conferencia General— del Marco de Acción Educación 2030 por una educación equitativa y accesible para todos. Acompañamos las políticas públicas de la educación, y sus principios de acceso universal, de calidad, de respeto a la diversidad, a la igualdad de derechos de género, a la promoción de la tolerancia, de la paz y de la no violencia. Sobre este último aspecto, consideramos que la UNESCO debe enfocar sus programas en las particularidades de cada país y región, respetando la diversidad, aún más en momentos donde parte de Centroamérica es azotada por el fenómeno de las pandillas que convierte muchos centros educativos en verdaderas zonas de guerra. En cuanto al cambio climático, nuestro Gobierno ha dejado claro en diversos foros internacionales que Honduras se encuentra entre los seis países del mundo más afectados por este fenómeno, y ha hecho un llamado, a que toda respuesta que se adopte en la construcción de acuerdos globales; se haga bajo los principios de responsabilidad compartida y diferenciada, es decir, que quienes más han contribuido a generar esta crisis, son quienes más deben aportar para resolverla. Trabajar en estas líneas de esfuerzo significa para Honduras una esperanza; construir caminos y adoptar medidas justas para las naciones, seguirá siendo la responsabilidad de la UNESCO. Recordemos que la justicia es imprescindible para desarrollar paz; lo contrario, el efecto de la injusticia será

siempre violencia, angustia e inseguridad. Solo con justicia podremos construir y generar la paz deseada por nuestras naciones. Muchas gracias.

38.1 Mr Ramirez Aldana (Honduras) (translation from the Spanish):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General or her representative, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, in pursuit of UNESCO's highest goal of "peace", I would like to refer to a biblical principle, which says that when there is justice, there will be peace. In that regard, the Director-General emphasized in her opening address the need for UNESCO to return to its origins; she spoke about returning to values, that is to say, the primary tasks entrusted to the Organization. We acknowledge that we can still do more, because many tasks are yet to be resolved, owing in part to the mutations and interactions of political, cultural and territorial conflicts that compel us as an organization to look back and review policies and works, without changing the objectives. It is not just a question of what to do, this is clear, but how to achieve it.

(38.2) On the other hand, we must recognize that the dynamism of UNESCO corresponds to the action of Member States, that we have enormous responsibilities to bequeath to our future generations a space that is more environmentally friendly, more tolerant of diversity and more conscious in the creative search for solutions that are sustainable in the long term; to build a world with greater equality, greater equity and in a framework of justice, that may produce this desired peace. Honduras, located in the geostrategic centre and heart of the American hemisphere, has an exuberant natural wealth concentrating 6% of the planet's biodiversity, in hydrological sources, forests, jungles, beaches and beautiful coral reefs, which are the focal point of the debate on development and conservation. The clamour for development of our peoples demand rational mechanisms for the sustainability of resources within our reach, to seek better possibilities for preservation; this is how Honduras reaffirms its support and guarantees credibility and efficiency in the work of UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector, in particular the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). We are building momentum in research on potential groundwater sites to ensure clear measures to preserve resources with innovative capacities for sustainable development.

(38.3) Honduras is proud of and committed to its heritage sites, and the biosphere reserves of Río Plátano, Cacique Lempira "Señor de las Montañas" and the transboundary Trifinio Fraternidad, which we share with Guatemala and El Salvador, and which is not only an outstanding place for its natural beauty, but represents the Central American peace that we have built with great effort around this mountain, constituting a symbol of fraternity and harmony between our peoples and a concrete act of the connection that must exist between nature and peace. Our multi-ethnic and multi-cultural wealth also commits us to continue working to strengthen UNESCO's conventions relating to the protection and promotion of heritage and cultural diversity. We are pleased to report that our county has begun exploration and research on archaeological remains discovered this year in the region of La Mosquitia, where a mysterious and fascinating ancestral culture, unique to America, could have been located, called "Ciudad Blanca". Honduras will continue to promote the strengthening of the 1970 Convention, to optimize it as a normative instrument in proposals for conflict resolution, in bilateral negotiations and in the implementation of legal and practical measures against trafficking in cultural property. We thus welcome the adoption of its operational guidelines at the recent Meeting of States Parties, following an effort that has been awaited for more than 40 years. This achievement must now materialize in the will of all States to respect the history and dignity of the peoples who are victims of the trafficking of their cultural property, which has been covered with a facade of "formalized commercialization" in an art market that often deliberately ignores the Convention.

(38.4) In the field of education, Honduras welcomes the adoption – in the context of this General Conference – of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, for equitable education that is accessible to all. We support public policies on education, including the principles of universal access, quality, respect for diversity, gender equality, promotion of tolerance, peace and non-violence. Regarding this last aspect, we consider that UNESCO should focus its programmes on the particularities of each country and region, respecting diversity, even more so when part of Central America is afflicted by the phenomenon of gangs, which turns many centres of education in to war zones. As to climate change, our Government has made it clear in various international forums that Honduras is among the six countries of the world most affected by this phenomenon, and has called for any response that is adopted in the construction of global agreements; this is done under the principles of shared and differentiated responsibility, that is to say, those who have done the most to generate the crisis are those who must contribute the most to resolve it. Making efforts along these lines gives Honduras hope; forging the way and adopting fair measures for nations will continue to be the responsibility of UNESCO. Let us remember that justice is essential for the development of peace; otherwise, the effects of injustice will always be violence, anguish and insecurity. Only with justice can we build the peace desired by our nations. Thank you very much.

39. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Professor Mohammed Sheya, Deputy Permanent Delegate of the United Republic of Tanzania to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

40.1 Mr Sheya (United Republic of Tanzania):

Thank you Mr President. I have the pleasure to read the statement on behalf of the Permanent Delegate of the United Republic of Tanzania to UNESCO, Her Excellency Begum Karim Taj, Ambassador to UNESCO. President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I would like to assure you of my Government's full support. I would also like to thank the President of the 37th session of the General Conference, the Chair of the Executive Board and the Director-General of UNESCO for their good leadership. As UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary, my Government continues to support the Director-General in her efforts to ensure that UNESCO remains relevant, revitalized and resilient.

40.2 Mr President, this session of the General Conference is taking place at a time when the world is witnessing unprecedented socio-economic disparities among peoples and nations, radicalization and violent extremism, exclusion and the effects of climate disruption. The recent adoption by United Nations General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides renewed hope for the next 15 years in which 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, several of them addressing the priority areas of UNESCO, will define the global development framework. In particular SDG 4, "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", which has been informed by the Muscat Agreement and the unfinished business of education for all (EFA) and the education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), defines the Education 2030 Framework for Action.

40.3 My Government commends UNESCO's participation in the elaboration of the post 2015 development agenda and stands committed to the outcomes of the World Education Forum 2015, the Incheon Declaration and the Education 2030 Framework for Action. My Government follows with keen interest the ongoing processes of developing indicators and appropriate global coordinating and financing mechanisms.

40.4 Mr President, education is the key to sustainable development and to the eradication of poverty. Every child should have the opportunity to go to school and receive quality education that is relevant. Likewise, adult literacy and lifelong learning should be given high priority. It is disheartening to note that as 2015 is coming to an end, a good number of countries, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa, are far from reaching the EFA goals and the education related MDGs. Quality education in particular has posed a major challenge due to the unsatisfactory learning environments, insufficient and poor quality of teachers. Education 2030 should therefore address these shortfalls if meaningful advancement is to be made to take up where EFA left off. My Government is committed to meeting these challenges by working together with UNESCO and other development partners to promote UNESCO's ideals, including education for sustainable development, education for a culture of peace, citizenship education, adult literacy, and lifelong learning.

40.5 Mr President, embracing science and technology innovation (STI) is a prerequisite to leapfrog development. My Government is grateful to UNESCO for the long cooperation it has had in these areas, particularly in marine and ocean sciences and technologies, water, biodiversity, earth sciences and the review of the national science and technology innovation system. My Government will continue to seek upstream policy advice in these and other areas, including science-policy-society interface, youth policy and gender policy development.

40.6 Culture is a mover and driver of sustainable development. Tanzania is committed to conservation and has ratified several UNESCO culture conventions and has been playing an active part in their implementation. A number of our cultural and natural heritage properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List. My Government is aware of the development pressures facing some of these sites and consequently, various measures are being taken to address them. It is also my Government's conviction that a way has to be found to strike a balance between conservation and sustainable development.

40.7 Mr President, freedom of expression and access to information and knowledge are fundamental human rights and prerequisites to socio-economic development. However, disparities continue to exist between nations and among individuals in these areas. UNESCO should strive to bridge the information and knowledge divide by strengthening the Communication and Information Sector. Additionally, efforts should be made to find means to combat unethical use of the Internet and rising cyberspace crime.

40.8 The United Republic of Tanzania is a living democracy committed to social inclusion and dialogue. Policies have been put in place to engage youth, women and disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes. Just two weeks ago, Tanzania conducted a peaceful general election and its people emerged united, thanks to its long-cherished tradition of a culture of peace consolidated by one common language, Kiswahili. I thank you, Mr President.

41. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Khadar Bashir Ali, Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

42.1 **Ms Bashir Ali (Somalia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors, Permanent Delegations, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning and *salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). I bring you greetings from Somalia and our President, Mr Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and our Prime Minister, Omar Abdirashid.

42.2 Mr President, let me give you a quick glance of the realities of Somalia. As you might know Somalia is a post-conflict fragile nation recovering from 22 years of conflict. We have now moved from a transitional government to a federal system of government. In Somalia, we are committed to bring change to our nation, but we all know that change does not come easily. Change brings tension and resistance to new ideas and systems. Just to give you a quick example, this year for the first time we instituted centralized exams in Somalia and our ministry was bombed as a resistance to the centralized exams. However, despite all the challenges we have, we have hope. Coming from the abyss of violence, we cannot have anything but hope.

42.3 Somalia, in a way Mr President, is a success story. We are a country with great potential and great possibilities. In the education sector our Government, led by our President and Prime Minister, is committed to provide access to quality education for all Somali children in an equitable manner. Currently, Mr President, education in Somalia is a privilege, it is not a right. Only children whose parents can afford to pay school fees go to school, and the numbers of children that are out of school are staggering. According to a recent population estimate conducted by our Minister of Planning, 70% of the population in Somalia is under the age of seven, 46% of those are between the ages of 1 and 14, and 70% per cent of those children are out of school. Given these figures, reform for us is an urgent mandate. We cannot afford to wait. We want to provide for our children and our people good quality accessible basic education, economic livelihood, and opportunities for our youth, sustainable technical and vocational education that leads to livelihood and opportunities. But most important of all, Mr President, we want to provide a counter narrative to respond to violent extremism. Our youth have been radicalized and recruited to join destabilizing activities. We must find a solution. We are also losing a great number of our youth in the seas. They are migrating and leaving our nation and looking for other opportunities.

42.4 Girls' education is a personal and professional priority of mine. As a woman, I am committed to increasing the numbers of girls in schools. Transparency and accountability are also one of our priorities. In order to achieve this, we

must have a uniform curriculum that can produce productive citizens for our country. We must have qualified teachers, safe schools and learning environments, effective teaching and learning materials that are socially and culturally appropriate. We also need to restructure our cultural identity and heritage. As you might know, Mr President, with war you lose everything and we have lost our culture, our language and our customs. We need to restore those and bring them to the forefront of our agenda.

42.5 We need also to increase the production of quality data. We all know, Mr President, that peace and stability lead to social and economic development and these are priorities for our Government. We are committed to peace and stability despite all the odds. However, we cannot embark on this journey by ourselves without your help. We are grateful to UNESCO and other donor agencies for the good work you are doing in support of our people. Education is an important factor to eradicate poverty and radicalization and we must collectively respond to these needs. As an African proverb says: "A journey of a thousand steps begins with the first one". Let us take this first one together. Thank you very much.

43. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Be assured that UNESCO will continue to provide your country and your nationals with the required support. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Monseigneur Francesco Follo, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO. Your Excellency you have the floor, Sir.

44.1 **Mgr Follo (Saint-Siège) :**

Excellences, le Saint-Siège vous présente, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, ses salutations et ses félicitations. Bien sûr, il félicite et remercie l'ancien président Hao Ping pour l'excellent travail qu'il a accompli à tous les niveaux. Madame Irina Bokova, Directrice générale, je vous exprime l'appréciation du Saint-Siège pour l'excellent engagement qui garantit la réalisation du programme de l'UNESCO.

44.2 Le 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO est une bonne occasion pour faire le point de notre histoire et réfléchir à notre futur, en accueillant l'invitation du Saint-Père à un nouveau dialogue sur la façon dont nous construisons l'avenir de la planète. Le Pape François nous invite à une éducation « écologique » qui doit tenir compte d'une éthique de la vie et du dialogue. Dialogue qui implique une éducation à l'écoute.

44.3 En grec, « maison » se dit *oikos* et « gérant » se dit *oikonomos*. Lorsque le gérant sait qu'il gère une demeure que d'autres habitent en même temps que lui et habiteront après lui, alors le respect des droits d'autrui doit primer pour lui. Le gérant doit respecter la maison commune par respect pour ceux qui l'habitent et l'habiteront ; cette maison commune doit être aimée et entretenue, mais nous ne lui devons pas la vénération, que nous ne devons qu'à autrui. Le gérant doit être mû par la solidarité envers son prochain, y compris celui qui n'existe pas encore.

44.4 L'encyclique *Laudato Si'* du Pape François reprend un propos du Pape émérite Benoît XVI qui invitait à développer une « écologie de l'humain ». L'intelligence commande de respecter l'autre homme autant que la maison que nous habitons ensemble dans la suite des temps : une écologie qui ignorerait les droits de l'homme à être un homme aujourd'hui et demain ne saurait pas ce qu'est une maison. Le Pape François dit que l'intelligence commande réciproquement que nous respections notre maison commune parce qu'en la respectant, nous prouverons notre amour du prochain. Parmi tous les dangers qui nous menacent, se cache un projet qu'on pourrait appeler « abolition de l'homme ». Nous avons les moyens intellectuels de refuser cela. Ce faisant, nous prouverons notre solidarité et notre amour envers le prochain, quelles que soient les distances spatiales et chronologiques qui nous en séparent. Et comme le verbe « aimer » est toujours lié au verbe « faire », le souci que nous aurons de notre maison commune se traduira en une authentique œuvre de miséricorde et de justice. Merci de votre écoute.

45. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, once again for the brevity of your statement. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary-General of the European Union. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

46.1 **Mr Leffler (European Union):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Deputy Director-General, distinguished colleagues. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania.

46.2 Mr President, Deputy Director-General, as the United Nations and UNESCO are celebrating their 70th anniversaries this year, we would like to reiterate the European Union's full support and commitment to this crucial Organization. I would like to thank the Director-General for her determined leadership, which remains essential in the light of the challenges ahead of us.

46.3 In September, we adopted in New York the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a common plan of action to transform our world to a more sustainable footing for the next 15 years. It builds on our achievements in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including those that have become a reality through the support of UNESCO. The 2030 Agenda reinforces our intent to move our collective commitments forward on every front of UNESCO's mandate. The comprehensiveness of this new Agenda reflects the complexity and interlinkages of today's challenges. We all have the responsibility for its realization. The European Union is fully committed to play its part. We will implement the Agenda at home and will continue to promote sustainable development worldwide in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, with a particular focus on the countries most in need.

46.4 UNESCO has an important role to play in translating the goals into concrete action, while ensuring coherence with the efforts throughout the United Nations system. We recall in this regard the request of the Executive Board to pursue reform efforts in order to continue strengthening UNESCO's competitive edge and organizational delivery

capacity to support Member States in delivering on the Agenda globally, regionally and nationally. The European Union, whose current support to UNESCO amounts to nearly €70 million, remains committed to working closely with the Organization in this effort.

(The speaker continues in French)

46.5 Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint, l'Union européenne réaffirme sa profonde préoccupation face à la multiplication des attaques délibérées contre le patrimoine culturel à travers le monde. Nous soulignons à cet égard l'importance de la stratégie visant à renforcer la mission de l'UNESCO, ainsi que le respect des autres décisions des Nations Unies. Nous notons également le besoin d'une coopération plus efficace entre l'UNESCO et les autorités nationales pour remédier au manque de données de terrain fiables.

46.6 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, en vue de protéger le patrimoine culturel et la diversité culturelle et de faire face aux menaces liées au terrorisme et à l'extrémisme violent. Conformément à la résolution 2199 du Conseil de sécurité, l'Union européenne a engagé les mesures appropriées pour prévenir le commerce illégal des biens culturels. Ce trafic illicite d'œuvres d'art contribue directement au financement de l'État islamique et d'autres organisations terroristes.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

46.7 Mr President, Mr Deputy Director-General, as a party to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which marks its 10th anniversary this year, the European Union underlines the continued relevance of its founding principles such as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including artistic freedom, and the importance of their further implementation in the context of technological and digital change.

46.8 The European Union welcomes the Education 2030 Framework for Action to mobilize efforts to reach Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. We will continue to support education efforts globally, recognizing the crucial role of education in achieving multiple goals across the 2030 Agenda, including the goal to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. The European Union supports governments in over 40 countries worldwide to provide quality education and learning opportunities for all. Since 2004, our contribution has helped 300,000 new female students to enrol in secondary education. We underline education as a human right and its importance in combating violent extremism and promoting development, peace and security and human rights. The European Union finances the UNESCO Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth) project in order to promote young people's participation in democracy. We equally support programmes to provide education for Syrian refugees in Jordan and to support the education sector reform in Iraq.

46.9 Freedom of opinion and expression are the fundamental rights of every human being. The European Union will continue to uphold these rights online and offline and to condemn all violations of these rights, including attacks against journalists and bloggers both in the framework of multilateral organizations and its bilateral relations. The European Union continues to support concrete actions in this regard, for example, through funding to the programme by Reporters Without Borders to protect journalists and bloggers. We underline the importance of concerted action within the United Nations, including of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, led by UNESCO. We welcome the decision adopted by the Executive Board at its 196th session on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2222 on the protection of journalists in conflict situations. The upcoming UNESCO conference in February with the participation of news organizations will provide a unique platform for dialogue on journalists' safety.

46.10 We remain concerned about the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, and look forward to the follow-up on the Executive Board's request for continued collection of information as well as for the establishment of a monitoring mechanism on the situation. Noting the steps taken to increase UNESCO's efficiency, we recall that its capacity to respond to the pressing challenges and to implement the 2030 Agenda depends on its effective management, sufficient budgetary resources as well as increased mobilization of the transparent and diverse extrabudgetary resources

(The speaker continues in French)

46.11 Enfin, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint, nous nous félicitons de la décision adoptée par le Conseil exécutif, à la 197^e session, sur la lutte contre le changement climatique/COP 21. Nous encourageons l'UNESCO et ses États membres à se mobiliser sur les enjeux du changement climatique, notamment sur la recherche de solutions, et à participer activement à la mise en œuvre des conclusions de la COP 21, puis de la COP 22, afin de poursuivre la réalisation des objectifs de l'Agenda 2030. Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

47. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. You now have the floor, Sir.

٤٨، ١ السيد التويجري (إيسيسكو):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام الثامن والثلاثين لليونيسكو، السيد المدير العام المساعد، السادة والسيدات، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، يسعدني أن أتحديث إليكم باسم الإيسيسكو متمنياً لمؤتمركم النجاح في أعماله ومتوجهاً بالتهنئة إلى السيد رئيس المؤتمر. إن العلاقات المثمرة القائمة بين اليونيسكو والإيسيسكو تزداد تطوراً في مجالات العمل المشترك، وسنعمل على تعزيزها وتطويرها.

٤٨،٢ السيد الرئيس، السادة والسيدات، إن العالم اليوم مُثقل بتحديات كثيرة تتفاقم باستمرار، وصراعات ونزاعات تهدد الأمن والسلم الدوليين، وتنتهك ميثاق الأمم المتحدة والقانون الدولي. وإن الانتهاكات الخطيرة التي تمارس في مناطق النزاعات المسلحة، والتي نتج عنها تدمير كبير لل عمران والآثار والمعالم الحضارية وتدمير ممتلكات الإنسان، والعنف الذي يطال الأقليات المسلمة في ميانمار وجمهورية أفريقيا الوسطى من تطهير عرقي وديني، كل ذلك يشكل تحدياً خطيراً للمجتمع الدولي يتطلب التعامل معه بمنتهى الحزم. كما أن الأوضاع المساوية التي يعيشها الشعب الفلسطيني المحاصر تحت الاحتلال الإسرائيلي والانتهاكات التي تطال المسجد الأقصى واقتحامه من طرف المتطرفين، تحت حماية السلطات الإسرائيلية، كل ذلك يعدّ من جرائم الحرب وجرائم ضد الإنسانية، وخرقاً للقوانين الدولية، وانتهاكاً لميثاق اليونسكو. سيدي الرئيس، إننا في العالم اليوم نحتاج إلى موقف شجاع وحاسم من هذا المنتدى الثقافي الدولي لمحاصرة هذه الانتهاكات والوقوف في وجه الإرهاب الذي أصبح يهدد للعالم الأثرية والحضارية التي لا تعوض، ويواصل اعتداءاته على التنوع الثقافي والتراث الإنساني.

٤٨،٣ إني، باسم الإيسيسكو أنشد هذا المؤتمر أن يتحمل مسؤوليته التاريخية والإنسانية والقانونية لحماية حقوق الشعوب المضطهدة في الحرية والكرامة والتربية والثقافة والعلوم، حفاظاً على الأمن والسلم الدوليين في العالم أجمع، وتحقيقاً لرسالة اليونسكو الخالدة التي تنص على بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر. لقد تدمرت هذه الحصون وتدادت كما نرى اليوم في كثير من مناطق العالم. وأصبح مجلس الأمن الدولي الذي عهد إليه بمسؤوليات حفظ الأمن والسلم في العالم، عاجزاً عن حماية حقوق الشعوب وعن نشر السلم والأمن في العالم. فلتنهضوا أتم في هذا المؤتمر الثقافي الإنساني للقيام بمهمة المسؤولية التاريخية ووقف الاعتداءات. وشكراً لكم، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(48.1) **Mr Altwayri** (Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – ISESCO) (*translation from the Arabic*):

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Mr Deputy Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I am pleased to speak to you on behalf of the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and to wish the General Conference every success in its work and to address congratulations to the President of the General Conference. The fruitful relations between UNESCO and ISESCO are increasing in various fields of common endeavour, and we are determined to further strengthen and develop them.

(48.2) Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the world today is facing great and constantly worsening challenges, as well as struggles and conflicts, which threaten international peace and security, and which violate the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The grave violations committed in areas of armed conflict, which have resulted in great destruction of habitat and cultural artefacts and monuments and systematic displacement of individuals, and the violence and ethnic and religious cleansing affecting the Muslim minorities in Myanmar and the Central African Republic, all this constitutes a grave challenge to the international community, and needs to be dealt with with the utmost firmness. Similarly, the tragic conditions being endured by the blockaded Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation and the violations affecting the al-Aqsa Mosque and its storming by extremists under the protection of the Israeli authorities – all these constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, in violation both of international law and of UNESCO's Constitution. Mr President, we in today's world need a courageous and determined stance from this international cultural forum in order to circumscribe these violations and stand firm in the face of terrorism, which has begun to threaten irreplaceable archaeological and cultural monuments and is continuing its attacks against cultural diversity and the human heritage.

(48.3) On behalf of ISESCO, I urge this General Conference to assume its historical, humanitarian and legal responsibility for protection of the rights of persecuted peoples with regard to freedom, dignity, education, culture and science, in order to preserve international peace and security all over the world, and to fulfil UNESCO's eternal mission which is to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men. These defences have collapsed and crumbled, as we see, in many regions of the world. May this humanitarian cultural assembly rise up and assume its historical responsibility to stop these attacks. Thank you. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

49. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Dr Abdullah Hamed Muhareb, Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٥٠،١ السيد محارب (أليكسو)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد نائب رئيس المؤتمر، السيدات والسادة، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة. إنه لمن دواعي السرور أن نكون اليوم معاً في الذكرى السنوية السبعين لتأسيس اليونسكو ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة، وأن أخذ الكلمة باسم المنظمة العربية للتربية والثقافة والعلوم لتقديم التحية لكافة الأجيال التي تعاقبت على إدارة اليونسكو لنشر رسالتها المتمثلة أساساً في ترسيخ السلم والأمن وتحقيق التنمية في العالم عبر التربية والثقافة والعلوم.

٥٠،٢ أيها السيدات والسادة، إنه من الوجهة أن نقول إن أهداف التربية والثقافة والعلم والتواصل والتنمية التي نطلبها من أجل حياة كريمة للجميع لا يمكن أن تتحقق كاملة إلا بشراكة حقيقية متعددة الأطراف. ولكنني أظن أنه لا يقل عن هذا القول وجاهة التساؤل عن حدود معنى هذه الشراكة في عالم يقتل ويُشرد فيه الاحتلال والإرهاب الملايين من الأطفال والنساء والرجال، وتُدمر المدن والقرى وتُهدم فيه الدور والمدارس على من فيها، في عالم تُنسف فيه شواهد التاريخ والحضارة من معالم وآثار، وهي كنوز البشرية التي لا تقدر بثمن. إن الملايين في فلسطين يقاسون منذ عقود من الزمن ظلم الاحتلال الإسرائيلي وبشاعة جرائمه وانتهاكه السافر لمقدساتهم وأعراضهم واغتصابه لحقوقهم، متجاهلاً كل القرارات الدولية والمعاهدات والمواثيق الأهمية. وعلى اليونسكو أن تُواصل وقوفها مع الحق والتزامها رسالتها وألا تتردد لحظة في إدانة الاحتلال، وأن تعمل على تنفيذ قراراتها بشأن الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة وحماية المعالم التاريخية وصيانتها على اعتبار أنها من التراث الإنساني وجزء من ذاكرة البشرية.

٥٠،٣ لقد اكتوبنا في السنوات الأخيرة بظاهرة التطرف والإرهاب التي جاءت على منطقتنا العربية بالقتل والتخريب وتدمير المدارس والجامعات ودور العبادة والمصانع والمواقع الأثرية فخلّفت وما زالت تخلّف وراءها الملايين من الضحايا من القتلى والجرحى واللاجئين من الأطفال والنساء والشباب والرجال. والواجب

يدعوننا اليوم أن نتصدى لهذه الظاهرة الغريبة عن ثقافتنا العربية الإسلامية وقيمنا الإنسانية ونقاومها بجميع الوسائل. وأعتقد أن الفكر والحوار والتبادل والثقافة والتربية والتعليم الجيد والمنصف للجميع هي من أهم الوسائل للتصدي للتطرف والعنف والإرهاب شريطة أن تتوفر لها الموارد البشرية الضرورية حتى تكون ناجحة ومستدامة.

٥٠،٤ أيها السيدات والسادة، كيف الطريق إلى المستقبل، مستقبل الأفراد والشعوب، مستقبل الإنسانية الذي لا خوف فيه ولا حزن؟ كيف نغيّر العالم نحو الأفضل؟ وكيف السبيل إلى انجلاء الليل وانكسار القيود؟ إني أعتقد، مثل كثير من الناس، أننا نحتاج إلى سلوك جماعي يوجهه فكر إنساني عميق وإرادة صادقة وسياسة تحتكم إلى المبادئ والقيم الكونية، سياسة تقاوم الظلم بجميع أشكاله ومهما كانت مصادره وتنبذ العنصرية وترفض إصرار بعض الدول المتقدمة على بعض الدول الأخرى المتخلفة لتنفيذ أجندات سياسية معينة يعيش فيها الجميع وفق تعاقب جديد. شكراً جزيلاً على حسن إنصاتكم، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(50.1) **Mr Muhareb** (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization – ALECSO)
(translation from the Arabic):

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, praise be to God, and prayer and peace be upon His Prophet. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Vice-President of the General Conference, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a source of great pleasure to find ourselves together on the 70th anniversary of the foundation of UNESCO and the United Nations, and for me to take the floor on behalf of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to salute all the generations that have been involved in the management of UNESCO in order to spread its message of consolidating peace and security and achieving development worldwide through education, culture and science.

(50.2) Ladies and gentlemen, it is fair to say that the goals of education, culture, science, communication and development which we urge for a life of dignity for all may be realized fully only by means of true multilateral partnership. However, I think that it is equally fair to ask about the limits of the meaning of such partnership in a world in which there is killing, displacement, occupation, and terrorism for millions of children, women and men, and cities and villages are destroyed and houses and schools are razed on top of their occupants, in a world in which the monuments and relics of history and civilization – priceless human treasures – are blown up. Millions in Palestine have been suffering for decades from the oppression of the Israeli occupation and its vicious crimes, its blatant violation of their holy places, their dignity, their rights, in flagrant disregard of all international and United Nations resolutions, conventions and instruments. UNESCO must continue to stand up for what is right and remain committed to its message, and not hesitate for a moment to condemn the occupation. It must work to give effect to its own resolutions on the occupied Palestinian territories and protection and maintenance of the historical monuments, given that they are part of the human heritage and of human memory.

(50.3) In recent years, we have been burnt by extremism and terrorism which have brought to our Arab region killing, sabotage, the destruction of schools and universities, houses of worship, factories, and archaeological sites, and have left, and continue to leave in their wake millions of victims – killed, wounded, refugees – children, women, young people, men. Duty calls us today to resist this strange phenomenon and protect our Arab and Islamic culture and Islamic values, and oppose it by all possible means. I believe that thought, dialogue, exchange, culture, and good and equitable education for all must be the chief means of standing up to extremism, violence and terrorism, provided that the necessary human resources are provided such that they may be useful and sustainable.

(50.4) Ladies and gentlemen, what is the way to the future, a future of individuals and peoples, a future of humankind in which there is neither fear nor sadness? How may we change the world for the better? What path may enable us to draw aside the night and break the shackles? I believe, like many people, that we need collective behaviour which is guided by deep human thought, sincere will, and policies based on universal principles and values, policies which oppose oppression of all types, from whatever source, and which reject racism and refuse the insistence of some advanced countries on implementing specific political agendas under which all must live in accordance with a new order. Thank you very much for your attention. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

51. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Ali Al Karni, Director-General of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

٥٢،١ السيد القرني (مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. فإننا نلتقي اليوم على مائدة مليئة بالعطاءات، لكنها مليئة أيضاً بالتحديات. وكم يسترّ الدول الأعضاء في مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج أن تتشارك، بل تتكامل جهودها مع ما يبذله العالم كله من جهود، من أجل عالم أكثر تعاوناً وعلماء، وأشرق حضارة وأماناً. من أجل ذلك، أولت دولنا الأولوية للتنمية، وخصصت لها ميزانيات سخية، إيماناً من قيادتها الرشيدة، بأن الاستثمار المستدام لا يكون إلا في الإنسان، لا في أي عنوان آخر محدود العطاء والبقاء.

٥٢،٢ لقد خطت الدول الأعضاء في مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج خطوات واسعة فيما يتعلق بمعايير التعليم للجميع. وقد أظهر التقرير الختامي للتعليم للجميع لعام ٢٠١٥ وفاء دولنا بمعظم الأهداف. وتركز الخطط الاستراتيجية الجديدة على معيار النوعية الذي يُعنى بتطوير مستوى مخرجات التعليم وتحجودها. كما كُفّ مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج خلال الفترة الماضية جهوده للإسهام مع وزارات التربية والتعليم في الدول الأعضاء في تجويد التعليم. وكما تم في هذا الشأن توثيق العلاقة التعاونية مع منظمة اليونسكو، والتشارك عبر مكاتبها الإقليمية في كل من بيروت والدوحة، في دعم عمليات الرصد والمتابعة للتعليم للجميع، والتحضير للفعاليات الإقليمية التي سبقت المنتدى العالمي للتربية ٢٠١٥. وهنا أؤكد أن مكتب التربية العربي، ووفقاً لاستراتيجية العمل للسنوات الخمس القادمة، سيعمل مع اليونسكو على رفع قدرات فرق العمل في برامج الرصد والتقييم لبرامج التعليم لعام ٢٠٣٠ مع المركز الرئيسي والمراكز المتخصصة مثل معهد اليونسكو للإحصاء (UIS) ومكتب التربية الدولي لليونسكو (IBE)، وكذلك المكاتب الإقليمية. وإننا لعلى ثقة بأن اليونسكو قد بنت خبرة تراكمية من خلال برامج الرصد والمتابعة للتعليم للجميع، إلا أننا نرغب في أن تكون مؤشرات التعليم لعام ٢٠٣٠ أكثر وضوحاً وقابلية للقياس لتعبر عن حالات التعليم ومستوى الجودة، على المستويين الأفقي والرأسي للتعليم.

٥٢,٣ إننا ندرك يقيناً أن تحديات الإرهاب والتطرف يجب ألا تكون غائبة عن وعينا ونحن نخطط لأعمال المستقبل، لذا سعى المكتب مع الدول الأعضاء لاستحداث برامج موجهة، مثل الثقافة الإعلامية والتربية الأسرية وبرامج الأنشطة الموجهة للشباب. وإن مكتب التربية العربي لدول الخليج يفاخر بأن علاقته الاستراتيجية مع اليونسكو قد أثمرت الكثير من الإنجازات، مثلما ستوضحه المراجعة النصفية لبرامج مذكرة التفاهم. ونعتز أيضاً بأن المكتب قد فتح خطأً مع شركاء غير تقليديين مثل منظمة التعاون والتنمية في الميدان الاقتصادي (OECD)، ومنظمات المجتمع المدني والقطاع الخاص. وشكراً لكم، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(52.1) **Mr Al Karni** (Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States – ABEGS) (*translation from the Arabic*):

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. We are meeting today around a table full of useful contributions, but it is also full of challenges. How pleased are the Member States of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS) that ABEGS is participating and that their efforts are complementary to those of the entire world for a more cooperative, scientific world which radiates civilization and security. To that end, our Member States have given priority to development, to which they have allocated generous budgets, being confident in their wise leadership, and certain that sustainable investment is achievable only through individuals, not under any other heading of limited contribution and survival.

(52.2) The ABEGS Member States have taken broad steps with regard to education for all (EFA) measures. The EFA Global Monitoring Report 2015 demonstrated that our countries have fulfilled most of the goals. The new strategic plans focus on the criterion of quality, which is concerned with the level and enhancement of education outputs. In the recent period, ABEGS has intensified its efforts to contribute, together with education ministries in the Member States, to the enhancement of education. In this connection, cooperative relations with UNESCO have been strengthened, as well as with its regional bureaux in Beirut and Doha for the strengthening of monitoring and follow-up on EFA, and preparation of regional activities prior to the World Education Forum 2015. Here I should like to stress that ABEGS, in accordance with its action strategy for the coming five years, will work with UNESCO to build the capacities of work teams for the monitoring and evaluation programmes of education programmes through the year 2030, both with the main centre and with specialized centres, such as the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) and various regional bureaux. We are confident that UNESCO has acquired great expertise by means of monitoring and follow-up programmes on EFA. However, we would like the education statistics for 2030 to be clearer and more measurable so as to reflect the status of education and the level of quality on both the horizontal and vertical axes of education.

(52.3) We are convinced that the twin challenges of terrorism and extremism must not be absent from our minds as we plan for the work of the future. ABEGS has therefore endeavoured, together with its Member States, to devise specific programmes, such as media culture, family education and programmes of activities aimed at youth. ABEGS is proud that its strategic relationship with UNESCO has secured numerous achievements, as will be shown by the interim review of programmes under the memorandum of understanding. We are also proud that ABEGS has opened up lines of communication with non-traditional partners, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and civil society and private sector organizations. Thank you. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

53. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Slimane Chikh, Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations Office. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

54.1 **M. Chikh** (Organisation de la coopération islamique - OCI) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de délivrer le message du Secrétaire général de l'OCI, S. E. M. Iyad Ameen Madani, mais compte tenu du temps imparti, je me permets de résumer ce discours qui sera par ailleurs distribué *in extenso*.

54.2 Le respect mutuel et la tolérance sont les piliers fondamentaux qui nous permettent d'apprécier la diversité culturelle et de mieux comprendre le phénomène de la fécondation croisée des civilisations. Ce principe doit être inculqué aux nouvelles générations au moyen de l'éducation. C'est pourquoi nous tenons à saluer le travail remarquable et les efforts inlassables de l'UNESCO pour la promotion de l'éducation aux droits de l'homme à travers le monde, et pour le développement de nouvelles formes d'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale. L'OCI partage entièrement cette vision et elle agit en conséquence.

54.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, la lutte contre le phénomène du terrorisme et de l'extrémisme religieux figure parmi les priorités de l'OCI qui estime que la stratégie la plus efficace pour lutter contre l'extrémisme violent consiste à traiter les causes profondes du phénomène. Elle réaffirme, comme l'énoncent tous les traités pertinents et toutes les résolutions internationales, que le terrorisme n'a ni religion ni nationalité ni race, et que nous avons affaire à un fléau qui doit être combattu et réprimé partout où il frappe. Aussi, l'OCI rejette toute tentative visant à entretenir l'amalgame entre le terrorisme et l'islam.

54.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, le monde a récemment assisté à une recrudescence des actes de destruction intentionnelle et du trafic illicite du patrimoine culturel, notamment dans le but de financer les activités des groupes terroristes. L'OCI condamne fermement ces crimes perpétrés au nom de certaines idéologies destructrices et se tient prête à coopérer avec l'UNESCO pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel. À cet égard, l'OCI tient à souligner l'importance cruciale de la Déclaration de Milan sur la protection du patrimoine culturel ainsi que le travail remarquable de l'UNESCO en la matière.

54.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour parler de deux autres dossiers qui me paraissent importants. En premier lieu, l'OCI souhaite réitérer ici son soutien sans faille au peuple palestinien dans la situation tragique où il se trouve aujourd'hui. Nous condamnons fermement le processus systématique d'altération des caractéristiques distinctives de la ville sainte de Jérusalem-Est occupée et les fouilles menées en contrebas de la Sainte mosquée d'Al-Aqsa. L'UNESCO a la responsabilité de protéger et préserver le patrimoine culturel de Jérusalem-Est, et

nous réitérons notre appel vibrant pour que soit appliquée la décision d'envoi d'une mission de suivi réactive de l'UNESCO dans la vieille ville de Jérusalem. En second lieu, l'OCI se félicite du vote du Conseil exécutif en faveur de la candidature du Kosovo à la pleine adhésion à l'UNESCO, et espère que la Conférence générale suivra la recommandation du Conseil exécutif.

54.6 Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais conclure en réaffirmant le souci constant qu'a l'OCI de renforcer encore sa coopération avec l'UNESCO. La prise en charge de la question liée à la promotion du dialogue interculturel doit nous engager à œuvrer ensemble. Je vous remercie.

55. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Maria Theresa Lazaro, Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

56.1 **Ms Lazaro** (Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China):

Mr President, Excellencies, this statement is based on the Group of 77 and China's declaration on the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, "Building Peace and Promoting Sustainable Development for a Better World", which was adopted on 30 October 2015 and distributed to all Permanent Delegations.

56.2 The Group of 77 and China affirm that UNESCO plays an indispensable role in creating the conditions for lasting peace in the hearts and minds of women and men, without which there can be no sustainable development. In the wake of pressing global challenges, UNESCO's purpose to promote mutual understanding, dialogue among cultures, a culture of peace, and international cooperation in the fields of education, the natural and social sciences, culture, and communication and information, remains as important as ever.

56.3 To fulfil its crucial role, UNESCO must proactively contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to help eradicate poverty, malnutrition, climate change, violence, and conflicts. We envision a UNESCO that is empowered to affect positive change on the ground and make a lasting difference in the lives of the most vulnerable and those in most need, especially in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

56.4 The Organization must respond to the needs of Member States through capacity building, technical assistance, technology transfer, development cooperation, and policy advice across all five programme sectors and the global priorities of Africa and gender equality. We are committed to the Education 2030 Framework for Action agenda and UNESCO's role in its implementation. Quality and inclusive education is a human right and a pathway to ensuring peace and sustainable development.

56.5 We look forward to a successful twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21). We appeal to UNESCO to increase its cooperation and assistance to Member States most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters through relevant bodies and programmes, especially in the natural and social sciences.

56.6 We reaffirm that culture is an enabler and driver of sustainable development. We reiterate the importance of UNESCO's cultural conventions and their full implementation through achieving a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List, safeguarding the intangible and underwater cultural heritage and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions. We strongly condemn the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage, including religious sites, by terrorist organizations in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Mali, Libya, and Tunisia, as well as the trafficking and sale of cultural property. We urge that protection of cultural heritage, especially in the event of armed conflict, be enhanced, and commend the Bonn Declaration and UNESCO's "#Unite4Heritage" campaign and strategy.

56.7 Relevant UNESCO programmes should further address the digital divide and harness information and communications technology. We call on UNESCO to redouble its efforts in favour of the youth to empower them to be productive global citizens and to reinforce social inclusion, peace, intercultural dialogue, and mutual understanding. In conclusion, the G-77 shall continue to extend support to UNESCO. Thank you very much.

57. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Ms Martine Levy, President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

58.1 **Mme Lévy** (Comité de liaison ONG-UNESCO) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, lors de la séance d'ouverture de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale, M. Hao Ping s'est félicité de voir que les États membres et le Secrétariat avaient permis de réaliser ensemble les réformes nécessaires depuis 2013. Et, en ma qualité de Présidente de la Conférence internationale des ONG partenaires de l'UNESCO, je me suis posé cette question : « Quelle a été la contribution des ONG dans ces réformes ? ». La réponse est venue par la voix du Président du Conseil exécutif, S. E. M. Amr, qui a loué avec force et conviction la coopération avec les ONG : « Leur action est la preuve que nous pouvons coopérer pour la paix », a-t-il ajouté.

58.2 Les ONG, vous le savez, travaillent sur le terrain ; leurs militants sont au plus près des populations ; et le constat est que, malgré tous les efforts prodigués par les uns ou par les autres, la situation est très préoccupante. Il nous reste encore beaucoup à faire mais nous ne baisserons pas les bras malgré les difficultés de tous ordres qui se dressent devant nous. Avez-vous déjà vu un militant d'une ONG ne pas vouloir aller au bout de son engagement ?

58.3 La Directrice générale, dans son discours d'ouverture de cette Conférence, a dit : « Je vous fais cette demande solennelle : faites avancer l'éducation de chaque enfant, particulièrement des filles ». Le Comité de liaison réfléchit à la

célébration, le 11 octobre 2016, de la Journée internationale de la fille, promulguée par l'Organisation des Nations Unies afin de lutter pour le droit à l'éducation des filles, qui est un enjeu majeur. Comment accéder à la paix lorsque la pauvreté règne dans une famille, une pauvreté qui atteint surtout les femmes ? Est-ce le combat des femmes elles-mêmes qui ferait diminuer la pauvreté ? Le Comité de liaison a permis à 300 personnes venant de toutes les régions représentées à l'UNESCO de se réunir au Siège, en juin 2015, pour réfléchir au rôle des femmes dans la lutte contre la pauvreté. Le constat est amer. La condition de la femme n'a pas progressé, voire a régressé, depuis la Conférence mondiale sur les femmes de Beijing, en 1995. Cette situation dramatique est inadmissible au XXI^e siècle et nous continuerons à travailler tous ensemble pour la faire évoluer.

58.4 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'une des causes de la pauvreté est le manque d'eau potable. Je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement ici le Gouvernement de la Côte d'Ivoire qui a accepté d'être le premier pays à organiser un forum hors Siège sur l'accès à l'eau pour tous. Ce forum a eu lieu à Yamoussoukro l'année dernière. Cette année, en 2015, nous avons rassemblé environ 200 personnes en Chine pour un forum sur le « Rapprochement des cultures : une seule humanité au-delà des diversités », et je tiens à remercier le Gouvernement chinois pour l'organisation de cette manifestation. Un autre forum, sur le rôle de la jeunesse dans la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel, a rassemblé 150 personnes en Bulgarie, dont je remercie le Gouvernement. Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

59. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam. Our next speaker is Mr Patrick Gallaud, Representative of the *Association francophone d'amitié et de liaison*.

60.1 **M. Gallaud** (Association francophone d'amitié et de liaison – AFAL) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, chers amis de la société civile, l'Association francophone d'amitié et de liaison (AFAL) est heureuse de s'adresser aux délégués de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO en vue de leur présenter brièvement quelques réflexions sur le projet de programme et de budget de l'UNESCO pour les deux années à venir.

60.2 L'AFAL est une ONG partenaire de l'UNESCO depuis 1991 et est également en consultation permanente avec l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie, le Conseil de l'Europe et l'ONU. Avec l'UNESCO, il s'agit d'une coopération étroite, notamment depuis 2012, où l'AFAL a présenté et soutenu avec succès un candidat à la présidence de la Conférence internationale des ONG et du Comité de liaison ONG-UNESCO. En effet, au moment où l'UNESCO entreprenait une importante réforme de fond concernant les ONG, l'AFAL avait tenu à accompagner cette mutation qui, à la lecture du rapport quadriennal présenté par la Directrice générale, a déjà porté ses fruits.

60.3 L'AFAL réunit, sur les cinq continents, des centaines d'associations ayant en commun l'usage de la langue française. Il ne s'agit en aucun cas d'une ONG corporatiste mais d'une organisation qui souhaite protéger et étendre l'usage de la langue française porteuse, comme toute autre langue, de valeurs universelles. J'en veux pour preuve la réussite récente de l'exposition intitulée « La francophonie s'affiche », regroupant près de 100 des plus belles affiches illustrant des manifestations du monde francophone depuis une quarantaine d'années. Il s'agit d'un voyage à travers l'espace et le temps évoquant une multitude de forums, rencontres, festivals de films, mettant en évidence le rôle déterminant de la francophonie dans la diversité culturelle, la dynamique associative, la promotion de la langue française.

60.4 Il est clair que les objectifs de l'AFAL rejoignent très largement ceux de l'UNESCO : on vient de le voir pour la diversité culturelle, mais d'autres exemples pourraient être pris dans la culture de la paix et de la non-violence, la promotion des droits de l'homme, la coalition des villes contre le racisme, le réseau des villes créatives, le rapprochement des cultures. L'AFAL est particulièrement attentive à la priorité globale Afrique : en effet, on estime à 350 millions le nombre de jeunes Africains qui parleront français dans les années à venir ; on sait bien, par ailleurs, que l'Afrique sera essentielle à l'économie mondiale avec de forts taux de croissance. Le cœur de la francophonie sera donc en Afrique. Aussi l'AFAL soutient-elle sans réserve le projet de programme de l'UNESCO 2016-2017 relatif à la coordination et au suivi de l'action en faveur de l'Afrique.

60.5 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, notre organisation francophone apparaît donc bien comme porteuse d'idéaux universels, notamment à travers l'usage de la langue française. Elle engage un combat quotidien, non seulement pour la préservation de la langue française mais pour la préservation de toutes les langues du monde. C'est ce que rappelait récemment son président, Jacques Godfrain, quand il disait : « Les langues sont aussi patrimoniales que les pierres sculptées, les œuvres musicales, les dessins et peintures », et c'est pour cela que nous continuerons à travailler auprès de l'UNESCO. Merci pour votre attention.

61. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Mr Dhirendra Bhatnagar, Representative of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations.

62.1 **Mr Bhatnagar** (World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations – WFUCA):

Honourable President of the General Conference, Honourable Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished delegates, friends and colleagues of the UNESCO Clubs movement, ladies and gentlemen. It is great pleasure for me to represent the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA) as its President at the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The UNESCO Club movement, which was started first in Japan in 1947, almost immediately after the formation of UNESCO, to disseminate the ideals of UNESCO among the people, has now spread to about 100 countries in all continents of the world. Today, there are more than 5,000 UNESCO Clubs and Associations engaged in popularizing the programmes and activities of UNESCO among the people in their respective countries. Started as a small initiative by an individual, it has grown into a strong worldwide movement.

62.2 WFUCA, established in 1981 with the objective of furthering the ideals of UNESCO, is making sincere efforts to reach people at the grass-roots level, through its member UNESCO Clubs and Associations. WFUCA is an association of national federations of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, admitted as members on recommendation of the National Commission for UNESCO of their respective countries. WFUCA develops programmes based on UNESCO's priority themes such as education for sustainable development, culture of peace, and rapprochement of cultures, and so forth, as well as other areas which are in conformity with the mandate of UNESCO. WFUCA enjoys the status of a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official partnership with UNESCO.

62.3 On the global screen, a very complex and contradictory world scenario is displayed. On one hand, there is tremendous progress in science and technology, be it the medical or computer sciences, space technology, communication and transportation, to name but a few. On the other hand, conflicts, terrorism, intolerance, discrimination, disparities, inflation, population explosion, climate change, escalation of natural calamities triggered by the human behaviour and over-exploitation of natural resources have posed unprecedented challenges before humanity, forcing urgent attention of the world community. Never before has the need been felt so desperately to sensitize people about the problems and challenges to save this planet. Adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the clear manifestation of the concerns of the world community.

62.4 The overwhelming and comprehensive goals set up by the world leaders cannot be achieved without spreading awareness and urging active involvement of people of all ages, including the young. Renewed efforts should be made to revamp the dormant national federations of UNESCO Clubs and Associations. Cooperation and support of the National Commissions should be sought to open UNESCO Clubs and Associations in the countries where the movement does not exist to make it truly a people's movement for peace and tolerance. Greater emphasis should be given on opening the UNESCO Clubs in schools and colleges to involve a maximum number of young people to harness their energy and potential to develop the world to a better living place for peaceful coexistence. Thank you very much.

63. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Mr Amadou Kane Beyé, of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies. You have the floor, Sir.

64.1 **M. Beyé** (Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines) :

Monsieur le Président, chère Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-nous, au nom du Secrétaire général du Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH), Luiz Oosterbeek, de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, ainsi que l'ensemble des membres du bureau, pour votre élection. Je vais essayer de résumer, compte tenu du temps qui nous est imparti.

64.2 Le Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH), créé à la demande de l'UNESCO le 18 janvier 1949, s'adresse à cette assemblée générale dans un contexte global d'inquiétudes, d'angoisses et de ruptures qui doivent nous porter à une réflexion sur le rôle et les responsabilités de chaque institution ou discipline pour faire face à ces difficultés.

64.3 C'est dans ce sens qu'en octobre 2009 déjà, le Président du CIPSH d'alors avait proposé, à cette même assemblée générale, l'organisation d'une conférence mondiale des humanités qui puisse organiser le secteur des sciences humaines dans le cadre du nouveau millénaire. Une idée puissante, que l'UNESCO a accueillie et qui sera concrétisée du 6 au 12 août 2017 dans la ville de Liège, en Belgique, en partenariat avec le consortium « Liège Together ».

64.4 Il s'agit de s'adapter aux nouveaux défis et de chercher la convergence de nouvelles épistémologies avec la diversité des réponses culturelles aux changements globaux, pour une action ancrée sur une vision qui dépasse le court terme. Une action ancrée sur la créativité qui nous permet de construire des réponses nouvelles pour des difficultés nouvelles. Mais aussi une action ancrée sur la ferme croyance que la pensée et la connaissance restent le cœur de la capacité des humains à se réinventer à chaque fois. Une action, finalement, qui rejette toute forme de pensée unique car notre force majeure, c'est la diversité de notre espèce, qui commence par le genre et l'âge et se prolonge dans le kaléidoscope des langues, des mœurs, voire des valeurs, qui forme les cultures. En quoi consiste cette diversité à travers le temps et les espaces, et comment faire pour la valoriser et la renforcer dans un cadre de convergence qui porte à une humanité dynamique et en paix ?

64.5 L'UNESCO a identifié les principaux défis d'une « planète en transition » : l'augmentation de la population, la recomposition des territoires, les flux migratoires, les contraintes énergétiques et environnementales, l'uniformisation culturelle dans un contexte de mondialisation et, inversement, la structuration de nouvelles identités, l'avènement de la société numérique.

(L'orateur s'interrompt suite à un problème de santé)

65. **The President:**

Thank you very much Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. We can proceed with our meeting and the good news is that Mr Amadou is well and is doing fine. The next speaker is Ms Christine Roche, President of the International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO. Madam, you have the floor.

66.1 **Mme Roche** (Centre catholique international de coopération avec l'UNESCO – CCIC) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, « L'éducation est un cri d'amour pour l'enfance, pour la jeunesse que nous devons accueillir dans nos sociétés, (...) dans la famille, dans la communauté de base, dans la nation ». Je cite le rapport Delors (UNESCO, 1996) « L'éducation : un trésor est caché dedans ».

66.2 L'éducation est mission de cœur et de raison pour l'UNESCO. Pour preuve, l'adoption par acclamation du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, dont l'UNESCO est le chef de file et coordinatrice de l'agenda. Le Centre catholique international de coopération avec l'UNESCO remercie et soutient les acteurs de cette grande Maison qui s'engagent, depuis 70 ans, pour que l'éducation soit de fait un bien commun mondial.

66.3 L'éducation est un défi quotidien pour les citoyens, pour les parents responsables et exigeants, conscients du devenir de la société. L'éducation se fait « tout au long de la vie » dès la petite enfance. Elle construit la personne et forme l'individu au vivre ensemble. Débutant au sein de la famille, elle se poursuit avec le concours de l'école, de l'environnement social puis professionnel.

66.4 La responsabilité de l'éducation des enfants et des adolescents se partage entre États et organisations de la société civile. La famille, « unité de base de la société » comme l'a déclaré l'ONU en 1994, et l'État, organisateur et garant de la société civile, sont des partenaires complémentaires pour développer un humanisme commun responsable. La famille où le « prendre soin de l'autre » est fondamental pour la vie.

66.5 S'appuyant sur le Cadre d'action Éducation 2030, le Centre catholique international de coopération avec l'UNESCO rappelle que l'État est le garant du droit à l'éducation – il n'a pas vocation à être le responsable exclusif de l'éducation ; affirme son attachement à la culture familiale, creuset de respect et d'amour de l'autre, au moment où les jeunes générations doivent relever des défis sans commune mesure avec ceux qu'ont connus leurs aînés ; demande que les familles soient intégrées dans les organisations de la société civile déjà existantes ; et rappelle les principes et les règles fixés par la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et la Charte des Nations Unies, dont la liberté de conscience et de religion, valeur intangible et universelle pour tous les États membres.

66.6 C'est grâce au respect des peuples, au respect de la liberté et de la dignité des femmes et des hommes, grâce à une attention particulière aux enfants et aux personnes fragilisées que le goût de la paix et d'une harmonie de la vie en commun se développera dans notre monde multiculturel en pleine mutation. Je vous remercie.

67. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to inform you that the delegation of Armenia has asked for the right of reply to the statement made earlier this morning by Azerbaijan. In accordance with Rule 72 of our Rules of Procedure, I will therefore accord the right to reply for two minutes. Your Excellency, the representative of Armenia, you now have the floor.

68.1 **Armenia:**

Thank you Mr President. The Azerbaijan representative yesterday was preaching about the necessity of not politicizing UNESCO, but today their own representative was doing the opposite, once again trying to drag UNESCO into political processes that are beyond this Organization's mandate. Speaking of historic Azerbaijan land is simply ironic. No one has ever come across an Azerbaijan on any historic map.

68.2 There was not a single true word in the Azerbaijani statement. When I say something, I speak with truth and evidence. Every historic monument in Armenia is preserved and protected by the Government regardless of its ethnic or religious belonging. But the attempt to incriminate Armenia in religious hatred makes no sense. Armenians have been living all over the world, peacefully co-existing with every nation and religion. Today, Armenia is home to 12 national minorities including many without a kin State.

68.3 Speaking of aggression, the only true aggressor is the Azerbaijani Government that practises hate speeches against anything Armenian, has organized massacres of Armenians in Baku, Sumgait, and Kirovabad and has launched a full-scale war against the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh. The so-called multi-ethnic Azerbaijan has no Armenian population today, despite the fact that at the beginning of the twentieth century, Baku was an Armenian, Russian and Jewish-populated city where all industry was started by Armenians. Every Armenian was either massacred or had to flee the country.

68.4 Thus no official of the most xenophobic State has any moral right to speak of tolerance, making totally false accusations. The model for today's cultural genocide in the Middle East began many years ago when Azerbaijan started a policy of cultural cleansing of Armenian culture. Monasteries, churches and cross-stones have been destroyed there. We have raised the issue of the destruction of several thousand Armenian cross-stones of the medieval Armenian cemetery in Nakhichevan on a number of occasions. UNESCO has the photo and video evidence of this destruction. In 2008, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) 16th General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning the barbaric destruction of those monuments. The call made therein to the Azerbaijani authorities to facilitate the access of experts to study the site has since been rejected by Azerbaijan.

69. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, we have also received a request from the delegation of Serbia asking for the right of reply to the statement made early this morning by Albania. Once again in accordance with Rule 72, I have exercised my discretion and decided to accord the right to reply for two minutes. Your Excellency, the Ambassador of Serbia, you now have the floor, Sir.

70.1 **Serbia:**

Thank you, Mr President. My delegation would like to reply to the statements made by the representative of Albania and a few other delegations in favour of Kosovo's membership of UNESCO. My task is the easy one. Everything that we heard from them speaks loudly against that membership. UNESCO is an organization that should be dealing with culture, education, and science and not a place for solving political issues of statehood. In the spirit of the Organization

and its fundamental principles, we will propose the adjournment of the debate on the request of Kosovo for membership of UNESCO.

70.2 The aim of this proposal is to give a chance to the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina in which also the issue of Serbian cultural heritage in the province is yet to be discussed. I ask you to support the adjournment of the debate. This will help to avoid further divisions, politicization and confrontation within UNESCO. If this proposal is not accepted and it comes to a vote on the request of the so-called Republic of Kosovo to become a member of UNESCO, I appeal to you all to vote no. Your "no" will be your "yes" for the respect of international law and resolution 1244 of the Security Council, for the dignity of UNESCO, for the dignity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Member States for the benefit of all. Vote no. Thank you.

71. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your statement. Ladies and gentlemen this statement concludes the general policy debate segment of the 38th session of the General Conference. One hundred and ninety-eight speakers participated in this debate including Heads of State or government and other distinguished guests. It was an enriching debate and I can assure you that we have heard your wise remarks and your vision of UNESCO's work. The Director-General and her staff have followed closely what was said in this room over the past week, and she will deliver her reply on Monday morning at 10 o'clock sharp. I wish to thank you once again for your wisdom in speaking but equally for your attention in listening.

Report of the APX Commission on item 1.3 "Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8 (c), of the Constitution"
Rapport de la Commission APX sur le point 1.3 « Rapport de la Directrice générale sur les communications reçues des États membres invoquant les dispositions de l'article IV.C, paragraphe 8 (c), de l'Acte constitutif »
Informe de la Comisión Administrativa sobre el punto 1.3 "Informe de la Directora General sobre las comunicaciones recibidas de los Estados Miembros en las que se invoca lo dispuesto en el apartado c) del párrafo 8 del Artículo IV.C de la Constitución"

Доклад Комиссии по административным вопросам по пункту 1.3 «Доклад Генерального директора о сообщениях, полученных от государств-членов в связи с положениями пункта 8 (с) статьи IV.C Устава»

تقرير لجنة الشؤون المالية والإدارية والمسائل العامة ومساندة البرنامج والعلاقات الخارجية بشأن البند ١,٣: "تقرير المديرية العامة عن الرسائل الواردة من الدول الأعضاء والتي تستند فيها إلى أحكام الفقرة ٨ (ج) من المادة الرابعة (جيم) من الميثاق التأسيسي"

行政、计划支助和对外关系委员会关于项目 1.3 的报告：“总干事关于会员国援引《组织法》第 IV.C 条第 8 款 (c) 的来函的报告”

72. **The President:**

Before we adjourn the meeting, we will examine the report of the APX Commission on item 1.3, "Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV C, paragraph 8 (c) of the Constitution". Mr Chairperson of the APX Commission, you now have the floor, Sir.

73.1 **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chairperson of the APX Commission):

Thank you Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies. Please allow me to submit to you the report of the work of the APX Commission on item 1.3. Item 1.3 is the "Report of the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV C, paragraph 8 (c) of the Constitution". The relevant document was document 38 C/10 and Addendum. In accordance with Article 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the APX Commission started its work with the examination of communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV C, 8 (c) of the Constitution.

73.2 As is customary, we set up a working group in charge of the preparation of our recommendation. This group was chaired by Germany and composed of El Salvador, Germany, Oman, Philippines, Senegal and Slovenia, thus representing all electoral groups. The working group met four times from 4 to 6 November.

73.3 Mr President, I should like to remind you that the deadline for the submission of communications from Member States was Friday, 6 November at 10 a.m. All Members States that had submitted their communications by this date were permitted to continue to vote until such time that the General Conference in the plenary meeting decided otherwise, on the basis of the report of the APX Commission.

73.4 At the first meeting of 4 November at 1 p.m. the working group noted that 14 Member States were at risk of losing their voting rights; these were Antigua and Barbuda, Central African Republic, Comoros, Georgia, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Micronesia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, the United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

73.5 By Friday, 6 November at 10 a.m., of these 14 Member States, seven had presented, within the time limit, their communications requesting authorization to vote, in conformity with Article IV paragraph 8 (c) of the Constitution. These seven were the Central African Republic, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and Tajikistan. The working group felt that more information was needed from four Member States and decided to invite their representatives. All accepted this invitation. The working group was also informed that payment from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had been duly received and thus, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is eligible for voting rights in this session of the General Conference.

73.6 Mr President, the members of the working group carried out a thorough case-by-case analysis of the information presented by those seven countries for its consideration. The conclusions of the working group were then presented by its Chairperson to the APX Commission at its session yesterday afternoon, Friday 6 November.

73.7 The APX Commission, after careful examination of the conclusions of the working group, gave favourable consideration to the requests of Central African Republic, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and Tajikistan, that is to say, all seven which sent a communication deemed in accordance with the provisions of Article 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, and 30 C/Resolution 82. As such, the APX Commission has recommended that these Member States retain their right to vote.

73.8 Finally Mr President, and just for information at this stage, on the basis of the work accomplished, the working group has made recommendations on possible modifications of the mandate and working methods of the working group for future sessions of the General Conference. This will be examined on Monday 9 November, in the afternoon, by the APX Commission, and I will report on the outcome when I present my oral report on the APX Commission at the plenary on 13 November.

73.9 Mr President, in my capacity as Chairperson of the APX Commission, I am submitting the recommendations made by the APX Commission for adoption by the plenary meeting of the General Conference. With your indulgence, I propose that this decision be taken without debate. Thank you for your attention.

74. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Sudders. Dear colleagues, may I consider that the General Conference approves by consensus the recommendations made by the APX Commission. I see no objection. *It is so decided.*

Second report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee (38 C/75)

Deuxième rapport de la Présidente du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs (38 C/75)

Segundo informe de la Presidenta del Comité de Verificación de Poderes (38 C/75)

Второй доклад Председателя Комитета по проверке полномочий (38 C/75)

التقرير الثاني لرئيس لجنة فحص وثائق الاعتماد (٧٥/م٣٨)

全权证书委员会主席的第二次报告 (38 C/75)

75. **The President:**

I call upon the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee to submit her report. Madam Chairperson, you have the floor.

76.1 **Ms Mariam Katagum** (Nigeria) (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee):

Thank you Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I have the honour to present the second report of the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. Since my first report was submitted in the plenary on 5 November 2015, the Committee has received credentials in due form from the delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen, and whose names are contained in document 38 C/75, together with all those to be displayed on the screen forthwith. The Committee has also received the credentials in due form from the delegation of the Member States which had previously submitted provisional credentials and whose names are displayed on the screen.

76.2 The Committee has also received the provisional credentials from the delegation of the Member State whose name is displayed on the screen. In conformity with the authority delegated to me by the Credentials Committee, I propose that the General Conference accepts these credentials. The delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The delegations of the Associate Members whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The Observer delegation whose name is displayed on the screen has not yet submitted credentials. I thank you, Mr President.

77.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. Now, following the reports by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee on the valid credentials submitted to date, and that of the Chairperson of the APX Commission that the General Conference has just received, I shall now proceed and read the list of Member States that will not have the right to vote at this 38th session of the General Conference. These Member States are: Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Dominica, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Niue, Sao Tome and Principe, and the United States of America. Are there any comments or any observations, please? I see none. Thank you very much.

77.2 Ladies and gentlemen, we have concluded our work for today and I am sure that you will be pleased to learn that there will be no plenary meeting this afternoon, thanks to your efficiency, cooperation and understanding. The plenary meeting of the General Conference will convene on Monday 9 November, at 10 o'clock sharp, when we will hear the Director-General reply to the general policy debate. Until then, I hope you enjoy your weekend, but before I officially close this meeting, I re-engaged Mr Anthony so that he can today lead us in the rendition of the song "We are the World". This time around he has agreed to honour our contract and I now invite him to do exactly that, so that he can send us off in good spirits. Mr Anthony, the floor is all yours, Sir.

78. **Belize:**

Thank you Mr President. We are now going to sing the first verse and the chorus of "We are the World" and I would invite you when I get to the chorus that you can sing along with me too. And if you want to hold hands and sway, you can also do that.

(The assembly joined in a rendition of the song "We are the World")

79. **The President:**

Thank you. I see Brazil is asking for the floor. Yes, you have the floor.

80. **Brazil:**

Thank you Mr Chair. After this beautiful display of goodwill, I would mention one of the lines of the verses says that life is the greatest gift of all. And I would only wish that the United Nations system would stop promoting abortion in the world. There is a vicious campaign at this moment going on in my country to make abortion legal and I would ask all the people who like children and who think that life is the greatest gift of all to raise their voices against the killing of babies. Thank you.

81. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, *this meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 1.55 p.m.
La séance est levée à 13 h 55
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.55
Заседание закрывается в 13.55
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١,٥٥ بعد الظهر
会议于 13 时 55 分结束*

Tenth plenary meeting

Monday 9 November 2015 at 10.10 a.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Dixième séance plénière

Lundi 9 novembre 2015 à 10 h 10
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Décima sesión plenaria

Lunes 9 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.10
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Десятое пленарное заседание

суббота 9 ноября 2015 г. в 10.10
Председатель: г-н **Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة العاشرة

الاثنين 9 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2015، الساعة 10،10 صباحاً
الرئيس: السيد **سيماتاا** (ناميبيا)

第十次全体会议

2015年11月9日星期一 10时10分
主席： **Simataa** 先生 (纳米比亚)

Reply by the Director-General to the general policy debate
Réponse de la Directrice générale au débat de politique générale
Respuesta de la Directora General al debate de política general
Ответ Генерального директора на обсуждение вопросов общей политики
رد المدير العام بشأن مناقشة السياسة العامة
总干事对总政策辩论的答辨

1.1 The President:

Good morning, honourable ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. As I declare open the tenth plenary meeting, I wish to inform you that there will be a plenary meeting this afternoon at 5.30 p.m. to hear the addresses from His Excellency, Mr Evo Morales, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and His Excellency, Jose Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde. May I request that you be in your seats by 5.15 p.m. sharp so that we can welcome these distinguished and honourable guests. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard.

Ladies and gentlemen, honourable heads of delegations, we have all listened carefully to almost 200 statements that have been made over the past week during the course of the general policy debate. Members of the Secretariat of UNESCO have paid close attention to Member States' remarks including recommendations that have been made. The time has now come for the Director-General to reply to the general policy debate. I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to the Director-General for her reply. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

2.1 The Director-General:

Thank you very much, Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen. I wish to thank all heads of State and government, all ministers, all representatives of UNESCO Member States. I am grateful for the renewed commitment to UNESCO by all of you in the year when we celebrate the Organization's 70th anniversary. You, Mr President, spoke so eloquently of UNESCO's importance in your opening speech after your election as President of the General Conference. You said: "The historic narrative of a humane world order characterized by lasting peace has never been as relevant and as profound as it is today, when the world and humankind continue to experience unending conflicts and natural disasters".

France spoke of the "spirit of London" that created UNESCO in 1945 and called for the same ambition today. From across the world we have the call for stronger cooperation against challenges. We heard the appeal for a more robust and effective international order. We heard a resounding call for unity, for humanity to act as one. And I believe all of you agree. Challenges are multiple and complex and respect no borders. There is no room for unilateralism. No place for exclusion. No society stands alone today. We all stand together. I see this as the spirit of this general policy debate: resolution, solidarity, renewal; to stand together, to move forward together.

We heard this from representatives of societies undergoing deep social transformation, economic pressures. We heard this from Myanmar, leading a "historic transition". We heard this from Liberia, resilient, ever more determined after the end of the Ebola virus crisis. We heard this from Sri Lanka, "rebuilding after 30 years of conflict". We heard from the Maldives, when the distinguished delegate spoke for all small island developing States. "We, small States, do not want to be defined only by our vulnerabilities. We are ready to be part of the solution" - this was a message from the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.

We heard from States determined to respond to climate change, to protect biodiversity, to deepen the sustainability of the ocean. All of you agreed, we are living a historic moment. Morocco was clear: we are standing at a historical political and economic turning point. Pakistan was equally clear: the world stands at a critical juncture facing serious issues and challenges including xenophobia, illiteracy, inequality, gender issues and climate change. Humanity and the planet stand at a crossroads. This was your clear message. And allow me here to quote the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon when he said: "We don't have any 'Plan B' because we don't have any 'Planet B'". So ladies and gentlemen, I believe we must act now. Change is racing across the world and this cannot be undone.

Bangladesh put it eloquently: "The world is ever-changing. Building on experience, we must respond to the demands of new situations while remaining true to our long-term commitments". I see this as our main goal – to embrace change on the basis of principles and commitments, to shape it in positive directions for all societies globally. But to embrace change, we have to craft a future that is more just, inclusive, and sustainable for every woman and man. We have to respect the rights and dignity of every woman and man. I believe this is the bottom line.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway spoke precisely about this when he said: "Every human being has the right to live a dignified life. And it means having a common responsibility to strengthen the dignity of others and ultimately, our own". I believe, ladies and gentlemen, this will be the measure of the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Many of you touched upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were a great humanistic agenda, but the 2030 Agenda is bolder, more universal, more transformative. This new Agenda answers the question all societies are asking today: what world do we want to live in? The answer, I believe, is clear. A world of solidarity, equality, tolerance, a world where no one is left behind. UNESCO stands at the heart of this vision. And all of you emphasized this.

Lithuania was clear: "UNESCO's achievement: the role of culture, education, human rights, and women empowerment was clearly highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". I would like to thank all of you for your leadership. I understand the responsibilities involved, and I am determined for UNESCO to lead support to States.

2.8 All of you highlighted the importance of the forthcoming session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP 21. Here again, the message was clear. The 2030 Agenda and tackling climate change are interlinked. They are the same agenda. Poverty eradication cannot be separated from the environment. Peace cannot be delinked from the sustainability of the planet. This was the message of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, RIO+20 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. All societies are sending this same message today.

2.9 UNESCO will continue to support States in every way to prepare the United Nations Climate Change Conference and the implementation of its decisions. This has included the Business and Climate Summit in May at UNESCO Headquarters, the World Oceans Day event on 8 June, with Monaco, Sweden, France, Belgium and Norway, and the International Scientific Conference on Our Common Future under Climate Change, in July, held here at UNESCO Headquarters, including sessions on water and climate change.

2.10 UNESCO is accelerating in the run-up to COP 21: decision-taking, with thematic days on 3 and 4 December on the Ocean and Climate Platform and the Global Ocean Forum, with the International Conference on Water, Megacities and Global Changes at UNESCO, with an event on climate change and mountains, and side events on key findings of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, and the pivotal role of water in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The forthcoming conference on indigenous peoples and climate change, organized with France, is another key UNESCO contribution.

2.11 The lessons of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are clear. Success requires ownership. Ownership by societies, by governments, taking forward policies they have crafted in strategies they have framed. Ownership must be the leitmotif of the 2030 Agenda. Ownership means capacities. Every society and government must have the ability to achieve the goals it has set for itself. Every woman and man must have the ability to become everything they wish. Here again, capacities are key. We heard this loud and clear from small island developing States in the Pacific, in the Indian Ocean, in the Caribbean. Capacities are the way forward – capacities in disaster risk reduction and early warning, capacities in education for sustainable development, capacities across the sciences, capacities to preserve biodiversity, capacities to set the right education strategies, and capacities to protect tangible and intangible heritage.

2.12 Let me underline the importance of the action plan for small island developing States. I will present to Member States next spring during the meeting of the Executive Board. The action plan will cover the full range of UNESCO's mandate – from information and communication technology (ICT) in education and safeguarding cultural heritage, to ocean science and strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines put it clearly: "We cannot wait for more disasters to strike". I agree fully. Capacities, capacities, capacities. This is, I believe, the name of the game. This begins with education – capacities for education systems, training for teachers, skills for learners.

2.13 The distinguished delegate of Thailand spoke for all when he said: "Education is a key tool to achieve security, prosperity, sustainability and resilient democracy". Not just any education – quality education, education for relevant skills, for decent jobs, education for new ways of thinking and acting, for sustainability, for global citizenship, education in tune with the twenty-first century. In this respect, let me underline the importance of the launch of UNESCO's latest publication, *Rethinking education: towards a global common good?* – this will be a reference for dialogue and debate.

2.14 Across the world, States are building UNESCO's holistic vision of education into national strategies. After the adoption of the important Action Plan, an important decision of the Incheon World Education Forum 2015. Zambia laid emphasis on its comprehensive education policy. Peru presented the comprehensive strategy guiding the country's historic educational reform. Sierra Leone spoke of the central role of education in the post-Ebola recovery and transition programme – and UNESCO stands ready to support the government as it moves forward.

2.15 Every State, every government, expressed their determination to leave no one behind, to reach all girls and women, to bring in the most disadvantaged. Let me highlight here the importance of the Gender Summary of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2015, launched on 4 November on the sidelines of this General Conference. This is to highlight once again the importance of girls' education and gender priority for UNESCO. This was an opportunity to share the commitment of governments across the world, from Paraguay to Niger. As Ethiopia stated: "Empowering women and girls, ensuring their sexual and reproductive health and human rights is essential to an inclusive society".

2.16 I thank all of you for the resounding support to UNESCO's action to advance Global Priority Gender Equality, through education, across all areas of UNESCO's competence. You are making the global priority your own – including, for instance, through the Girls' Right to Education programme, funded by the Malala Funds-in-Trust established in UNESCO by the Government of Pakistan.

2.17 The adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action is a milestone in this General Conference, attended by some 70 Ministers. The Education 2030 Framework for Action sets bold benchmarks and it is indeed a historic moment. Twelve years of free education for all. Qualified and duly trained teachers in every classroom. A strong focus on technical and vocational education and training (TVET), on quality, on girls' education. This calls for a new emphasis on monitoring – the role of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) will be essential, along with the Global Monitoring Report. This calls for new funding, to bridge the annual \$40 billion funding gap, to invest where needs are most acute. I would like to thank all of you for this ground-breaking commitment, along with all partners, across the United Nations system, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE),—as well as civil society, Education International, and the private sector. Because I do believe partnership is the way forward.

2.18 This same spirit underpinned the inaugural ceremony of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development, with the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. This Prize was awarded

to three outstanding projects – from El Salvador and Guatemala, Indonesia, and Germany – empowering individuals and local communities, connecting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

2.19 Strengthening capacities and capabilities stood at the heart of the meeting on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would like to thank Sweden and the friends of TVET and appeal to all States to join this initiative. Let me express gratitude also to His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for the new agreement on curriculum design and development in the Arab region.

2.20 On 6 November, I hosted the third Meeting on UNESCO's Capacity Building for Education for All programme – CapEFA. This brought States and donors together, to share experience with capacity building at every level – for systems and ministries, for teachers, in curriculum design, for gender equality. I call once again for greater support to this flagship programme, which is one of the big successes of the Organization. In this respect, let me thank Saudi Arabia for the new agreement I signed last week to support the UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All.

2.21 Building capacities guides all UNESCO's action in the sciences. Knowledge is essential to every society today. Creating knowledge, sharing knowledge and applying knowledge are critical to eradicate poverty, to tackle the consequences of climate change and at the end of the day, to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the 2030 Agenda. This idea underpins the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, launched on 26 September, with UNESCO as a convening United Nations agency during the General Assembly session in New York.

2.22 Nigeria spoke for many in emphasizing: "Science, technology and innovation are main pillars of the agenda for change". This spirit guides UNESCO's support to governments in bolstering science, technology and innovation policies, in advancing science education, especially science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), especially for girls, as noted by many of you. The event on 7 November on STEM Education for Adolescent Girls was extremely important, to advance gender equality, chaired by Ms Hayat Sindi, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2.23 The outstanding role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) was underlined by many of you, ladies and gentlemen, for ocean science, for ocean observation, for early warning systems. This is why I am determined to continue to enhance support across the board to IOC. I am also grateful to the support expressed to UNESCO's "water family", led by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP). UNESCO's action for water governance, for water diplomacy, has never been as important. I welcome the support also expressed to the new Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Strategy, and for the importance of biosphere reserves as innovative platforms for preserving biodiversity, including most particularly from Viet Nam, the Philippines and many others.

(The Director-General continues in French)

2.24 Mesdames et Messieurs, cette Assemblée a toujours été la chambre d'écho des tendances du monde, le lieu d'anticipation des futurs possibles. En 1999, dans cette même salle, la délégation de l'Afghanistan prenait la parole pour alerter la communauté internationale sur le danger de l'extrémisme et sur les violences perpétrées dans le pays envers les filles empêchées de se rendre à l'école, et pour demander l'inscription d'urgence des Bouddhas de Bâmiyân sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril. C'était deux ans avant la destruction des Bouddhas de Bâmiyân. C'était deux ans avant le 11 septembre. Oui, Mesdames et Messieurs, il existe un système mondial d'alerte précoce des conflits à venir, des défis de demain : il se trouve ici, dans cette salle.

2.25 Durant toute cette semaine, j'ai entendu des mises en garde, des inquiétudes, des signes avant-coureurs de violences futures. J'ai écouté le Burundi qui cherche difficilement à se relever d'une dure crise politico-sociale, et l'on sait que la seule réponse passe par le dialogue et la culture de la paix. J'ai entendu l'appel vibrant du Honduras en faveur de la justice, seul chemin possible pour construire la paix. J'ai écouté avec attention le récit de transformations nationales considérables, que ce soit aux îles Fidji en matière d'éducation, en Zambie et au Myanmar pour la liberté d'expression, ou au Malawi avec l'engagement des jeunes dans les radios communautaires.

2.26 La stratégie de Singapour pour intégrer la culture, le design et l'innovation dans les politiques d'aménagement urbain justifie pleinement le plaidoyer de l'UNESCO concernant le lien entre la culture et le développement, et je ne pouvais imaginer de meilleure introduction pour la conférence que nous organisons au mois de décembre, à Hangzhou, sur la culture et le développement urbain durable, en prévision de la Conférence Habitat III l'année prochaine.

2.27 De nombreux pays font preuve de mouvements de solidarité considérables dans l'accueil de réfugiés du climat ou des conflits, au Liban, en Turquie, en Jordanie, au Cameroun, au Bangladesh ou au Pakistan, témoignant de la capacité des peuples à tendre la main, une main que nous devons tendre à notre tour. J'ai pris la mesure des dizaines de propositions et idées concrètes présentées, des projets destinés à avancer : une stratégie contre l'extrémisme et des fonds pour l'éducation, proposés par le Président du Kazakhstan, M. Nazarbayev, en soutien à la Décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures, avec l'organisation d'un forum sur l'islam contre le terrorisme ; des conférences sur le dialogue interculturel, proposées par l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine ; un programme international pour une culture de paix et de dialogue, suggéré par le roi Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz. Je voudrais saluer les soutiens financiers et juridiques exprimés en faveur de la protection du patrimoine en danger par l'Allemagne, le Royaume-Uni, la Suisse, le Qatar, le Koweït et de nombreux autres pays.

2.28 Vous connaissez les efforts déployés par l'UNESCO pour lutter contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels, et je veux saluer les mesures prises par des dizaines d'entre vous pour coordonner les services, renforcer les contrôles et partager les informations, à nos côtés, dans le cadre de la Convention de 1970 et de la résolution 2199 du Conseil de sécurité. L'UNESCO a lancé plusieurs projets d'urgence, que ce soit pour la protection des musées en Iraq, avec le

Japon et la Norvège, ou pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel syrien à partir de Beyrouth, avec l'Union européenne. Nous avons encore besoin de votre soutien car ces efforts donnent des résultats et nous savons que si les objets ont pu être mis à l'abri, en Syrie, en Libye ou au Yémen, c'est aussi grâce à la formation dispensée depuis des années par l'UNESCO à des professionnels sur le terrain.

2.29 Cet engagement pratique doit s'accompagner d'une réflexion théorique, avec les experts, sur le sens de la protection et de la restauration du patrimoine mondial aujourd'hui et la mise en œuvre des conventions de l'UNESCO, en réponse à ces conflits modernes. Je pense à la proposition de créer une équipe spéciale pour le patrimoine réunissant des experts civils et militaires qui a été faite par le Ministre de la culture de l'Italie, M. Dario Franceschini, et qui ouvre de nouvelles perspectives pour une protection du patrimoine plus réactive, plus mobile et plus intégrée. Je remercie le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Fédération de Russie, M. Sergei Lavrov, qui est favorable à l'envoi de missions de l'UNESCO pour évaluer l'ampleur des destructions sur les sites touchés et préparer dès que possible la remise en état de ces sites.

2.30 Chaque pays est confronté à des défis particuliers et la violence revêt de nombreux visages : celui de l'injustice sociale, celui des groupes armés, des narcotrafiquants ou du terrorisme. Personne ne peut prétendre avoir de solution définitive mais chacun ici peut faire part de son expérience concrète, qui est chaque fois une leçon d'humilité et un devoir de précision. Ensemble, nous avons lancé le dernier rapport sur les tendances mondiales en matière de liberté d'expression et de développement des médias, avec le soutien de la Suède, à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de la fin de l'impunité pour les crimes commis contre des journalistes. Ensemble, experts et responsables politiques se sont réunis pour la manifestation parallèle sur la prévention de l'extrémisme violent par le biais de l'éducation organisée à l'initiative des États-Unis, en présence du Secrétaire d'État adjoint, M. Antony Blinken, suite à l'adoption à l'unanimité par le Conseil exécutif d'une décision sur la question.

2.31 La violence ne pourra pas être vaincue par la seule force des armes, ni par de nouvelles violences. Comme la majorité d'entre vous l'avez dit clairement, il faut s'attaquer à ses causes profondes. Par l'éducation de qualité, par la compréhension mutuelle, par le respect des cultures, de la sienne et de celle des autres, et par une culture de la paix. Ce sont des domaines où les discours ne suffisent pas, encore moins qu'ailleurs, et l'UNESCO doit mettre en œuvre des programmes plus efficaces, des outils de haute précision, au plus près du terrain, car l'esprit des hommes et des femmes est une matière complexe qui ne se satisfait pas de considérations générales sur le « dialogue des civilisations » ou la « citoyenneté mondiale ». De même qu'il existe des armes de précision de haute technologie, il faut des programmes éducatifs de pointe et des outils de dialogue interculturel de dernière génération.

2.32 Je rejoins totalement les appels du Danemark et du Royaume-Uni sur ce point : la réforme de l'UNESCO va bien au-delà d'une réflexion sur les coûts et les processus, elle exige la mise en œuvre de programmes toujours plus efficaces, adaptés à des situations qui changent en permanence. Je salue à cet égard la proposition de la France tendant à lancer une coalition d'États en vue de préparer une initiative stratégique pour la prochaine session de la Conférence générale. Au cours de ce débat, ainsi que lors des dizaines de manifestations parallèles organisées et dans le cadre des entretiens bilatéraux que j'ai eus avec beaucoup d'entre vous, j'ai vu déjà de nombreuses initiatives et des propositions dynamiques d'outils concrets. Des ministres de l'éducation – de la Tunisie à la République dominicaine – ont donné des clés USB où l'on trouve l'intégralité des supports éducatifs de leur pays, à glisser dans sa poche.

2.33 Le savoir et la connaissance circulent plus facilement, mais la propagande et les messages de haine aussi, malheureusement. J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'intervention de l'Algérie, qui a lutté pendant dix ans contre l'extrémisme et qui a des enseignements irremplaçables à nous faire partager. On peut passer dix ans à renforcer le système scolaire d'un pays, à former les professeurs à l'enseignement de la paix et de la tolérance, à la citoyenneté à l'école, mais si le soir, dans leur chambre, par la magie des satellites et des réseaux sociaux, les jeunes sont abreuvés de messages de haine, tout est à recommencer. L'UNESCO est bien placée pour le savoir, qui est née d'une guerre mondiale ayant éclaté sur un continent, l'Europe, qui à l'époque était le plus alphabétisé de tous et doté des moyens de communication les plus puissants. Toute éducation reste fragile tant qu'elle n'est pas fondée sur les droits humains et capable d'enseigner l'esprit critique et le sens du devoir, vis-à-vis de soi et des autres, pour la tolérance et la paix.

2.34 Voilà pourquoi, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis convaincue que l'UNESCO doit renforcer son soutien auprès des jeunes, et sa stratégie opérationnelle pour la jeunesse (2014-2021) est à cet égard plus essentielle que jamais. Je vous remercie du soutien que vous avez apporté à de nombreuses initiatives de l'Organisation dans ce domaine, qu'il s'agisse de l'initiative visant à combattre la radicalisation et l'extrémisme des jeunes sur l'Internet, du projet Réseaux de la jeunesse méditerranéenne (NET-MED Youth) qui concerne dix pays de la région de la Méditerranée et qui vient justement d'organiser un atelier de formation pour les jeunes journalistes palestiniens de Gaza, ou encore du programme MOST, pour l'inclusion sociale et le droit à la dignité, comme l'ont souligné l'Indonésie, Madagascar, la Roumanie, la Mongolie, l'Allemagne, le Paraguay ou la République démocratique du Congo. Je veux insister notamment sur la campagne des jeunes pour une culture de la paix en Afrique qui a été lancée avec l'UNESCO en Angola, au Gabon et en Côte d'Ivoire et qui se développe au cœur de l'action que nous menons dans le cadre de notre Priorité globale Afrique.

2.35 Contre la globalisation de l'intolérance, il faut faire entendre d'autres messages, proposer une vision positive de l'entraide face aux fausses promesses de l'extrémisme. Il y a vingt ans exactement, le Premier Ministre israélien Itzhak Rabin affirmait que « la paix a ses chances » car une majorité de gens veulent la paix. C'est la voix de cette majorité que nous devons faire entendre, en mettant en valeur les liens qui nous unissent. C'est le sens de la campagne #UnisPourLePatrimoine que vous avez été nombreux à soutenir, ce dont je vous remercie. Nous aurons l'occasion de nous retrouver cette semaine, avec des archéologues et des témoins qui viendront parler de leur action, pour amplifier ce mouvement. C'est le sens également de la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles, proposée par la Norvège et

déjà soutenue par plus de 50 pays, et j'appelle à nouveau tous les États membres de l'UNESCO à souscrire à cette déclaration. C'est le sens de ma proposition tendant à créer des « aires culturelles protégées » dans les zones de conflit.

2.36 Dans la diversité de vos pays et de vos trajectoires, vous avez finalement exprimé des aspirations fondamentales à des principes vitaux, simples et universels : le droit de mener une vie digne, le droit à une éducation de qualité pour nos enfants et nos adolescents, filles et garçons, afin qu'ils deviennent des citoyens responsables et engagés dans la société, avec un métier décent, le droit de faire valoir son identité, de participer à la mondialisation sans peur de voir son histoire effacée, en misant au contraire sur la diversité comme source d'innovation et de renouvellement. Cette idée est au cœur de l'intervention faite par l'Union européenne à l'appui de la Convention de l'UNESCO de 2005 sur la diversité des expressions culturelles, dont nous célébrons cette année le 10^e anniversaire, ainsi que des paroles très fortes du Premier Ministre des Îles Cook, qui a souligné le besoin de préserver le patrimoine sous toutes ses formes, matérielles, immatérielles et naturelles, en déclarant que « notre patrimoine est constitué non seulement de monuments mais de pratiques séculaires de pêche et de plantation ».

2.37 L'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs, occupe une position centrale dans ce domaine. Dans votre diversité, dans notre diversité, vous avez pointé le besoin d'identifier et de protéger un certain nombre de « biens publics mondiaux » comme l'éducation, l'eau, l'environnement, le patrimoine matériel et immatériel, la diversité culturelle. Les inégalités entre les pays et au sein des pays, les écarts immenses dans l'accès à ces biens publics mondiaux, sont des atteintes à l'essence indivisible de l'humanité ; ils perpétuent les injustices d'aujourd'hui et préparent les violences de demain. Dans un monde interdépendant, le dialogue interculturel n'est pas juste un impératif de paix : c'est une méthode de travail, le seul chemin possible pour élaborer des solutions communes à des enjeux qui nous dépassent.

2.38 Plusieurs futurs sont possibles : aucun n'est écrit et le rôle de l'UNESCO est de mettre en avant les initiatives qui nous rassemblent, de promouvoir tout ce qui renforce notre humanité commune, les rencontres, les cultures partagées et la coopération, pour que cet avenir l'emporte sur les autres. Je crois que ce n'est pas une utopie. Cette conférence n'est pas un rassemblement d'observateurs du monde, mais une réunion de décideurs politiques, et vos décisions peuvent changer le cours des choses. Il n'y a pas besoin d'attendre ou de s'en remettre à d'autres, il n'y a pas de fatalité. C'est le cœur du projet humaniste. Comme l'a souligné avec force le Ministre de la République dominicaine, « ce monde peut être meilleur si nous le décidons ». À nous donc de le décider. Je vous remercie.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. On behalf of the General Conference, I would like to thank you most sincerely for a very clear, elaborate and comprehensive reply to the general policy debate. Ladies and gentlemen, as announced earlier, the next item on our agenda for today is item 8.3, "Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO", and this item, as you recall, has been scheduled for examination at 11.30 this morning. We will therefore suspend the plenary meeting now and reconvene at 11.30 a.m. sharp. Thank you very much for your attention.

The meeting is suspended from 10.55 a.m. to 11.40 a.m.

4. **The President:**

Good morning again, ladies and gentlemen. We will now continue our plenary meeting in which we will be examining item 8.3, "Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO". This item, as you recall, has been placed on the agenda in conformity with 197 EX/Decision 43 of the Executive Board, a decision that was adopted at its 197th session. I would therefore like to give the floor to the Chair of the Executive Board, who will present the Board's recommendation on this particular item. Your Excellency, Ambassador Amr, you have the floor.

Item 8.3: Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO

Point 8.3 : Demande d'admission de la République du Kosovo à l'UNESCO

Punto 8.3 : Solicitud de admisión de la República de Kosovo en la UNESCO

Пункт 8.3: Просьба о принятии Республики Косово в члены ЮНЕСКО

البند ٨,٣: طلب انضمام جمهورية كوسوفو إلى عضوية اليونسكو

项目 8.3: 要求接纳科索沃共和国加入教科文组织

5. **Mr Amr (Egypt) (Chair of the Executive Board):**

Thank you very much Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The Executive Board at its 197th session considered the item entitled "Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO" proposed by Member States in accordance with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. Following a vote taken by roll call with 27 votes in favour, 14 votes against and 14 abstentions, the Executive Board adopted 197 EX/Decision 43, by which it recommends that the General Conference admit the Republic of Kosovo as a Member of UNESCO. Mr President, on behalf of the Executive Board and in conformity with Article 2, paragraph 2 and Article V.b, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Constitution of our Organization, may I therefore recommend that the General Conference consider the text of the aforementioned Executive Board decision. Thank you very much Mr President.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. Ladies and gentlemen, we have now heard the recommendation of the Executive Board. You have in front of you document 38 C/PLEN/DR.1, submitted on this item by 37 Member States. May I invite one of the co-sponsors to introduce the draft resolution, but in the meantime, I see Serbia wishes to take the floor. The distinguished representative of Serbia, you now have the floor sir.

7. **Serbia:**

Mr President, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we are asking for the adjournment of the debate on this item, in accordance with Rule 75 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, until the next session of the General Conference, in order to give a chance to dialogue with the aim of achieving a sustainable and mutually acceptable solution. In case there is no consensus on this procedural motion, we ask that the decision be taken by roll call. Thank you, Mr President.

8. **The President:**

Thank you very much. According to Rule 75 of our Rules of Procedure, during the discussion of any question, a Member State or Associate Member present may move adjournment of a debate on the item under discussion. I now give the floor to the Legal Adviser for all our benefit who will read out the relevant Rule of Procedure of the General Conference. Madam Legal Adviser, you have the floor.

9. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you, Mr President of the General Conference. Rule 75 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference entitled: "Adjournment of debate" provides as follows: "During the discussion of any question a Member State or Associate Member present may move adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Any such motion shall have precedence. In addition to the proposal of the motion, one speaker may speak in favour of, and one against, the motion. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule". Thank you.

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam Legal Adviser. As we have heard, Rule 75 provides that in addition to the proposal of the motion, one speaker may speak in favour of this motion and one may speak against. It seems that there is a point of order from the United States of America. You have the floor.

11. **United States of America:**

Thank you, Mr Chair. I do not think that the item has been formally submitted before the Conference. You were about to recognize one of the Member States which would submit the item and therefore it is our view that the item is not currently under discussion, and therefore the motion to postpone and close the debate was premature. We believe that it is important that the item first be introduced, at which point any other motions can be considered. Thank you.

12. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I think I will once again request the Legal Adviser not to re-read what is contained in Rule 75 but to give us the correct interpretation of what is reflected in Rule 75 in an attempt to try and determine whether the point made by the United States of America can be carried forward. Thank you very much.

13. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you Mr President. Rule 75 provides, as I announced at the outset, that during the discussion of any question a Member State or an Associate Member present may move adjournment. I think that as soon as the item has been opened for discussion it is therefore legitimate at that point for a Member State or Associate Member to already move for adjournment of the debate. Therefore I think that the adjournment of the debate has been legitimately proposed. Thank you.

14. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, let us proceed with the motion to adjourn the debate. I was saying that in terms of these rules, in addition to the proposal of the motion, one speaker may speak in favour of the motion while one may speak against. I will therefore give the floor, first to another speaker who supports the motion of adjournment and then thereafter to a speaker who is against this motion. The time limit for each speaker is three minutes. Thank you very much. I see that the Russian Federation would like to speak in favour of the motion. You now have the floor.

15. **Российская Федерация:**

Спасибо, господин Председатель. Российская Федерация поддерживает предложение Сербии.

(15) **Fédération de Russie** (*traduit du russe*) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La Fédération de Russie appuie la proposition de la Serbie.

16. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Can I invite the distinguished representative of Germany to speak against the motion?

17. **Germany:**

Thank you Mr President. Germany objects to a postponement of the decision concerning item 8.3. The Executive Board has given a clear recommendation after thorough deliberation and thought and we think the time is right to decide today. Thank you.

18. **The President:**

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. As I understand, the room is divided on this sensitive subject. I therefore propose that we proceed immediately to vote on this proposed motion for the adjournment of the debate to the next session of the General Conference. I see a point of order from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. You have the floor.

19. **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you Mr President. Under Rule 89 of the Rules of Procedure, Member States are permitted to explain their votes before or after voting. If we are going to vote on this procedural motion I wish to give an explanation of vote. Please tell me that I can do it beforehand.

20. **The President:**

Thank you very much. May I request the Legal Adviser to just reflect briefly on that so that we can get a clear direction.

21. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you Mr President. Rule 89 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference provides, and I quote: "The President may permit delegates to explain their votes either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot". It further provides that the President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. Thank you.

22. **The President:**

Thank you very much. That being the case, indeed I will exercise my discretion, although I hope we limit our explanations because we need to make progress, and I will grant the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the latitude to explain its vote. You have two minutes, please.

23. **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you Mr President. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland opposes the postponement of the consideration of the membership of Kosovo. Mr President, in the 70 years that UNESCO has existed, the General Conference has never refused to accept a member that has been recommended for admission by the Executive Board, and it has never refused to consider such a request, and therefore we would be setting a terrible precedent today. Mr President, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has said that this is a decision for the General Conference of UNESCO to take. The previous administrators of UNMIK have recommended that Kosovo be admitted to UNESCO. The International Court of Justice has declared that Kosovo's declaration of independence was fully compliant with all United Nations resolutions on the matter. Kosovo has been able to join the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International Olympic Committee. Kosovo should be able to join UNESCO. We understand the point that is being made about dialogue, and that dialogue will be enhanced by Kosovo's membership of UNESCO. One final point – as a European Union member, I wish to affirm that there is absolutely no link between the European Union dialogue and Kosovo's membership of UNESCO. They are not linked. All those countries that wish to vote in favour of Kosovo's membership, all those that wish to allow Kosovo to benefit from UNESCO's programmes in education, science and culture, should vote against the motion to postpone. Thank you.

24. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Argentina has requested for the floor to explain its vote.

25. **Argentina:**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. La delegación argentina considera que la solicitud de Kosovo de ser admitido como miembro de pleno derecho de la UNESCO no debe prosperar, ya que carece de sustento legal. De acuerdo con la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad, Kosovo y Metohija es un territorio bajo administración de las Naciones Unidas que forma parte constitutiva de la República de Serbia. Es por eso que la República Argentina no reconoce la declaración unilateral de independencia realizada en 2008 por el Parlamento de Kosovo, dado que considera que implica una violación del principio de soberanía e integración territorial. Asimismo, la mencionada resolución del Consejo de Seguridad establece un sistema de solución de controversias mediante un acuerdo mutuamente aceptado por las partes involucradas. En este sentido, se están llevando a cabo negociaciones que, entendemos, deben finalizar antes de que esta Conferencia tome tan importante decisión. La decisión sobre este tema que fue adoptada en el último Consejo Ejecutivo carece de legitimidad, porque la Constitución de la UNESCO establece claramente en su Artículo II.3 que este tipo de territorios deben ser admitidos en calidad de miembros asociados. La República Argentina se opone categóricamente a la admisión de Kosovo como miembro de pleno derecho de la organización. Gracias.

(25) **Argentine (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Je vous remercie Madame la Présidente. La délégation argentine estime qu'il ne doit pas être donné suite à la demande d'admission du Kosovo en qualité de membre à part entière de l'UNESCO, car cette demande ne repose sur aucun fondement juridique. En vertu de la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, le Kosovo et la Métochie forment un territoire sous administration des Nations Unies faisant partie intégrante de la République de Serbie. C'est pourquoi la République argentine ne reconnaît pas la déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance prononcée en 2008 par le Parlement du Kosovo, qu'elle considère comme une violation du principe de souveraineté et d'intégrité territoriale. Par ailleurs, la résolution susmentionnée du Conseil de sécurité instaure un système de règlement des différends par le biais d'un accord mutuellement reconnu par les parties concernées. À cet égard, des négociations ont lieu actuellement et devront, selon nous, avoir été menées à bonne fin avant que la Conférence n'adopte une décision d'une telle importance. La décision adoptée sur cette question par le Conseil exécutif à sa dernière session n'est pas légitime car l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO énonce clairement en son article II.3 que ce type de territoires doit être admis en qualité de membre associé. La République argentine s'oppose catégoriquement à l'admission du Kosovo comme membre à part entière de l'Organisation. Merci.

26. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellencies. Let me now call upon Indonesia to take the floor, followed by Cuba.

27. **Indonesia:**

Thank you very much, Mr President. This issue has polarized and divided the Member States of UNESCO. Hence, Indonesia seconds the motion proposed by Serbia for postponement. I thank you.

28. **The President:**
Thank you very much. The distinguished representative of Cuba.
29. **Cuba:**
Gracias, señor Presidente. La República de Cuba reitera su posición de respeto absoluto a los principios del derecho internacional consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, incluyendo el de la integridad territorial de los Estados. Cuba apoya de forma irrestricta la integridad territorial de la República de Serbia y no reconoce a la autoproclamada República de Kosovo como un estado independiente. Por tales motivos, mi delegación se opondrá al proyecto de resolución que recién ha sido presentado ante esta Conferencia General. Gracias.
- (29) **Cuba (traduit de l'espagnol) :**
Merci, Monsieur le Président. La République de Cuba rappelle son attachement au respect absolu des principes du droit international consacrés par la Charte des Nations Unies, parmi lesquels figure celui de l'intégrité territoriale des États. Cuba défend sans restriction l'intégrité territoriale de la République de Serbie et ne reconnaît pas la République autoproclamée du Kosovo en tant qu'État indépendant. Pour toutes ces raisons, ma délégation s'oppose au projet de résolution soumis récemment à la Conférence générale. Merci.
30. **The President:**
Thank you very much. Before I call upon the next speaker, can I request the distinguished delegates to kindly indicate if they would like to explain their votes, so that we can have a complete list of those who want to take the floor so that we can close the list and then exhaust it, and then get on with the business before us. Let me invite the Secretary to read out the list as it stands.
31. **Le Secrétaire:**
Merci, Monsieur le Président. Les États membres qui ont demandé à expliquer leur vote sont la Serbie, la Fédération de Russie, les États-Unis d'Amérique, la République bolivarienne du Venezuela, l'Érythrée, l'Éthiopie, l'Uruguay, le Bénin, l'Espagne, l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, l'Albanie, le Belarus et le Costa Rica.
32. **The President:**
Thank you very much. That is the list that we have established so far. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Serbia to take the floor. Your Excellency, you have the floor.
33. **Serbia:**
Mr President, the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland mentioned precedent, and said that the Executive Board had recommended this resolution and that never in the history of UNESCO had the General Conference rejected such a proposal. For me, this precedent is a logical one as it is the first time in the history of UNESCO that such a proposal has such a candidate for membership, because Kosovo is not a State. According to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), it is a territory administered by the United Nations. It is only logical to reject it. It was not logical just to support that and to recommend admission as a member at the Executive Board. So this precedent would be logical in the line of the functioning of UNESCO and international law. Thank you.
34. **The President:**
Thank you very much, Sir. Let me then call on the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.
- 35.1 **Российская Федерация:**
Спасибо, господин Председатель. Во-первых, я хотела бы сказать, что несмотря на то, что мы не хотели открывать эти дебаты, мы все-таки их открыли. Но поскольку открыли, я тоже позволю себе выступить и отметить, что Резолюция Совета Безопасности ООН 1244 сохраняет силу в полном объеме в качестве обязательной для всей международно-правовой базы косовского урегулирования. Она предусматривает функционирование в Косово временных органов самоуправления, подконтрольных международному присутствию.
- 35.2 Как показало состоявшееся в августе 2015 г. заседание Совета Безопасности ООН по косовскому урегулированию, ситуация в этом Крае далека от стабильной и должна оставаться под пристальным международным контролем. Таким образом, заявка на вступление Косово в ЮНЕСКО противоречит Резолюции Совета Безопасности ООН 1244 и представляется преждевременной.
- 35.3 Край Косово, находясь под управлением ООН, не может рассматриваться в качестве государства, обладающего правосубъектностью и, следовательно, претендовать на членство в международной организации. Само рассмотрение заявки противоречит основным принципам ЮНЕСКО, поскольку ведет к политизации этой ведущей гуманитарной организации и разрушает принятую в ней культуру принятия решений консенсусом. Спасибо за внимание.
- (35.1) **Fédération de Russie (traduit du russe) :**
Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais tout d'abord préciser que nous ne tenions pas à ouvrir ce débat, mais qu'il l'a été malgré tout. Par conséquent, je me permets également d'intervenir pour souligner que la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU reste pleinement en vigueur en tant qu'instrument international juridiquement contraignant pour le règlement de la question du Kosovo. Cette résolution prévoit le fonctionnement d'institutions provisoires d'administration autonome au Kosovo, sous la supervision d'une présence internationale.
- (35.2) Comme l'a montré la séance du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU sur la question du Kosovo tenue en août 2015, la situation qui prévaut dans cette province est loin d'être stable et doit rester sous une supervision internationale rapprochée. De ce fait, la demande d'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO va à l'encontre de la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU et apparaît prématurée.
- (35.3) La province du Kosovo, qui est placée sous l'administration de l'ONU, ne peut pas se considérer comme un État doté d'une personnalité juridique, ni, par conséquent, prétendre à l'adhésion à une organisation internationale. L'examen

même de cette demande va à l'encontre des principes fondamentaux de l'UNESCO, car il politise cette organisation humanitaire de premier plan et porte atteinte à la culture de prise de décision par consensus qui est celle de l'UNESCO. Merci de votre attention.

36. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me now call on the distinguished representative of the United States of America. You have the floor.

37.1 **United States of America:**

Thank you, Mr Chair. The United States believes strongly that postponing consideration on Kosovo's application for UNESCO membership serves no purpose. The arguments both for and against Kosovo's membership are not likely to change. As Deputy Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, stated in our national statement, there is an undeniable path for Kosovo membership in the Organization; a path which is not diverted and not blocked by United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). This is not a question of recognition or non-recognition. Countries that do not recognize Kosovo have supported its membership in specialized United Nations agencies including the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

37.2 Moreover, the United Nations mission in Kosovo confirmed that Kosovo's application is, and I quote – “solely for UNESCO and its organs to determine” – end quote. The European Union-facilitated Kosovo-Serbia dialogue for normalization of relations does not divert or block a path for UNESCO membership either, because both parties committed in the dialogue principles to not block each other's progress on their respective European Union paths. The issue of Kosovo's admission to multilateral international organizations is not a subject of the dialogue, and completion of the dialogue is not a prerequisite for Kosovo's continued development and integration. With UNESCO membership, Kosovo's citizens would benefit from collaboration, shared knowledge and best practices of the international community in education, sciences, culture, communication and information. Membership in UNESCO would also boost accountability and transparency in the preservation and conservation of the diverse cultural heritage represented in Kosovo, including important Serbian Orthodox sites. Kosovo's application makes clear that it is willing and able to abide by the UNESCO Constitution, to accept the obligations contained therein and to contribute to the expenses of the Organization. The Constitution of UNESCO is clear on this issue as well. Therefore, this General Conference should be given the opportunity now to vote on Kosovo's application to join this Organization. Thank you.

38. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor.

39. **República Bolivariana de Venezuela:**

Gracias, señor Presidente. En nombre del Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, deseo expresar nuestro rechazo a la solicitud de admisión de Kosovo como miembro de la UNESCO y, por tanto, expresar nuestro apoyo a la delegación de Serbia. Consideramos que Kosovo no es elegible como miembro de la UNESCO porque no es un Estado independiente. En el caso de Kosovo, la secesión no cumple con las condiciones previas a la invocación del principio de la libre determinación, tales como haber estado sujetos a un régimen de colonización o haber sido una república independiente. En efecto, según la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, Kosovo es parte de Serbia. Reconocerla como miembro de la UNESCO sería una clara violación del derecho internacional, de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y de la Constitución de la UNESCO. En este sentido, una posible admisión de Kosovo en la UNESCO crearía un precedente peligroso y negativo para todos los Estados que enfrentan situaciones similares con otras entidades u otros territorios, que atentaría contra la integridad territorial, la paz y la seguridad internacional. Muchas gracias.

(39) **République bolivarienne du Venezuela (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Au nom du Gouvernement de la République bolivarienne du Venezuela, je souhaite opposer notre refus à la demande d'admission du Kosovo en qualité de membre de l'UNESCO et, par conséquent, exprimer notre soutien à la délégation de la Serbie. Nous considérons que le Kosovo ne peut prétendre à ce statut car il n'est pas un État indépendant. La sécession du Kosovo ne remplit pas les conditions préalables permettant d'invoquer le principe d'autodétermination, comme le fait d'avoir été sous la domination d'un régime colonial ou d'avoir été une république indépendante. En effet, en vertu de la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, le Kosovo fait partie intégrante de la Serbie. Le reconnaître comme membre de l'UNESCO constituerait une violation flagrante du droit international, de la Charte des Nations Unies et de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. De ce point de vue, l'éventuelle admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO créerait un précédent dangereux et préjudiciable pour l'ensemble des États qui connaissent une situation similaire avec d'autres entités ou d'autres territoires, menaçant ainsi l'intégrité territoriale, la paix et la sécurité internationale. Je vous remercie.

40. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I see a point of order from Germany.

41. **Germany:**

Thank you Mr President. The question is whether we are discussing and deciding on the substance of item **8.3**. Should we continue the debate as it started or do we still have to decide about the Serbian motion concerning postponement? If we are discussing postponement, which Germany clearly opposes, then the General Conference has to take an immediate decision about it and I propose that it be done by a roll-call vote. We could then debate the substance afterwards and I would be happy to participate in this debate. Thank you.

42. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Before I react to that, I see Albania wishes to take the floor. Please, you have the floor.

43. **Albania:**

Thank you Mr President. I would like to second what Germany just said. We are now debating the substance of the item, and this is not the right time to do so. We are now considering the motion of adjournment and we agree that we should go ahead with a roll-call vote. Thank you.

44. **The President:**

Thank you very much the points of order you have raised, but the crux of the matter, ladies and gentlemen, is that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland set the process in motion by requesting to take the floor to explain its vote in terms of the motion in favour of adjournment, a request that I, as President, granted. In all fairness, I am sure you will all agree with me that although the explanation of the vote has digressed into discussing the substance of the item that we are looking at, it is only fair that I grant the same opportunity to each and every Member State. Having granted that opportunity to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, it would be procedurally unfair for the President to deny all the others to take the floor to explain their vote on the motion to adjourn. I think it is only fair that we continue, and continue quickly, so that we can exhaust our list and then we vote by roll-call as has been requested. Is that fair enough? I think so. So let us proceed. Eritrea, you now have the floor.

45. **Eritrea:**

My delegation understands that the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo is bearing fruit. Eritrea thinks that a chance should be given for this dialogue to reach a mutually beneficial conclusion. Therefore, we support Serbia's suggestion to adjourn the debate on the item of the inclusion of Kosovo to UNESCO to the next session of the General Conference. Thank you very much.

46. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me invite Ethiopia to take the floor.

47. **Ethiopia:**

Thank you, Mr President. Ethiopia does not recognize Kosovo. Negotiations between the parties are ongoing and this should be appreciated. Mutual consent will bring lasting peace for which UNESCO is mandated. This mutual consent for peace from all sides is very important. We support the adjournment as proposed by Serbia. Thank you.

48. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me invite Uruguay to also explain their vote.

49. **Uruguay:**

Gracias, señor Presidente. Uruguay mantiene una posición de no reconocimiento a Kosovo. Nuestro país ha destacado la importancia del respeto al principio de integridad territorial de los Estados como norma imperativa del derecho internacional. Dicho principio constituye un elemento central para la convivencia pacífica y la cooperación entre los Estados miembros de la comunidad internacional. Uruguay ha apoyado la resolución presentada por Serbia en el marco de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en el año 2008, cuyo objetivo fue solicitar una opinión consultiva a la Corte Internacional de Justicia relativa a la declaración unilateral de independencia de Kosovo. Como resultado de la aprobación de dicha resolución, la Corte emitió un dictamen en julio de 2010 mediante el cual se señala que el derecho internacional general no contempla prohibiciones sobre las declaraciones de independencia y, por tanto, la declaración del 17 de febrero de 2008 no viola el derecho internacional general, pero no juzgó si existe o no derecho de secesión. Asimismo, en 2010 Uruguay aprobó una nueva resolución presentada por Serbia en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en la cual se acogía con beneplácito la disposición de la Unión Europea a facilitar un proceso de diálogo entre las partes, Serbia y Kosovo, en el entendido de que este proceso de diálogo sería en sí mismo un factor para la paz, la seguridad y la estabilidad en la región, y el diálogo tendría por objetivo promover la cooperación, avanzar en el camino hacia la Unión Europea y mejorar la vida de la población. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(49) **Uruguay (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. L'Uruguay maintient sa position concernant la non reconnaissance du Kosovo. Notre pays a souligné qu'il importait de respecter le principe d'intégrité territoriale des États comme norme impérative du droit international. Ce principe constitue un élément central de la coexistence pacifique et de la coopération entre les États membres de la communauté internationale. L'Uruguay a appuyé la résolution présentée par la Serbie dans le cadre de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, en 2008, afin de solliciter l'avis consultatif de la Cour internationale de justice (CIJ) au sujet de la déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance du Kosovo. Pour donner suite à l'approbation de ladite résolution, la Cour a émis un avis en juillet 2010 dans lequel elle indique que le droit international général ne comporte aucune interdiction des déclarations d'indépendance et qu'en conséquence la déclaration du 17 février 2008 ne viole pas le droit international général, mais la CIJ ne se prononce pas sur l'existence ou non d'un droit de sécession. De même, l'Uruguay a approuvé, en 2010, une nouvelle résolution présentée par la Serbie à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, qui accueille avec satisfaction la volonté de l'Union européenne de faciliter un processus de dialogue entre les parties, la Serbie et le Kosovo, étant entendu que ce processus de dialogue constituerait en soi un facteur de paix, de sécurité et la stabilité dans la région, et qu'il aurait pour objectif de promouvoir la coopération, d'avancer vers l'adhésion à l'Union européenne et d'améliorer les conditions de vie de la population. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

50. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Before I invite Benin to take the floor, let me invite the Secretary to read out the list of speakers who want to explain their vote to adjourn or not to adjourn. The list is fairly long.

51. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La liste des orateurs restants est la suivante : Bénin, Espagne, ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, Belize, Guinée équatoriale, Zimbabwe, France, Nicaragua, Estonie, Allemagne, Arabie saoudite, Albanie et Chypre.

52. **The President:**

Thank you very much. As I said, it is a fairly long list. Could any other Member States who would like to take the floor show themselves, because I will be closing the list. May the Secretary read the last additions.

53. **Le Secrétaire :**

Donc, Monsieur le Président, après l'Arabie saoudite, nous avons aussi relevé l'Albanie, Chypre, l'Autriche, le Costa Rica, la Chine, le Mexique et la République dominicaine.

54. **President**

Thank you very much. On that basis, the list of speakers is now closed.

55. **Bénin :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je crois qu'il y a une erreur au niveau du Secrétariat. Le Bénin n'a pas demandé à prendre la parole sur ce point.

56. **The President:**

Thank you very much for saving us two more minutes. We appreciate that. Indeed, we will take off Benin from the list. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Spain to take the floor. You have the floor, Sir.

57. **España:**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. España es favorable al aplazamiento del debate por varios motivos. En primer lugar, por sólidas razones de fondo que han sido señaladas por otras delegaciones. Ha sido mencionado el pleno respeto al principio de integridad territorial, también la plena vigencia de la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, así como la propia decisión de la Corte Internacional de Justicia respecto a la declaración unilateral de independencia, que no hace referencia a la estatalidad o no del territorio, sino a su correlación con dicha resolución. A estas razones de fondo se añaden muy importantes razones que nos llevan a favorecer un diálogo, no solamente un diálogo entre las partes, como ha sido también mencionado por varias delegaciones – hay que permitir que ese diálogo entre Pristina y Belgrado siga trayendo frutos positivos –, sino también para lograr un mayor consenso, un mayor consenso, como se acaba de demostrar en este mismo foro, que no existe hoy en día, ya que las intervenciones que han sido hechas por anteriores delegados muestran que hay una división respecto a la solicitud de admisión de este territorio en la UNESCO. Muchísimas gracias, señor Presidente.

(57) **Espagne (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. L'Espagne est favorable à l'ajournement du débat pour plusieurs raisons. Tout d'abord, pour de solides raisons de fond évoquées par d'autres délégations. Le plein respect du principe d'intégrité territoriale a été cité, ainsi que la totale validité de la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU et la décision de la Cour internationale de justice relative à la déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance, qui ne fait pas référence au statut d'État ou non du territoire, mais à sa corrélation avec ladite résolution. À ces raisons de fond, s'ajoutent des motifs très importants qui nous conduisent à favoriser le dialogue, non seulement entre les parties, comme plusieurs délégations l'ont également mentionné – il faut faire en sorte que ce dialogue entre Pristina et Belgrade continue à porter ses fruits – mais aussi pour obtenir un plus large consensus. Un tel consensus n'existe pas à l'heure actuelle comme on a pu le constater au sein de cette assemblée, puisque les interventions prononcées plus tôt par des délégués laissent apparaître un désaccord concernant la demande d'admission de ce territoire au sein de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

58. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to take the floor.

59. **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:**

Thank you very much, Mr President. I will briefly recall what has been said as regards international law by my honourable colleague of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and restated by the United States of America. I would also recall that as regards the former Yugoslavia's disintegration, there came out of it seven States, which are neighbours, and as neighbours, we want a good neighbour, a prosperous neighbour. Of these neighbours, four of them, Slovenia, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro, recognize Kosovo, with a view to regional stability. I would remind you as well that Kosovo is outside of UNESCO. If we adjourn now, we will deprive Kosovo's citizens and children of education, of programmes that will enhance the capacity of the new States and that will enhance cooperation between States, as stated in the process of European Union integration. European Union integration means no borders. European Union integration means elevation to the status of a free democratic society. As Serbia has applied for European Union integration, Kosovo has just signed a stabilization and association agreement. Now we hear countries that have already lost in the Executive Board repeating all the same arguments over and over again, countries that I am sorry to say are successors of Tolstoy, successors of Cervantes and Mandela, great men. Here we are discussing universal values not a temporary conjunctural *raison d'état*. Thank you.

60. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Sir. I will now invite the distinguished representative of Belize. You now have the floor, Sir.

61. **Belize:**

Thank you, Mr President. Belize opposes the postponement of item 8.3. Belize totally supports the resolution of Kosovo to become a member of UNESCO. We, as a people of peace and love, need to include all peoples because as I said in my statement last week, "we are the world". We need to respect people, to enable them to determine their own future and stop being the big police, suppressing and intimidating others. When I see human beings I see more similarities than differences. I see hair and feet and legs and arms and we all wear clothes and shoes, regardless of creed, race, colour, religion or political affiliation. So we need not fear anyone. Kosovo becoming a member of UNESCO can only

become an asset to strengthen us and not a deficit to weaken the Organization. So Belize co-sponsored this resolution and we are proud of it. Thank you, Mr President.

62. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Sir. Let me invite the distinguished representative of Equatorial Guinea to take the floor. You have the floor, Sir.

63. **Guinea Ecuatorial:**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Señor Presidente: Guinea Ecuatorial considera que es prematura la admisión de Kosovo en el seno de la UNESCO, ya que aún prosigue el diálogo entre las partes bajo los auspicios de las Naciones Unidas y del Consejo de Seguridad, mediante su resolución 1244, que todavía sigue vigente. Guinea Ecuatorial considera que sería un precedente equívoco aceptar su admisión, ya que va en contra de la integridad territorial de los Estados que preconiza la Carta de las Naciones Unidas. Muchas gracias.

(63) **Guinée équatoriale** (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Monsieur le Président : la Guinée équatoriale estime que l'admission du Kosovo au sein de l'UNESCO est prématurée, car le dialogue entamé entre les parties sous l'égide des Nations Unies et du Conseil de sécurité, dans le cadre de la résolution 1244, est toujours en cours. La Guinée équatoriale considère qu'accepter l'admission entraînerait un précédent équivoque, allant à l'encontre du principe d'intégrité territoriale énoncée dans la Charte des Nations Unies. Je vous remercie.

64. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of Zimbabwe to take the floor. You have the floor.

65. **Zimbabwe:**

Thank you Chairperson. Zimbabwe supports the proposal by Serbia to adjourn the debate. We feel that debate on this vote will polarize our Organization and that there are other bodies within UNESCO and other methods by which Kosovo can benefit, and now is not the right time to vote on membership. We want to give time to dialogue and all the efforts that are being made to build peace, which is what UNESCO stands for. Thank you.

66. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of France to take the floor. Your Excellency you have the floor.

67. **France :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La France a voté en faveur de la recommandation du Conseil exécutif, dont elle avait d'ailleurs co-signé le projet. Elle a également co-signé le projet de résolution qui est soumis ce matin à la Conférence générale. La France est contre la motion d'ajournement, et pour l'admission du Kosovo en tant que 196^e État membre de l'UNESCO. Nous pensons, en effet, qu'en droit, rien ne s'y oppose, ni la résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU ni l'avis de la Cour internationale de justice ni le droit international général. Nous pensons, en outre, qu'en opportunité, l'admission du Kosovo est de l'intérêt bien compris de toutes les parties, comme de l'UNESCO et de tous ses États membres. Je vous remercie.

68. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of Nicaragua to take the floor.

69. **Nicaragua:**

Gracias, señor Presidente. La delegación de la República de Nicaragua respalda la moción de Serbia de aplazar este debate. Hay que dar espacio al diálogo entablado y respetar la integralidad del territorio serbio. Sería grave sentar el precedente de incorporar a una región de un país soberano a este organismo. Gracias, Presidente.

(69) **Nicaragua** (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La délégation de la République du Nicaragua appuie la motion de la Serbie visant à reporter ce débat. Il faut permettre au dialogue entamé de suivre son cours et respecter l'intégrité du territoire serbe. Il serait préjudiciable de créer un précédent consistant à admettre une région appartenant à un pays souverain au sein de cette Organisation. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

70. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of Estonia to take the floor.

71. **Estonia:**

Thank you, Mr President. Estonia clearly opposes the adjournment and I am not going to reread all the arguments which have been put forward about the statehood of Kosovo. I think the fact is that a majority of the world's countries have acknowledged Kosovo and there is no legal obstacle in fact to do so. If we are serious about the protection of heritage in Kosovo, I am sure we can do it better when Kosovo is a member of this valuable Organization that can provide excellent support and assistance in organizing this protection, and we think it is time to move forward. Thank you.

72. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me invite the distinguished representative of Germany to take the floor.

73. **Germany:**

Thank you Mr President. Thank you for giving me once more the floor even though I did not ask for it because I have already spoken against adjournment. Let me take this opportunity to say that we fully subscribe to what has just been said against adjournment by Estonia, France and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and other countries. Thank you.

74. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia to take the floor.

٧٥ المملكة العربية السعودية :

شكراً سيدي الرئيس، المملكة العربية السعودية تؤيد المداخلات الحكيمة التي سبقنا بها سفير جمهورية مقدونيا اليوغوسلافية السابقة والمبررات التي ساقها. ونحن نصوت لكوسوفو من منطلقات ثقافية وتعليمية أكثر مما هي سياسية، فكلنا يفهم الأوضاع الصعبة التي تعيشها المسألة الثقافية والمواقع التراثية سواء الإسلامية أو الأرثوذكسية في كوسوفو. وبالتالي، فإن قبولنا لعضوية كوسوفو في منظمة اليونسكو سيسهل مراجعة هذه الأوضاع ومحاولة تحسينها. وأما ما يشار إليه بأن كوسوفو ليست عضواً في الأمم المتحدة، فأذكر الزملاء بأن هناك دولاً أخرى أصبحت أعضاء في منظمة اليونسكو قبل أن تكون أعضاء في الأمم المتحدة. وبالتالي، فحالة كوسوفو ليست سابقة، بل السابقة ستكون كما ذكر السفير البريطاني أن نكسر هبة قرار المجلس التنفيذي الذي صوت لإدراج كوسوفو كدولة عضو، فنأتي في المؤتمر العام لننقض هذا القرار. وستكون هذه هي المرة الأولى، لذا فإن المملكة العربية السعودية تعارض التأجيل وتؤيد انضمام كوسوفو لليونسكو، وشكراً.

(75) **Arabie saoudite (traduit de l'arabe) :**

Merci Monsieur le Président. L'Arabie saoudite appuie la sage intervention de l'Ambassadeur de l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine et les arguments qu'il a présentés. Nous votons en faveur du Kosovo pour des raisons plutôt culturelles et éducatives que politiques. Nous connaissons tous les difficultés liées aux questions culturelles et aux sites du patrimoine islamique ou orthodoxe au Kosovo. L'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO faciliterait l'examen de cette situation et permettrait de l'améliorer. Quant à l'argument selon lequel le Kosovo n'est pas membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, je tiens à rappeler à mes collègues que d'autres pays sont devenus membres de l'UNESCO avant de devenir membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. La situation du Kosovo n'est donc pas sans précédent. Ce qui serait sans précédent, comme l'a souligné l'Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni, ce serait de casser l'autorité d'une décision votée par le Conseil exécutif pour l'admission du Kosovo comme État membre, par un rejet de cette décision lors de la Conférence générale. Ce serait une première, et c'est pourquoi l'Arabie saoudite est opposée à tout report et appuie l'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO. Merci.

76. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Cyprus to take the floor.

77. **Cyprus:**

Thank you Mr President. Very briefly, I would like to support the request by Serbia to adjourn this issue to the next session of the General Conference. We consider the issue to be premature and counter to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Furthermore it is obvious that this decision is divisive and we believe that time should be given to dialogue. Thank you.

78. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of Austria to take the floor.

79. **Austria:**

Thank you, Mr President. Austria is very close to Serbia and Kosovo. We have excellent relations with both countries. Cooperation, dialogue and membership in international organizations, including in UNESCO, contributes to the development, progress and stability of a country and a region. That is why Austria supports Kosovo's membership of UNESCO and is against the adjournment. Rejecting Kosovo means rejecting dialogue and cooperation with Pristina, rejecting the aspirations of youth and cultural educational communities of Kosovo, rejecting development opportunities and also rejecting Kosovo's commitment to take advantage of UNESCO's know-how in heritage protection. It is rejecting also the idea that like us all, Kosovo has a right to a voice here at UNESCO. Cooperation, support, dialogue and integration are what we should aim for, not isolation and rejection. That is why Austria is in favour of Kosovo's membership and against adjournment.

80. **The President:**

Thank you very much Sir. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Belarus to take the floor.

81.1 **Беларусь:**

Спасибо, господин Председатель, что дали мне слово. Я думаю, курьез с Бенином возник как раз из-за того, что Беларусь записывалась в прения, и немножко неправильно записали.

81.2 Беларусь полностью поддерживает территориальную целостность Республики Сербия, и поэтому мы считаем необходимым поддержать предложение Сербии о переносе рассмотрения вопроса о вступлении Косово на следующую сессию Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО. Спасибо.

(81.1) **Bélarus (traduit du russe) :**

Monsieur le Président, merci de me donner la parole. Je crois que l'erreur concernant l'intervention du Bénin vient de ce que le Bélarus s'est inscrit sur la liste des orateurs, et que le nom du pays a été mal écrit.

(81.2) Le Bélarus soutient pleinement l'intégrité territoriale de la République de Serbie, c'est pourquoi nous estimons qu'il est nécessaire d'appuyer la proposition de la Serbie visant à reporter l'examen de la question de l'admission du Kosovo à la prochaine session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Merci.

82. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I know that Albania took the floor concerning the motion. I take it that you want to take the floor to explain your vote. You have the floor now.

83. **Albania:**

Yes, thank you Mr President. Albania opposes the motion of adjournment proposed by Serbia, protesting that it would harm the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo in Brussels. Mr President, Kosovo and Serbia will continue their dialogue regardless of the decision of UNESCO. The General Assembly of the United Nations has mandated the European Union to normalize relations between the two countries and these talks have had results. Dialogue is a fundamental tool that should not be used to block Kosovo and to isolate it, but to allow it to better integrate into the international community. Postponement of Kosovo's membership would only make dialogue in Brussels harder and, on the contrary, we are convinced that membership of Kosovo in UNESCO cannot but strengthen cooperation in the region and help dialogue. Mr President, the issue of Kosovo's accession to UNESCO is ready now for decision and it is timely. It is very unlikely that UNESCO Member States' positions would be any different in two years' time. We should not deny the benefits of membership to Kosovo's population any longer because it would run counter to our joint interest in strengthening cooperation in south-east Europe and strengthening the protection of cultural heritage. Therefore, we invite all the countries that support Kosovo's bid to vote against adjournment. Thank you.

84. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I invite the distinguished representative of Costa Rica to take the floor.

85. **Costa Rica:**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Costa Rica reconoció la independencia de la República de Kosovo el 17 de febrero del 2008. Fue el primer país del mundo en hacerlo. Mediante aquella manifestación, nuestro país aceptó la personalidad del Estado con todos sus derechos y obligaciones. Mediante aquella manifestación, también se aseveró la igualdad entre los Estados, igualdad de derechos e igualdad de capacidad para ejercerlos. Un pilar de la política exterior costarricense es el fortalecimiento del derecho internacional y el desarrollo del multilateralismo efectivo, que requiere la participación de todos los actores interesados y en particular de los Estados. Resultaría incoherente negar esa posibilidad de contribución a un Estado al que se le ha reconocido en pie de igualdad. La activa participación en los foros multilaterales resulta especialmente importante tratándose de los temas centrales de la UNESCO, educación, ciencia y cultura. La mejor manera de que Kosovo enfrente sus desafíos en estos campos es que la comunidad internacional lo incorpore como Estado en su pleno derecho. En concordancia con las ideas anteriores, Costa Rica apoya la solicitud de Kosovo para ser admitido como miembro de la UNESCO, y apoya que este tema sea tratado en la presente Conferencia General y no está a favor de un aplazamiento. Muchas gracias.

(85) **Costa Rica (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Le Costa Rica a reconnu l'indépendance de la République du Kosovo le 17 février 2008. Il a été le premier pays du monde à le faire. Par cette déclaration, notre pays a pris acte de la personnalité de l'État, avec tous ses droits et ses obligations. Par cette déclaration, c'est également l'égalité entre les États qui a été affirmée, égalité des droits et égalité des moyens de les exercer. Un fondement de la politique extérieure costaricienne réside dans le renforcement du droit international et la mise en place d'un multilatéralisme effectif, qui requiert la participation de tous les acteurs concernés et notamment des États. Refuser cette possibilité de contribution à un État que l'on a reconnu sur un pied d'égalité n'aurait pas de sens. La participation active au sein des instances multilatérales revêt une importance particulière lorsqu'il s'agit des thèmes centraux de l'UNESCO : l'éducation, la science et la culture. Le meilleur moyen pour le Kosovo de faire face aux difficultés qu'il rencontre dans ces domaines serait que la communauté internationale l'intègre comme État à part entière. À la lumière des arguments qui précèdent, le Costa Rica appuie la demande d'admission du Kosovo comme membre de l'UNESCO. Il est favorable à ce que cette question soit examinée à la présente Conférence générale et s'oppose à son ajournement. Je vous remercie.

86. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of China to take the floor.

87. **中国:**

谢谢主席先生。中国赞成推迟审议，因为我们认为，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。接纳科索沃不利于科索沃问题当事方业已开展的务实和建设性的对话进程，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。谢谢主席。

(87) **Chine (traduit de chinois):**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La Chine soutient l'ajournement de l'examen de cette question. Nous estimons que les conditions ne sont pas encore réunies pour que soit envisagée l'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO, d'autant que le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a déjà adopté une résolution sur ce point. L'admission du Kosovo à l'UNESCO compromettrait le processus de dialogue pragmatique et constructif que les parties concernées par le problème du Kosovo ont déjà engagé. Elle ne contribuerait pas non plus à la fonction positive de l'UNESCO, qui est de contribuer à la paix et à la sécurité dans le monde et de promouvoir le développement durable. Merci.

88. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I now invite the distinguished representative of Mexico to take the floor.

89. **México:**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. México apoya la moción para el aplazamiento del examen de la solicitud de admisión de Kosovo como Estado Miembro de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura. En opinión de mi Gobierno, la solicitud de admisión no es coherente con la resolución 1244 (1999) del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas. La propuesta de reconocer a Kosovo como parte del sistema de las Naciones Unidas mediante su admisión en la UNESCO prejuzga además las conversaciones que mantienen las partes y que el Gobierno de México espera arriben a buen puerto en beneficio de la estabilidad de la región. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(89) **Mexique** (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Le Mexique appuie la motion d'ajournement de l'examen de la demande d'admission du Kosovo comme État membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture. Selon mon Gouvernement, cette demande d'admission n'est pas conforme à la résolution 1244 (1999) du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. La proposition de reconnaître le Kosovo comme appartenant au système des Nations Unies par le biais de son admission au sein de l'UNESCO préjuge en outre des discussions qui se déroulent entre les parties et que le Gouvernement du Mexique espère voir arriver à une conclusion favorisant la stabilité de la région. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

90. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I invite the Dominican Republic to explain its vote. You have the floor.

91. **República Dominicana:**

Gracias, señor Presidente. La República Dominicana está en contra del aplazamiento de la entrada de Kosovo en la Organización y está a favor de que esta Conferencia, en su 38ª reunión, examine el tema y se pronuncie sobre el mismo. Estamos de acuerdo con el Reino Unido en que sería un mal precedente el dejar de lado una recomendación explícita del Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO y, sobre todo, estamos convencidos de que el diálogo entre Serbia y Kosovo va a ser profundamente favorecido por la entrada de Kosovo en la UNESCO. La entrada de Kosovo en la UNESCO va a garantizar una mejoría en las condiciones que va a tener ese diálogo. Para nosotros es esencial que Kosovo, desde la UNESCO y con el apoyo de la UNESCO, pueda favorecer este diálogo. Muchas gracias.

(91) **République dominicaine** (*traduit de l'espagnol*) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La République dominicaine s'oppose à l'ajournement de l'entrée du Kosovo au sein de l'Organisation et se dit favorable à ce que la Conférence générale, à sa 38^e session, examine ce thème et se prononce à ce sujet. Nous estimons avec le Royaume-Uni que ne pas tenir compte d'une recommandation explicite du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO créerait un précédent regrettable. Par-dessus tout, nous sommes convaincus que le dialogue entre la Serbie et le Kosovo se trouvera nettement favorisé par l'entrée du Kosovo à l'UNESCO, car celle-ci garantira l'amélioration des conditions de ce dialogue. Il est essentiel à nos yeux que le Kosovo, depuis l'UNESCO et avec son appui, puisse favoriser ce dialogue. Merci beaucoup.

92. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Having gone through the lengthy list we will now proceed with the roll-call vote. Let me remind you that according to Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the decision that will be voted on requires a simple majority of the Members present and voting. May I also remind you that in accordance with Rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure, the expression "Members present and voting" means Members casting an affirmative or a negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered "non-voters". The Secretary will now call on each Member State in French alphabetical order, beginning with Angola, whose name was drawn by lot at the 196th session of the Executive Board as the first member in that order for this General Conference. In addition, following the decision taken by the General Conference on Saturday, the names of the nine Member States that were declared as having no right to vote in this General Conference will not be called upon to vote. The voting Members, which the Secretary will call on, shall vote on whether they are in favour of the proposal to adjourn the debate on this matter until the next session of the General Conference, meaning the 39th session. Those in favour should loudly say "yes", those against should again loudly say "no". Member States that wish to abstain must state their intent equally. Finally, I wish to remind you that, in accordance with Rule 88, after the President has announced the beginning of voting, no one shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The vote begins now. Mr Secretary, please call on each voting Member State.

93. *A vote by roll-call is taken.*

94. **Bahamas:**

Bahamas wishes to vote "no". Bahamas wishes to change its vote from a "yes" to a "no".

95. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Can we please have some order. I will have to request the Legal Adviser to carefully examine the request from the Bahamas and see whether it is legally permissible. Madam Legal Adviser you have the floor.

96. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you Mr President. After a vote has been made during a roll-call vote it is not possible to change it. Thank you.

97. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Distinguished representative of the Bahamas, in terms of the Rules of Procedure, once you have voted, the vote cannot be changed. That is the ruling unfortunately.

98. **Bahamas:**

We drew your attention to this during the vote. We thought that we should not interrupt and should draw your attention immediately afterwards to the fact that there was a misunderstanding of the question.

99.1 **The President:**

I am very sorry, distinguished representative of the Bahamas. The vote has already been taken. I do hear your explanation but legally speaking, we have an obligation to take your initial vote. Thank you very much. May the Secretariat now tally all the votes.

99.2 The votes have now been counted. I now give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference to announce the results.

100. *Les résultats du vote sont les suivants :*

Votent pour: Afrique du Sud, Algérie, Angola, Argentine, Arménie, Bahamas, Bélarus, Bolivie, Botswana, Brésil, Chili, Chine, Chypre, Colombie, Congo, Cuba, Equateur, Erythrée Espagne, Ethiopie, Fédération de Russie, Géorgie, Grèce, Guatemala, Guinée équatoriale, Haïti, Inde, Indonésie, Jamaïque, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kirghizistan, Maroc, Maurice, Mexique, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibie, Nicaragua, Ouganda, Palestine, Paraguay, Philippines, République de Moldova, République démocratique du Congo, République démocratique populaire lao, République démocratique de Corée, Roumanie, Serbie, Slovaquie, Soudan du Sud, Sri Lanka, Suriname, République arabe syrienne, Tunisie, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambie, Zimbabwe.

Votent contre: Afghanistan, Albanie, Allemagne, Andorre, Arabie saoudite, Australie, Autriche, Bahreïn, Belgique, Belize, Bénin, Brunéi Darussalam, Bulgarie, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatie, Danemark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Emirats arabes unis, Estonie, ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, Fidji, Finlande, France, Gabon, Gambie, Ghana, Grenade, Guinée, Guyana, Honduras, Hongrie, îles Cook, îles Salomon, Irlande, Islande, Italie, Jordanie, Koweït, Lesotho, Lettonie, Libéria, Libye, Lituanie, Luxembourg, Malaisie, Malawi, Monaco, Monténégro, Nauru, Niger, Norvège, Nouvelle-Zélande, Oman, Pakistan, Palaos, Panama, Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée, Pays-Bas, Pologne, Qatar, République dominicaine, République tchèque, République-Unie de Tanzanie, Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, Rwanda, Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis, Saint-Marin, Saint-Vincent-et-les-Grenadines, Sainte-Lucie, Samoa, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Slovaquie, Somalie, Soudan, Suède, Suisse, Tchad, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turquie, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Yémen.

S'abstiennent: Bangladesh, Barbade, Bhoutan, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Burundi, Cameroun, Egypte, Guinée-Bissau, Japon, Liban, Mali, Népal, Nigéria, Pérou, Portugal, République centrafricaine, République de Corée, Seychelles, Singapour, Thaïlande, Trinité-et-Tobago, Viet Nam.

Absents: Azerbaïdjan, Cabo Verde, Cambodge, îles Marshall, Iran (République islamique d'), Iraq, Madagascar, Maldives, Malte, Mauritanie, Mongolie, Ouzbékistan, Swaziland, Tadjikistan, Turkménistan, Ukraine.

101. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Mr President. The number of Members present and voting is 170. The number of votes in favour is 59, the number of votes against is 89, the number of abstentions is 22. The majority required is 75. Thank you, Mr President.

102. **The President:**

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. That outcome clearly indicates that the move to adjourn the debate is not carried, and that being the case we need to go back to considering the draft resolution on this particular issue. At the particular moment in time when the motion of adjournment was tabled I was on the verge of inviting one of the co-sponsors to introduce the draft resolution. I now invite Albania to do so. You have the floor for three minutes. Thank you very much.

103.1 **Albania:**

Mr President, Albania submitted the draft resolution on the admission of Kosovo to UNESCO. This request is about making a further step away from the dividing lines and walls of the past. It is about inclusiveness. It is our responsibility as good neighbours to always strengthen cooperation as an instrument to foster security. South-east Europe is today a much more stable, developed and integrated region than ever before. Kosovo's successful membership in major international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and regional organizations has given true meaning to the idea of regional cooperation. Most recently the signing of the stabilization and association agreement with the European Union has firmly anchored Kosovo in European waters.

103.2 In this regard I would like to draw your attention to the open letter recently sent by former United Nations administrators of Kosovo clearly supportive of Kosovo's membership of UNESCO. They testify to the country's tremendous progress thanks to the actions of the United Nations. Many are also the voices in our region that express clear support for Kosovo's bid. In fact many of those voices are from Serbia, such as the President of the Helsinki Committee, highlighting that, first, the integration of Kosovo into the international community has brought peace, stability and development in the region, and second, Albanians and Serbs alike deserve the chance to better interact with others and contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding and respect. UNESCO could help Kosovo's people to address social and ethical challenges, and foster cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

103.3 Kosovo's membership of UNESCO will no doubt create additional support for better dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. A vote in favour of Kosovo joining UNESCO is not a vote that will bring politics into UNESCO's work. It is not a request for recognition of its statehood; it is not a request to join the United Nations. Kosovo's request to join UNESCO is first of all about promoting universal values through education, science and culture. Secondly, it is a vote that would

grant Kosovo and its people full access to the valuable work of UNESCO, and finally, it is a vote that would support UNESCO's mission. Therefore, the real question today is whether we want to embrace a new member amongst us in order to further promote peace and security, education in collaboration, human rights and religious harmony in a region which until recently was plagued by wars, strife and tensions. The answer can only be a resounding yes. Dear friends, Albania calls on all UNESCO Member States to vote in favour of the request by Kosovo to join the UNESCO family. Thank you.

104. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for the introduction. Is there any other Member State that wishes to take the floor? Serbia please.

105. **Serbia:**

I will take this opportunity to recall once again that under United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) Kosovo and Metohija constitute the territory of the Republic of Serbia under the interim administration of the United Nations where the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continues to be active today. Therefore it is not a State. All this testifies to the fact that the application for admission by the so-called Republic of Kosovo is unprecedented in UNESCO's history thus far. By opposing this act, Serbia is defending international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council as the supreme authority for safeguarding international peace and security. These principles must be fully respected, for only in this way will the existing system of international relations found in the Charters of the United Nations be preserved and the universal character of international law maintained. We call for a roll-call vote on the proposed draft resolution, and please vote against.

106. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I see that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has requested the floor. You have the floor.

107. **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you Mr President. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is pleased that the previous motion to postpone consideration failed. We would like to note that there would be something very strange about a world where Kosovo was able to be a member of the International Olympic Committee but not a member of the Organization that is against doping, where Kosovo would be able to be a member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which deal with economic policy, but not a member of an organization like UNESCO which helps them deal with social policies. So we will vote in favour of Kosovo's membership. Mr President, I propose to ask you now to close the debate. I think we have heard all the arguments and can move straight to the roll-call vote.

108. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Is the proposal seconded to close the debate? It is indeed seconded. Thank you very much. Mr Secretary, you may proceed with the roll-call.

109. *Il est procédé au vote par appel nominal. Les résultats du vote sont les suivants :*

Votent pour : Afghanistan, Albanie, Allemagne, Andorre, Australie, Autriche, Bahamas, Bahreïn, Belgique, Belize, Bénin, Brunéi Darussalam, Bulgarie, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatie, Danemark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Emirats arabes unis, Estonie, ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, Fidji, Finlande, France, Gabon, Gambie, Ghana, Grenade, Guinée, Guyana, Haïti, Honduras, Hongrie, îles Cook, îles Salomon, Irlande, Islande, Italie, Jordanie, Koweït, Lesotho, Lettonie, Libéria, Libye, Lituanie, Luxembourg, Malaisie, Malawi, Malte, Monaco, Monténégro, Nauru, Niger, Norvège, Nouvelle-Zélande, Oman, Pakistan, Palaos, Panama, Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée, Pays-Bas, Portugal, Qatar, République dominicaine, République tchèque, République-Unie de Tanzanie, Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, Rwanda, Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis, Saint-Marin, Sainte-Lucie, Samoa, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Slovaquie, Somalie, Soudan, Suède, Suisse, Tchad, Thaïlande, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turquie, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Yémen.

Votent contre : Afrique du Sud, Angola, Arabie saoudite, Argentine, Arménie, Bélarus, Bolivie, Botswana, Brésil, Chili, Chine, Chypre, Congo, Cuba, Equateur, Erythrée, Espagne, Ethiopie, Fédération de Russie, Géorgie, Guatemala, Guinée équatoriale, Inde, Indonésie, Kazakhstan, Kirghizistan, Liban, Maroc, Maurice, Mexique, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibie, Nicaragua, Ouganda, Palestine, Paraguay, Philippines, République de Moldova, République démocratique du Congo, République démocratique populaire lao, République démocratique de Corée, Serbie, Slovaquie, Soudan du Sud, Sri Lanka, Suriname, République arabe syrienne, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

S'abstiennent : Algérie, Bangladesh, Barbade, Bhoutan, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Burundi, Cameroun, Colombie, Egypte, Grèce, Guinée-Bissau, Jamaïque, Japon, Kenya, Mali, Népal, Nigéria, Pérou, Pologne, République centrafricaine, République de Corée, Roumanie, Saint-Vincent-et-les-Grenadines, Seychelles, Singapour, Trinité-et-Tobago, Tunisie, Viet Nam, Zambie.

Absents : Azerbaïdjan, Cabo Verde, Cambodge, îles Marshall, Iran (République islamique d'), Iraq, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritanie, Mongolie, Ouzbékistan, Swaziland, Tadjikistan, Turkménistan, Ukraine.

110. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Mr President. Number of Members present and voting: 142; number of votes in favour: 92; number of votes against: 50; number of abstentions: 29; majority required: 95. Thank you.

111. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. I know that you are still trying to absorb the outcome of the vote, Excellencies, but can I have your attention once again, please? Ladies and gentlemen, the General Conference has thus

voted against the adoption of the draft resolution that is contained in document 38 C/PLEN/DR.1. That is the decision of this session of the General Conference. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus come to the end of our deliberations this morning. May I remind you again that the plenary will meet this afternoon at 5.30 p.m. to hear the addresses of His Excellency, Mr Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and His Excellency, Mr Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde. May I request that all of you be here in your seats by 5.15 p.m. so that we can welcome the distinguished and honourable guests. *The meeting is now adjourned.*

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.
La séance est levée à 13 h 35
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.35
Заседание закрывается в 13.35
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١,٣٥ بعد الظهر
会议于 13 时 35 分结束

Eleventh plenary meeting

Monday 9 November 2015 at 5.35 p.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Onzième séance plénière

Lundi 9 novembre 2015 à 17 h 35
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Undécima sesión plenaria

Lunes 9 de noviembre de 2015 a las 17.35
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Одиннадцатое пленарное заседание

понедельник 9 ноября 2015 г. в 17.35
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الحادية عشرة

الاثنين ٩ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٥,٣٥ بعد الظهر
الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第十一次全体会议

2015年11月9日星期一 17时35分
主席：Simataa 先生（纳米比亚）

Visit by His Excellency Mr Juan Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
Visite de Son Excellence M. Juan Evo Morales Ayma, Président de l'État plurinational de Bolivie
Visita del Excmo. Sr. Juan Evo Morales Ayma, Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia
Визит Его Превосходительства г-на Хуана Эво Моралеса Айма, Президента Многонационального Государства Боливия

زيارة صاحب الفخامة السيد خوان إيفو موراليس أйма، رئيس دولة بوليفيا المتعددة القوميات

玻利维亚多民族国总统 Juan Evo Morales Ayma 先生阁下来访

1.1 The President:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the eleventh plenary meeting of the General Conference which will be dedicated to the official visit of two exceptional statesmen, beginning with the address by His Excellency Mr Juan Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

1.2 Your Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, in my capacity as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, it is a special honour to welcome you to this session and in particular, to welcome our distinguished guest, one of the iconic statesmen of the Latin America region, His Excellency Mr Juan Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. President Evo Morales is known around the world as a champion of indigenous rights, of environmentalism and the fight against poverty.

1.3 A proud son of the Aymara people, President Morales has inspired millions with his successful rise from the village of Issallawi, through the fields of El Chapara, to the halls of the National Congress of Bolivia and finally, to the Presidential Palace in La Paz. Over the past decade, since his election as the 80th President of his country, President Morales has enjoyed enduring popularity thanks to the rare quality of being able to genuinely understand the plight of his people, and being able to connect with them. The support he enjoys is also thanks to the extraordinary socio-economic reforms he has instituted, which have halved extreme poverty in Bolivia over the past 10 years. President Morales of Bolivia, *Apu Mallku* of the Aymara, we are humbled, Your Excellency, by your presence, and we are eager to hear your address. May I therefore request protocol to accompany His Excellency to the stage, so that His Excellency can deliver his address.

2.1 Sr. Juan Evo Morales Ayma (Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia):

Muchas gracias. Es una enorme satisfacción estar en esta asamblea cuando este organismo internacional tan importante para la ciencia, la cultura y la educación cumple 70 años. Un saludo al Presidente de la Conferencia General, a todos los dirigentes de la UNESCO y a todos los representantes de los Estados Miembros. Nuestra visita por Europa coincide con esta asamblea en la que participaré brevemente. Gracias a la hermana Directora General por su invitación.

2.2 Ante todo, en nombre del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, que representa al pueblo boliviano, mis mejores augurios para la UNESCO; que tenga mucho éxito, mucha fortaleza para seguir trabajando, especialmente en el tema de la educación. Es importante a los 70 años recordar para qué se crearon la UNESCO o las Naciones Unidas, estas instituciones importantes para la humanidad, para la vida y para el planeta. Hace 70 años ambas se fundan justamente para que haya paz social en el mundo, justicia, igualdad, dignidad y unidad con los demás pueblos. Antes, ¿qué pasaba?: guerras mundiales, invasiones, dominación imperial, "repartija" imperial, con un modelo económico de saqueo permanente en todas partes del mundo. Creo que hubo mucha sabiduría en nuestros mayores, en quienes, con justa razón, crearon estas instituciones, estos organismos que representan a los Estados del mundo. Después de 70 años, no sé cuál será la evaluación de la UNESCO; desde Bolivia, ¿qué vemos? Vemos que vuelven las guerras, vuelven las invasiones, vuelve la pobreza, vuelve el terrorismo de Estado frente a las movimientos sociales que luchan por la paz, por la justicia, por la dignidad.

2.3 En 70 años entonces, ¿qué hicimos desde las Naciones Unidas? ¿Dónde está la paz? En nuestras intervenciones en las Naciones Unidas siempre hablamos de la paz, pero nunca nos preguntamos cómo se la puede garantizar. Desde las Naciones Unidas todos los presidentes hablamos de la justicia pero no atacamos o no sabemos cuál es el origen de la pobreza, cuál es el origen de la injusticia, cuáles son las causas profundas de las guerras o de las intervenciones militares de algunos países.

2.4 Hermanos y hermanas presentes en esta reunión de la Conferencia General de UNESCO: puedo hablarles de mi experiencia. Bolivia políticamente estaba sometida al imperio norteamericano, en Bolivia decidía la Embajada de los Estados Unidos; especialmente para ser Ministro de Defensa o de Gobierno, había que tener aval de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos, hasta para ser comandante de la policía o comandante de las Fuerzas Armadas, había que tener su visto bueno. En lo económico, para ser Ministro de Economía o de Finanzas, había que tener el aval del Fondo Monetario Internacional o del Banco Mundial, más especialmente del primero: es decir, allí no había soberanía política ni soberanía económica. Nuestra generación se organizó sindicalmente, socialmente, comunalmente para enfrentar esa dominación externa, para acabar con la imposición de políticas económicas, políticas sociales y hasta de intervenciones militares, so pretexto de la lucha contra el narcotráfico. Y quiero decirles que al no haber sido suficiente la lucha sindical ni la lucha social, de la lucha social sindical, de la lucha comunal pasamos a una lucha electoral, y nos enfocamos especialmente en un sector muy humillado de la historia, muy alejado de las políticas sociales, el movimiento campesino, formado por indígenas originarios que incluso en tiempos del imperio europeo estuvieron amenazados de exterminio; ese sector decidió liberarse pero también aprovechar los derechos políticos que tenemos, ustedes saben que tras 500 años de invasión europea decidimos en 1992 pasar de la resistencia a la toma del poder como originarios milenarios y dueños de esa noble tierra antes llamada "Abya-yala" y ahora América.

2.5 En Bolivia hemos cumplido con ese mandato porque en 1995 organizamos un instrumento político de liberación, un instrumento político por la soberanía de nuestros pueblos. Y yo me he juntado con los distintos sectores sociales en una lucha ideológica, una lucha programática, una lucha también de valores. Nos ayuda bastante este instrumento político: en el pasado no había estabilidad política. Por si hay entre ustedes quienes no conocen la situación de Bolivia: yo presté el servicio militar como soldado en 1978; ese año conocí tres presidentes. Entré al cuartel cuando el General Banzer era Presidente. De pronto pasó a ser Presidente un general, Juan Pereda Asbún. A algunos soldados nos llevaron a una zona cocalera, para reprimir, y como yo era alto y flaco, me prepararon como policía militar, me especializaron y me mandaron a cuidar al Comandante General David Padilla Arancibia como guardia de seguridad. Una noche dejé a mi Comandante General como Comandante y al día siguiente cuando despierto, el Comandante ya era Presidente. Yo no conocía los temas políticos con 17 o 18 años de edad. No podía entender lo que estaba pasando; así era la situación política de Bolivia.

2.6 Yo llegué a la presidencia en enero del 2006; cinco años antes de nuestra revolución democrática cultural había habido cinco presidentes: en 2001 Banzer, en 2002 Tuto Quiroga, en 2003 Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, en 2004 Carlos Mesa, en 2005 Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé. Cinco presidentes en cinco años! La historia demuestra que en 24 horas hubo tres presidentes. En Bolivia ha habido más golpes de Estado que en toda América Latina. Estos días me estaba acordando de que cuando llegué a la presidencia, un hermano exiliado de Bolivia por la dictadura militar me dijo: "Hermano Presidente: tiene que cuidarse de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos"; yo le pregunto por qué, y me dice: "Solo en Estados Unidos no ha habido golpe de Estado, porque no hay un Embajador de los Estados Unidos en los Estados Unidos". No lo podía entender. Y como en 2008 el Embajador de los Estados Unidos estaba financiando a mis opositores para revocar mi mandato y para que dieran un golpe de Estado, por dignidad y por soberanía expulsamos al Embajador de los Estados Unidos. Y les digo que sin Embajador de los Estados Unidos estamos mejor, política y democráticamente.

2.7 Entonces, hermanas y hermanos, permítanme comentarles brevemente cuáles han sido nuestros avances en poco tiempo: en lo político, la refundación de Bolivia, con la participación del pueblo en una asamblea constituyente, y en lo económico, la nacionalización de los recursos naturales y de los servicios básicos, porque en virtud de la Constitución los servicios básicos no pueden ser un negocio privado sino que tienen que ser un servicio público. Estamos hablando del agua, que es vida. ¿Cómo el agua, la luz, el teléfono, podrían ser un negocio privado? En la parte social, la redistribución de la riqueza; después de la nacionalización, la riqueza no se exporta, se queda en Bolivia. Antes la poca plata se exportaba y lo que quedaba se privatizaba; ahora la riqueza se democratiza, se socializa y vuelve al pueblo. Lo comentaba anoche a nuestro hermano Presidente de esta asamblea: en el 2005 nos encontramos con un 38% de extrema pobreza; al 2013 habíamos pasado al 18%, y según los datos de este año estimamos que vamos a llegar al 5%.

2.8 Mi mandato es hasta el 2020 y tengo un plan: queremos seguir reduciendo la pobreza rápidamente, como hasta ahora. Por eso quiero decirles lo importante que fue, en nuestra experiencia, liberarnos de la dominación imperial pero también de nuestro modelo neoliberal manejado por el Fondo Monetario Internacional. Quiero decirles, hermanas y hermanos: ahora en Bolivia ya no mandan ni el Fondo ni el imperio norteamericano, ahora en Bolivia mandan los indios y no los gringos; eso puedo garantizarlo; por eso hemos cambiado rápidamente la situación social y económica de Bolivia. Pero ¿qué vemos, qué veo desde allí? Estamos en París; respeto y saludo la revolución francesa de 1789, los franceses combatieron la monarquía. A ellos nuestro respeto y nuestra admiración y por eso siento que en este nuevo milenio no estamos en tiempo de monarquías, no es tiempo de oligarquías y menos aún de anarquías financieras, no es un tiempo para que manden las transnacionales ni los banqueros sino para que manden los pueblos mediante presidentes democráticamente elegidos.

2.9 Yo tengo muchas diferencias con algunos o muchos presidentes del mundo y siento que no mandan los presidentes sino que gobiernan las petroleras, los banqueros o las transnacionales de medicamentos y otros rubros ¿Qué quisiéramos en estos tiempos? Tenemos grandes deseos de que nuestras organizaciones y organismos internacionales como la UNESCO, como la FAO, como las Naciones Unidas y todas sus instituciones, sean organismos de integración y no de dominación, sean organismos de liberación y no de invasión, que desde allí sepamos cómo controlar a otros organismos o instituciones que solo se están preparando para invadir. Por primera vez he estado unos ocho días en Europa, donde asisto a la preocupación por los mal llamados "migrantes". Quiero decirles que desde un punto de vista nuestro no hay migrantes: son refugiados de la guerra o desplazados por el clima y por eso debemos estar a favor de la ciudadanía universal. No es posible que haya globalización para el dinero pero que no haya globalización para el ser humano. ¿En qué clase de mundo estamos entonces? De verdad, ¿por qué tantas crisis? Estos días vamos a debatir sobre la crisis climática, la crisis financiera, la crisis de valores, todo es crisis, es un sistema en el que todo es crisis pero es un sistema fracasado, un modelo fallido, con un ser humano amenazado de exterminio, con la Madre Tierra cuya existencia no está garantizada.

2.10 ¿Cuál es la responsabilidad de los gobiernos? ¿Cuál es nuestra responsabilidad como seres humanos, responsabilidad no solamente con nosotros y especialmente con las futuras generaciones? Pienso que desde nuestras instituciones, ya sea la UNESCO o las Naciones Unidas u otras instancias, hay que ver cómo empezar a cambiar. Nuestra experiencia es que solo con el pueblo unido es posible cambiar. Solo con el pueblo organizado y movilizad es posible cambiar, pero también, si queremos cambiar —como dice nuestro movimiento social, "otro mundo es posible"—, eso solo va a suceder cuando los políticos cambiemos. Que se acabe la soberbia de los políticos, que la política para el político no sea el beneficio, que la política para el político no sea negocio. Yo aprendí que la política es servicio, compromiso y más sacrificio con los pueblos y gobernar obedeciendo al pueblo: esa es nuestra experiencia; eso es lo que hizo cambiar en poco tiempo a Bolivia.

2.11 Ustedes saben, hermanas y hermanos, Bolivia era el último país de Sudamérica, Bolivia era el penúltimo país de América en 2005; perdonen, hermanos de Sudamérica, Argentina, Brasil, Venezuela y otros compañeros, pero este año Bolivia va a ser el primero en crecimiento económico de Sudamérica y el segundo en crecimiento económico de América. Porque hemos comprendido que la política es la ciencia de servicio y no negocio y eso nos ayuda. Estoy seguro de que no estamos atendiendo reclamos que tienen más de 500 años y, si hablamos de 500 años, no he venido a Europa a pedir resarcir los daños de 500 años; estamos en otros tiempos, he venido evidentemente a profundizar nuestras relaciones, no es tan sencillo atender los reclamos de 180 años de vida de la República en Bolivia, aunque hemos cambiado a un Estado Plurinacional, dejando atrás el Estado colonial. En nueve años tal vez no hayamos atendido todos los reclamos pero saben ustedes que hay estabilidad política, hay prosperidad económica. Gracias a los movimientos sociales, los campesinos indígenas originarios organizados junto a los obreros y junto a otros sectores sociales hemos salvado a Bolivia. Imagínense ustedes cómo hubiera estado Bolivia si hubiera seguido con su modelo neoliberal de saqueo, de robo permanente.

2.12 Hermanas y hermanos: podría seguir hablando de algunos temas importantes. Saludo algunos reconocimientos a nuestros bienes culturales, pero hay un tema de fondo que es necesario tratar: es importante que desde aquí se sancione a quienes roban los bienes culturales y a quienes compran también, no solamente a los que roban. Hemos recuperado algunos bienes culturales, especialmente del movimiento indígena; hemos recuperado gracias a algunas personalidades de los Estados Unidos o de Europa, por ejemplo, el Illa Ekeko, el dios de la abundancia, que en 1840 nos robaron; se lo habían traído para Europa. Quisiera que ustedes nos acompañen para seguir recuperando los bienes culturales que son patrimonio de la humanidad, y especialmente patrimonio de la gente indígena. Muchas gracias.

(2.1) **Mr Juan Evo Morales Ayma** (President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you. It is hugely gratifying to be here in this assembly as this international body, so important for science, culture and education, is celebrating its 70th anniversary. I bring greetings to the President of the General Conference, to all UNESCO's leaders and to all the representatives of the Member States. Our visit to Europe coincides with this assembly, in which I shall take part briefly. I thank my sister the Director-General for her invitation.

(2.2) Firstly, on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which represents the Bolivian people, my best wishes to UNESCO; may it have much success and much strength to carry on its work, especially in the area of education. At the end of these 70 years, we should remember the reasons why UNESCO and the United Nations, these important institutions for humanity, life and the planet, were created. They were both established 70 years ago so that there would be social peace in the world, justice, equality, dignity and unity with other peoples. What had been happening before then? World wars, invasions, imperial domination, imperial "sharing out", with an economic model of never-ending worldwide pillage. I believe our elders showed great wisdom when, for good reasons, they created these institutions, these bodies representing the States of the world. After 70 years, I do not know how UNESCO will be assessed; what are we seeing from Bolivia? We see that wars are coming back, invasions are coming back, poverty is coming back, State terrorism is coming back in response to social movements fighting for peace, justice and dignity.

(2.3) So, in 70 years, what have we achieved at the United Nations? Where is peace? In our statements at the United Nations we have always spoken of peace, but we never asked ourselves how it could be guaranteed. At the United Nations, all presidents have spoken of justice but we do not attack poverty or do not know what is its origin, what is the origin of injustice, what are the underlying causes of wars or of certain countries' military interventions.

(2.4) Brothers and sisters present at this session of the General Conference of UNESCO: I can tell you of my experience. Bolivia was politically subject to the rule of the United States of America; in Bolivia it was the United States embassy which made decisions. In particular, to become Minister of Defence or of the Interior, approval from the United States embassy was required; it was required even to be the chief of the police or of the armed forces. In the economic field, to be the Minister of the Economy or of Finance, approval was needed from the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank, especially the former: in other words, Bolivia had no political or economic sovereignty. Our generation organized at the trade union, social and community levels to deal with that external domination, to end the imposition of economic or social policies or even military interventions under pretext of combating drug trafficking. I want to tell you that, since the trade-union and social campaigns were not enough, we went from fighting on the social, trade-union and community levels to an electoral campaign, focusing especially on a social sector which historically had been seriously humiliated and neglected by social policy, the rural movement, made up of the original indigenous people who, even in the time of European rule, were threatened with extermination; that sector of society decided to liberate itself but also to make use of the political rights that we have. You know that in 1992, after 500 years of European invasion, we decided to move from resistance to taking power, as the original indigenous people and owners of that noble land formerly known as "Abya Yala", now America.

(2.5) In Bolivia we have carried out that mandate, since in 1995 we organized an instrument of political liberation, a political instrument for the sovereignty of our peoples. And I joined with the various social sectors in a campaign which was about ideology, about programmes and also about values. That political instrument helps us quite a lot: in the past there was no political stability. In case there are some among you who are not aware of the Bolivian situation, I did my military service as a soldier in 1978; in that year, there were three Presidents. I joined the army when General Banzer was the President. Soon, another general, Juan Pereda Asbún, became President. With some other soldiers, I was taken to a coca-growing area to conduct a repression operation, and since I was tall and slim I was trained as a military policeman. They gave me specialized training and sent me to protect General Commander David Padilla Arancibia as a security guard. One evening I parted with my General Commander as a military commander and when I awoke on the following day he was the President. At the age of 17 or 18, I was not aware of political matters. I could not understand what was happening; such was the political situation in Bolivia.

(2.6) I became President in January 2006. In the five years before our democratic and cultural revolution there had been five Presidents: Banzer in 2001, Tuto Quiroga in 2002, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada in 2003, Carlos Mesa in 2004 and Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé in 2005. Five Presidents in five years! History shows that there were three Presidents in the space of 24 hours. There have been more coups d'état in Bolivia than in the whole of Latin America. Recently I was recalling that, when I became President, a brother exiled from Bolivia by the military dictatorship told me: "Brother President, you must beware of the embassy of the United States". I asked him why, and he told me: "Only in the United States have there been no coups d'état, because there is no United States ambassador in the United States". I could not understand him. And, since in

2008 the United States ambassador was financing my opponents to have my mandate revoked and organize a coup d'état, for reasons of dignity and sovereignty we expelled the United States ambassador. And I tell you that we are better off, politically and democratically, without a United States ambassador.

(2.7) So, brothers and sisters, allow me to make some brief comments on what progress we have made in a short time. In the political sphere, the overhaul of Bolivia, with popular participation in a constituent assembly, and in the economic field, the nationalization of natural resources and basic services, because under the Constitution basic services may not be a private business but must be a public service. We are talking about water, which is life. How could water, electric power and telephones be a private business? On the social side, the redistribution of wealth; following nationalization, wealth is not exported but remains in Bolivia. Before, the little money available was exported and what was left was privatized; now wealth becomes democratic and social and comes back to the people. Yesterday evening I commented to my brother the President of this assembly: in 2005 extreme poverty stood at 38%; this had fallen to 18% by 2013, and based on this year's data, we expect to reach 5%.

(2.8) My term of office will end in 2020, and I have a plan: we want to continue reducing poverty quickly, as we have until now. That is why I wish to tell you how important it was, in our experience, to free ourselves not only from imperial domination but also from our neoliberal model managed by the International Monetary Fund. Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you: now, in Bolivia, neither the Fund nor the United States empire is in charge; now, the Indians, not the Whites, are in charge; I can guarantee this. This is why we have rapidly changed the social and economic situation of Bolivia. But what do we see, what do I see from there? We are in Paris; I respect and salute the French Revolution of 1789; the French people fought against monarchy. They have our respect and admiration, and I feel that in this new millennium it is not a time for monarchies or for oligarchies, still less for financial anarchy; this is not a time for multinationals or bankers to be in charge, but for peoples, through democratically elected Presidents.

(2.9) I have many differences with some, or many, Presidents in the world, and I feel that it is not the Presidents who are in charge, but the oil companies, bankers and multinational corporations in pharmaceuticals or other areas. What do we want in these times? We have strong wishes for our international organizations and bodies such as UNESCO, such as FAO, such as the United Nations and all its institutions, to be bodies for integration, not domination; for liberation, not invasion; so we want to know how to control other bodies or institutions which are only preparing to invade. For the first time I have spent some eight days in Europe, where I am observing the concern over those who are wrongly termed "migrants". I wish to tell you that from our viewpoint there are no migrants: they are war refugees or people displaced by climate problems, and we must therefore be in favour of universal citizenship. There cannot be globalization for money but no globalization for human beings. What kind of world is this? Truly, why are there so many crises? In the coming days we are going to discuss the climate crisis, the financial crisis, the crisis of values; all is crisis, it is a system in which everything is a crisis but it is a broken system, a failed model, with humanity threatened with extermination and a Mother Earth whose existence is not guaranteed.

(2.10) What is the responsibility of governments? What is our responsibility as human beings, not only to ourselves but especially to future generations? I believe that in our institutions, whether UNESCO, the United Nations or other bodies, we must see how to begin to change. Our experience is that only with a united people can change be brought about. Only with the people organized and mobilized can change take place, but also, if we want to change—in the words of our social movement, "another world is possible"—this will happen only when politicians change. The arrogance of politicians must end; for politicians, politics must not be profit, nor must it be a business. I have learned that politics is service, compromise and more sacrifice with peoples and governing in obedience to the people. This is our experience, and this is what has caused Bolivia to change in a short time.

(2.11) Brothers and sisters, you know, Bolivia was in last place in South America, Bolivia was second to last in 2005; forgive me, my brothers from South America: Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and other comrades, but this year Bolivia will be in first place in terms of economic growth in South America and in second place for the Americas as a whole. This is because we have realized that politics is a science of service and not a business, and this helps us. I am sure we are not dealing with complaints dating back 500 years and, even if we mention 500 years, I have not come to Europe to request compensation for damage dating back 500 years. Times have changed. Obviously, I have come to deepen our relations. It is not so simple to deal with complaints relating to the 180-year history of the Republic in Bolivia, although we have changed into a Plurinational State, leaving behind the colonial State. In nine years, we may not have dealt with all the complaints, but you know that there is political stability and economic prosperity. Thanks to the social movements, the original rural indigenous people organized together with workers and with other social sectors, we have saved Bolivia. Imagine what Bolivia would have been like if it had continued with its neoliberal model of endless pillage and robbery.

(2.12) Sisters and brothers, I could go on to talk about a number of important issues. I welcome the recognition of our cultural heritage, but there is a basic issue which must be dealt with: from here, there must be punishment for those who steal cultural goods and also those who buy them, not only those who steal. We have recovered some cultural items, especially those of the indigenous movement. Thanks to personalities in the United States and Europe, for example, we have recovered Illa Ekeko, the god of abundance, which was stolen from us in 1840 and taken to Europe. I would welcome your cooperation in our efforts to continue to recover the cultural goods which are the heritage of humanity, particularly that of the indigenous people. Thank you.

(Applause)

Visit by His Excellency Mr Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
Visit by His Excellency Mr Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
Visita del Excmo. Sr. Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, Presidente de la República de Cabo Verde
Визит Его Превосходительства г-на Жорже Карлуша Фонсека, Президента Республика Кабо-Верде
 زيارة صاحب الفخامة السيد خورخي كارلوس دي ألميدا فونسيكا، رئيس جمهورية كابو فيردي
佛得角共和国总统 Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca 先生阁下来访

3.1 The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for his speech.

3.2 Your Excellencies, Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, after these inspiring words from President Morales, the plenary will now hear the address by His Excellency, Mr Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde.

3.3 On behalf of all Member States of UNESCO, it is my privilege and honour to welcome to this 38th session of the General Conference our distinguished guest. A lawyer by training, President de Almeida Fonseca worked for many years as a university professor. He was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country in 1991, and was elected President in 2011. During the term of office of President de Almeida Fonseca, the Republic of Cabo Verde has emerged as a strong supporter of UNESCO's priorities.

3.4 In the field of education, Cabo Verde hosted, and co-organized with UNESCO, the ministerial meeting to promote education and employment for African youth. Thanks to Cabo Verde's leadership, the ministers adopted the Praia Declaration, committing to enhance the involvement of youth in the region's creative economy. In addition, Cabo Verde was among the strongest advocates for the role of culture in development. The Government of Cabo Verde, and its representatives to multilateral organizations have worked tirelessly to ensure that culture is included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For this, I wish to thank you, Mr President, on behalf of all Member States of UNESCO.

3.5 Your Excellency, we are honoured by your presence here today, and we are looking forward to hearing your address to the General Conference. May I request the protocol to accompany His Excellency to the stage so that he can deliver his address.

4.1 **M. Fonseca** (Président de la République de Cabo Verde) :

Excellences, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, chers ambassadeurs et délégués permanents auprès de l'UNESCO, illustres délégués et invités à la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous félicite, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de cette session de la Conférence générale et vous adresse mes meilleurs vœux de succès. Le choix qui a été porté sur vous est un honneur pour l'Afrique. C'est pour moi un privilège et un grand plaisir de prendre la parole devant cet important forum où interviennent des personnalités exceptionnelles qui se distinguent par la noble et précieuse mission qu'elles accomplissent afin de contribuer à un monde où la paix et la connaissance sont des vecteurs clés pour le bonheur général de l'humanité. Puis-je vous remercier pour votre attention, ainsi que pour l'accueil chaleureux que vous m'avez réservé en cette prestigieuse Maison ?

4.2 Cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale coïncide avec les 70 ans de l'UNESCO, un anniversaire qui intervient à un moment très crucial pour l'humanité et qui mérite d'être célébré dans toute sa splendeur. Nous nous félicitons des importantes contributions de l'UNESCO au progrès de l'humanité. Toutefois, force est de constater que les défis pressants rencontrés pour assurer l'accès de tous aux précieux biens communs que sont l'éducation de qualité, l'eau, un emploi décent, l'exercice d'une citoyenneté effective, un environnement propre, l'accès, en somme, à la jouissance des droits humains fondamentaux, continuent de tester notre capacité d'agir ensemble. À ces défis, Monsieur le Président, s'ajoutent la lutte contre l'intolérance, la culture de la violence et l'extrémisme, phénomènes qui n'épargnent, hélas, ni les populations sans défense ni les symboles iconiques de la créativité humaine et du patrimoine culturel et historique universel. J'imagine pourtant que le bilan que nous ferons permettra non seulement d'évaluer les réalisations accomplies tout au long de ces sept décennies, mais aussi de jeter les bases des grands chantiers à venir.

4.3 Nous saluons le leadership de la Directrice générale et nous encourageons les réformes en cours visant à adapter l'Organisation aux défis actuels et à venir. Je suis convaincu que ces réformes permettront d'assurer une gouvernance plus performante, un rôle et une visibilité renforcés au sein du système onusien et dans l'articulation de partenariats globaux. L'engagement effectif des États membres est fondamental pour le succès de cet exercice. Cabo Verde renouvelle son attachement aux principes fondateurs de l'UNESCO et aux priorités qu'elle a établies. Mon pays salue l'apport de l'UNESCO à la construction de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, adopté récemment à New York, ainsi que son engagement dans le processus de préparation du Sommet sur le climat. En tant que pays insulaire en développement africain, Cabo Verde se félicite de la priorité accordée à l'Afrique et aux petits États insulaires en développement, dans la conviction qu'elle sera reflétée de manière conséquente dans les ressources mobilisées.

4.4 Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, au cours de ses 40 ans d'indépendance, mon pays a connu des avancées considérables sur plusieurs fronts, en particulier l'éducation, la santé, l'équité de genre, la lutte contre la pauvreté, la démocratisation des institutions et les technologies de l'information et de la communication. Ces résultats sont, certes, attribuables à des efforts endogènes reposant sur une vision, des stratégies, une bonne gouvernance et l'engagement de tout un peuple épris de progrès et de liberté. Ils sont aussi le fruit de partenariats fructueux.

4.5 Il me plaît de souligner le concours de l'UNESCO au renforcement institutionnel, notamment à travers la formation et la mise en valeur des ressources humaines, la culture, la reconnaissance du rôle de Cabo Verde dans la formation de nouvelles réalités historiques, anthropologiques et culturelles, avec, en particulier, l'inscription de Cidade Velha sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

4.6 Permettez-moi, Madame la Directrice générale, de remercier l'UNESCO pour l'honneur qu'elle nous a fait en conférant en 2009 à l'ancienne cité de Ribeira Grande/Cidade Velha le titre de « patrimoine de l'humanité ». Ribeira Grande fut la première capitale de Cabo Verde, du XV^e au XVIII^e siècle ; elle fut donc le berceau de la nation caboverdienne et le témoin de son histoire ancienne, une histoire marquée par les chaînes de l'esclavage et du trafic négrier à travers l'Atlantique. La Route des esclaves, ce n'est plus la douloureuse diaspora des Africains à travers les trois continents atlantiques. Cabo Verde s'est associé à la célébration du dixième anniversaire de cet important projet. La

réalisation conjointe de plusieurs activités dans le pays et l'accueil, le mois passé, d'une réunion du comité d'experts internationaux du programme, dans le cadre de la promotion du devoir de mémoire, sont autant d'expressions de cette coopération.

4.7 Partageant la prémisse que l'éducation est un bien commun, nous réaffirons ici notre détermination à adhérer au Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation. Nous croyons que le Partenariat est un outil qui permettra aux adhérents de riches échanges d'expériences à travers l'exercice d'examen par les pairs.

4.8 La valorisation et la préservation des océans ont été à la base du partenariat conclu avec la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale pour la tenue récente d'un atelier international à Praia, capitale de Cabo Verde.

4.9 La paix étant l'un des piliers fondamentaux du développement durable, mon pays soutient l'action de l'UNESCO en faveur du dialogue, de la culture de la paix, de l'humanisme, de la liberté, de la solidarité et de l'éducation à la citoyenneté.

4.10 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis, nous devons agir comme une famille globale, où la solidarité, la coopération et les partenariats se présentent d'une façon clairement humaniste et constructive aux fins de la promotion de la justice sociale et de l'accès rapide et efficace aux ressources qui favorisent le bien-être. Dans ce contexte, nous devons investir de manière plus efficace et plus rapide dans la combinaison efficace des vecteurs qui permettent de légitimer et de pérenniser le sentiment de communauté inclusive, afin que les citoyens se sentent valorisés et respectés par rapport à leurs attentes et leurs réalisations. Forte de son poids moral et de la mission qui lui a été confiée, l'UNESCO est, à nos yeux, un espace de recherche de proximité capable d'encourager les processus de convergence sociale et l'inclusion effective, ainsi que d'accommoder l'individualité et la diversité culturelle.

4.11 Contribuer à la recherche de consensus et d'équilibres en termes de récupération et de socialisation de la connaissance a été le pari permanent de l'Organisation, qui s'apprête à poursuivre, de la même manière, des objectifs concernant la réalisation de la personne humaine en tant que début, milieu et fin de toutes les tâches qui motivent l'humanité. Ce sont donc d'énormes défis auxquels cette organisation est régulièrement confrontée, mais non moins énormes sont les réalisations dont elle peut se prévaloir au cours de ses 70 ans d'existence.

4.12 Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, illustres délégués et invités, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la promotion et le respect de la diversité des expressions culturelles sont un objectif phare de l'UNESCO. C'est avec une grande joie que j'ai appris que la musique caboverdienne avait été souvent présentée dans cette prestigieuse salle I de l'UNESCO, espace cosmopolite où se côtoient et fraternisent tant de gens et de cultures venant des quatre coins du monde. Sous l'égide de notre ambassade à Paris, notre musique a été mise en valeur dans le cadre de galas commémoratifs de notre indépendance. Ici même, d'où je vous parle, se sont produits des artistes caboverdiens.

4.13 Je voudrais terminer mes propos, en me référant à la *morna*, expression de l'âme caboverdienne si bien interprétée par Cesária Evora, la « diva aux pieds nus ». Notre souhait, et nous y travaillons, est qu'elle puisse figurer sur la Liste du patrimoine immatériel de l'UNESCO. Sur cette note, je vous remercie vivement de votre attention.

(Applaudissements)

5. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank sincerely the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde for his very wise remarks. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I please request you all to remain seated as the Excellencies and their entourages leave the room and thereafter, we will close our session.

The meeting is suspended from 6.10 to 6.15 p.m. while His Excellency, Mr Juan Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and His Excellency, Mr Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde, are escorted from the room.

6. The President:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our work for today. But let me thank you most sincerely for having turned up in number for us to benefit from the addresses by their Excellencies. We really appreciate your attendance during today's meeting. The plenary will reconvene on Wednesday afternoon, 11 November at 5 p.m. This will allow enough time for us to tally the results of the elections for the Executive Board. At 5 p.m. we will announce the results of the Executive Board elections. May I remind you that the polling stations will be open on Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Room V. May I also remind all members of the Bureau that the third meeting of the Bureau of the General Conference will take place tomorrow at 9 a.m. in Room X. On that note, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you all a pleasant evening. *This meeting is now adjourned.* Thank you.

*The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.
La séance est levée à 18 h 20
Se levanta la sesión a las 18.20
Заседание закрывается в 18.20
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦,٢٠ بعد الظهر
会议于 18 时 20 分结束*

Twelfth plenary meeting

Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 6.20 p.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Douzième séance plénière

Mercredi 11 novembre 2015 à 18 h 20
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibia)

Duodécima sesión plenaria

Miércoles 11 de noviembre de 2015 a las 18.20
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Двенадцатое пленарное заседание

Среда 11 ноября 2015 в 18.20
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الثانية عشرة

الأربعاء ١١ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٦,٢٠ بعد الظهر
الرئيس: السيد **سيماتاا** (ناميبيا)

第十二次全体会议

2015年11月11日星期三 18时20分
主席：**Simataa** 先生（纳米比亚）

1.1 **The President:**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, today is the only day that we will be starting our session without having to suspend for five minutes and I am really pleased that all of us are here. But once again, our sincere apologies for these delays. I have the pleasure of declaring open the twelfth plenary meeting of the General Conference. You surely know that this evening we will announce the results of the Executive Board elections. Before we do, I would like to inform you that the Bureau of the General Conference, at its third meeting yesterday morning, heard progress reports on the work of the commissions and committees and I am pleased to inform you that that work is fully on schedule. Let us now turn to the highlight of today's meeting.

1.2 The election of Members of the Executive Board took place this morning from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room V, under the supervision of His Excellency, Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee. I now invite him to present the results of today's ballot starting, of course, with Group I. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

Election of Members of the Executive Board
Élection de membres du Conseil exécutif
Elección de los Miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo
Выборы членов Исполнительного совета

انتخاب أعضاء في المجلس التنفيذي

选举执行局委员

2.1 **Mr Worbs** (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would first like to thank you for entrusting me with the task of reporting to the plenary of the General Conference the detailed results of the election of the Members of the Executive Board. The election took place today in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and, I might add, with a considerable turnout. I am grateful to the many people who made it possible, especially to the Ambassador of El Salvador, who was overseeing the election, and I shall use my oral report to the forthcoming plenary session of the General Conference to express my thanks. Ladies and gentlemen, the number of Member States entitled to vote in the present session of the General Conference is 186. I shall now read out by electoral group the detailed results of today's ballot for the election of Members of the Executive Board.

2.2 Group I, in which there are six seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 0. Names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Greece: 165; Italy: 165; Spain: 164; France: 163; United States of America: 158; and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 156. The floor is with you, Mr President.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Worbs. I therefore declare the following six Member States from Group I elected Members of the Executive Board: France, Greece, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. We shall now turn to Group II. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

4. **Mr Worbs** (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Group II, in which there are four seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 1. I will now read the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. Lithuania: 171; Slovenia: 167; Russian Federation: 162; and Serbia: 161. Mr President, please, you have the floor.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, sir. I therefore declare the following Member States from Group II elected Members of the Executive Board: Lithuania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Slovenia. We shall now turn to Group III. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

6. **Mr Worbs** (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Group III, in which there are five seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 0. Again, I will read the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Brazil: 168; Mexico: 158; Paraguay: 158; Nicaragua: 152; and Haiti: 150. Thank you.

7. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following five Member States from Group III elected Members of the Executive Board: Brazil, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay. We now turn to Group IV, which had six seats to be filled. Excellency, you have the floor.

8. **Mr Worbs** (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Group IV, in which there are six seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 0. Again, I will read out the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. Malaysia: 165; Viet Nam: 156; Sri Lanka: 149; Republic of Korea: 137; Pakistan: 135; Islamic Republic of Iran: 128; Samoa: 101; and Afghanistan: 62. Thank you, Mr President.

9. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following six Member States elected Members of the Executive Board: Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. We shall now turn to Group V(a). Your Excellency, you have the floor.

10. **Mr Worbs** (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. There are seven seats to be filled for Group V(a). Absent: 3. Abstentions: 2. Invalid ballot papers: 2. Again, I will read out the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. South Africa: 139; Senegal: 135; Nigeria: 132; Kenya: 119; Côte d'Ivoire: 101; Ghana: 101; Cameroon: 100; Rwanda: 99; Ethiopia: 82; Botswana: 80; Niger: 60; and Equatorial Guinea: 48. Mr President, thank you.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following seven Member States from Group V(a) elected Members of the Executive Board: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. Finally, we turn to Group V(b). Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12. **Mr Worbs** (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you once more, Mr President. Group V(b) has four seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 2. For the last time, I will again read the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. Oman: 142; Lebanon: 131; Qatar: 121; Saudi Arabia: 97; Sudan: 97; Iraq: 57; and Yemen: 30. Since two countries, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, have obtained the same number of votes, in accordance with Rule 95 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference there shall be a second secret ballot restricted to those two candidates. The ballot will take place on Friday 13 November in Room IV at 10 a.m. Thank you, Mr President.

13.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following three Member States from Group V(b) elected Members of the Executive Board: Oman, Lebanon and Qatar. As you have just heard, there will be a second round of voting for the last remaining seat between the two countries that were tied for fourth place. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the end of our session but before we part, let me say a few words of acknowledgement.

13.2 First of all, I would like to thank the Member States for the high level of participation in this electoral exercise which shows the vitality of our democratic process. As you know, one country equals one vote in UNESCO and every vote is important. I am sure that this strong participation will be maintained in tomorrow's elections, which are as important as the one we held today. Indeed, the various intergovernmental commissions, committees and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference whose membership you will be renewing also participate in no small way in the implementation of the various programmes of our Organization. I also wish to thank the Member States who presented candidatures to renew their membership of the Executive Board, thereby showing their strong interest in the work of our Organization and the universal values that it promotes. Let me also thank the electoral groups for their efforts in finding consensus, whenever possible, with a clean slate of candidates.

13.3 In closing, I warmly congratulate all newly elected Members of the Executive Board. On behalf of all of you, as Member States, I wish to thank His Excellency, Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, for the good work of the Committee which skilfully supervised the election process. I also wish to express my appreciation to the six tellers. We appreciated the time and effort devoted to the process.

13.3 I will now give the floor to the Secretary to provide you with some information concerning the 198th session of the Executive Board, which will meet on 20 November 2015. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

14. **The Secretary:**

Thank you Mr President. The 198th session of the Executive Board, with its new membership for 2015-2017, will meet on Friday, 20 November at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Room X. At that one-day session, the Executive Board will be required, among other things, to establish its Bureau and, for that purpose, to elect its Chair and six Vice-Chairs, as well as the chairs of its commissions and committees, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. The Board will also designate the Member States that will constitute the Special Committee (SP): 18 members, three per electoral group; the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR): 13 members, five per electoral group; and the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP): 24 members, four per electoral group. The Secretariat would be most grateful if you could kindly consult your respective groups and inform us as soon as possible – as we hardly have a week before that Board session – of your proposals concerning the composition of the Bureau. It would be appreciated if they could be provided by noon next Wednesday, which is also the closing day of this session of the General Conference. The usual invitation letter for the Board session will be sent out this evening. Thank you, Mr President.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our work for today. Plenary will reconvene this Friday 13 November 2015, at 3 p.m. for the examination and adoption of the reports. I wish you a pleasant evening. *The meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.
La séance est levée à 18 h 40
Se levanta la sesión a las 18.40
Заседание закрывается в 18.40
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٦,٤٠ بعد الظهر
会议于 18 时 40 分结束*

Thirteenth plenary meeting

Friday 13 November 2015 at 3.20 p.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Treizième séance plénière

Vendredi 13 novembre 2015 à 15 h 20
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Decimotercera sesión plenaria

Viernes 13 de noviembre de 2015 a las 15.20
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Тринадцатое пленарное заседание

пятница 13 ноября 2015 г. в 15.20
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الثالثة عشرة

الجمعة ١٣ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٣,٢٠ بعد الظهر
الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第十三次全体会议

2015年11月13日星期五 15时20分
主席：**Simataa** 先生（纳米比亚）

1.1 **The President:**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, welcome back to the plenary. I declare open the thirteenth plenary meeting of the General Conference. With the meeting of today we will start examining the reports of programme commissions and committees. Before we do that, I would like to inform you that the Bureau of the General Conference held its fourth meeting this morning, when it fielded progress reports on the work of the commissions and committees, and I am pleased to inform you all that their work is fully on schedule. I also have the pleasure to inform you that there will be no plenary meeting tomorrow, Saturday 14 November 2015, and I believe that this will allow all of us, including all of us here, to have a well-deserved rest and be prepared for the Leaders' Forum that will commence on Monday.

1.2 As you know, this morning the Nominations Committee held polling for a second round of votes for the last remaining vacant seat for Group V (b) for the Executive Board. I believe that the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee has information that needs to be conveyed to us. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

Election of Members of the Executive Board (*continued*)

Élection de membres du Conseil exécutif (*suite*)

Elección de los Miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo (*continuación*)

Выборы членов Исполнительного совета (*продолжение*)

انتخاب أعضاء في المجلس التنفيذي (تابع)

选举执行局委员 (续)

2. **Mr Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Unfortunately I have to make an announcement which will not please most of you. The number of votes cast does not correspond to the number of signatures on the electoral record. Rule 11 of Appendix I of the Rules of Procedure reads as follows: "When the Chairperson of the Meeting has opened the ballot box, the tellers shall check the number of envelopes. If the number is greater or less than that of the voters, the Chairperson of the Meeting shall be informed and he or she shall then declare the vote invalid and announce that it is necessary to reopen the ballot". Unfortunately, this is our situation and a new vote has to be held. As tomorrow there is no meeting of the General Conference, we have two options. One would be to hold the vote today, which is technically possible. I was informed by the Secretary that it could be held today between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. It has to be in Room IV again. The alternative would be to go forward to Wednesday, because on Monday and Tuesday we have the Leaders' Forum. I understand that the Ambassadors of the two countries concerned are not very happy about Wednesday. So from my side and the Secretariat's side, it would be possible technically to hold the vote today between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thank you, Mr President.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Let me now invite the Legal Adviser to confirm the validity and the applicability of that Rule and also to confirm whether indeed the elections are possible today, because it is our intention to do whatever needs to be done following the unfortunate events, strictly in accordance with the rules that govern us as an Organization. Madam Legal Adviser, you have the floor.

4. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you very much, Mr President. I confirm, as has already been advised to you by Ambassador Worbs, the invalidity of the vote that took place earlier today and the consequent need to conduct that vote again. I can also confirm that there is no legal impediment to holding the ballot today, later this afternoon.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much. That being the case, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, you are therefore kindly invited to cast your vote in Room IV from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. today, and please let us do it correctly. I again appeal to you to please follow the procedure correctly to avoid contaminating the outcome of this last vote. Results will be announced at the end of our plenary session on Monday, but at the same time we will also display the results electronically. I think we are together on that. Thank you very much.

Item 13.1: Venue of the 39th session of the General Conference (38 C/45)

Point 13.1 : Lieu de la 39^e session de la Conférence générale (38 C/45)

Punto 13.1: Lugar de celebración de la 39^a reunión de la Conferencia General (38 C/45)

Пункт 13.1: Место проведения 39-й сессии Генеральной конференции (38 C/45)

البند ١٣,١ : مكان انعقاد الدورة التاسعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام (٤٥/م٣٨)

项目 13.1 : 大会第三十九届会议地点 (38 C/45)

6. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, I now invite you to examine item 13.1 which concerns the venue of the 39th session of the General Conference. As you can see in document 38 C/45, the Executive Board has already made a recommendation on this matter through 197 EX/Decision 22.3. I would like to ask if the General Conference wishes to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of document 38 C/45, which proposes to hold the 39th session of the General Conference at the Headquarters of the Organization here in Paris. Are there any objections to this proposal? I see none. *It is so decided.* Thank you very much.

Report of the APX Commission (Finance, Administration and General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations) (38 C/90)

Rapport de la Commission APX (Finances, administration et questions générales, soutien du programme et relations extérieures) (38 C/90)

Informe de la Comisión APX (Cuestiones Financieras y Administrativas, Asuntos Generales, Apoyo del Programa y Relaciones Exteriores) (38 C/90)

Доклад Комиссии APX (финансовые, административные и общие вопросы, поддержка выполнения программы и внешние связи) (38 C/90)

تقرير لجنة الشؤون المالية والإدارية والمسائل العامة ومساندة البرنامج والعلاقات الخارجية (٩٠/م٣٨)

财务、行政和一般问题、计划支助和对外关系委员会 (APX) 的报告(38 C/90)

7. The President:

Your Excellencies, let us now examine the report of the APX Commission which is contained in document 38 C/90. The Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Mathew Sudders, will present this document. Ambassador Sudders, you now have the floor.

8.1 Mr Sudders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chairperson of the APX Commission):

Thank you very much, Mr President. Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies and distinguished colleagues, it is with pleasure that I submit to you the report on the work of the Commission for Finance, Administration and General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations (APX Commission) of the 38th session of the General Conference.

8.2 The APX Commission considered 27 items from 4 to 9 November 2015. The Commission's report, document 38 C/90, includes only the draft resolutions that the Commission recommends to the General Conference for adoption. The following items were adopted without debate: item **3.5** on the adoption of the budget ceiling was not debated again as it had already been adopted in the joint meeting of commissions, items **4.1, 4.17, 4.24, 5.6, 5.7, 8.1** as well as the report by the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) on the activities of the Institute in 2014-2015, and items **9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 10.2** and **10.3**.

8.3 Mr President, dear colleagues, allow me first briefly to return to item **1.3** "Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution". You will recall that I delivered, at the plenary on Saturday 7 November, a separate oral report on this item, following which the corresponding resolution was adopted. As I had noted then, the working group on voting rights had made recommendations to the APX Commission on its working methods. Those recommendations were: (i) that the General Conference refine the definitions of the conditions that can be invoked by Member States regarding the inability to pay. Some Member States may be faced with conditions arising from events prior to the two-year time period set; (ii) that the deadline for the submission of communications be reviewed, as the three days after the commencement of the General Conference may not give the working group sufficient time to explore possibilities for the payment of contributions. The working group therefore suggested that the deadline be set as the first day of the Executive Board session preceding the General Conference; (iii) that the working group meet one or two months before the expiration of the deadline to give the working group more time to discuss with representatives of countries the mechanisms to ensure the payment of their contributions, including the review of existing and proposed payment plans; and finally, (iv) that membership of the working group be extended to two terms to ensure continuity and understanding of the rules and procedures.

8.4 Mr President, after discussions in the APX Commission, it was decided that those recommendations would be sent to the working group that has been created for governance, which I will speak about later, and to the Legal Committee of the General Conference. They would therefore be able to be considered at the next session of the General Conference.

8.5 Mr President, let me now turn to item **5.4** concerning "Revisions of the Terms of Reference of the Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC)". This item was presented by the representative of the Director-General, noting that the terms of reference (TOR), to advise the Director-General on oversight, risk management and internal control of the Organization, had been adopted at the 35th session of the General Conference. The revisions in the TOR were proposed by the Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC) itself and by the Executive Board.

8.6 Member States questioned the appropriateness of having a committee appointed by the Director-General advising Member States on the appointment of the independent External Auditor. It was answered that the revision was a suggestion of OAC itself, and was intended to enable Member States to seek such advice from the Committee, should they so decide. With regard to the composition of the Committee and its membership, Member States raised several questions: one Member State noted a potential conflict of interest in that the Director of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) was involved in the selection panel and the Committee could potentially advise on the appointment of the Director of IOS. The representative of the Director-General pointed out that it would only be a single outside member advising the panel on selection, and such expert advice could be very useful. On a suggestion that there be a broader membership of six members to reflect geographical representation, the Member States were informed that OAC is a committee selected on the basis of individual expertise. The representative of the Director-General added that considerable efforts were made to ensure geographical representation and gender balance among its members. It was also suggested that two-year appointments may be too short and consideration of a four-year term was indicated. The representative of the Director-General acknowledged that a longer membership could be appropriate if it was staggered amongst the members to facilitate continuity of the work of the Committee.

8.7 It was also pointed out that the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) was undertaking a review of the internal audit function

of the entire United Nations system, which would take stock of audit committees across the United Nations and identify best practices. To properly consider the good practices identified in that report, the APX Commission has requested the Director-General to propose a further update to the Terms of Reference of the Oversight Advisory Committee, at the 200th session of the Executive Board, in consultation with the Committee itself, in order to bring them into line with those of the United Nations Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC).

8.8 Mr President, the APX Commission then examined item **10.4** "Report by the Director-General on the state of the Medical Benefit Funds (MBF)". The representative of the Director-General, in introducing the first part of the document, confirmed that the governance structure of the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF) had been implemented in line with the decision taken by the General Conference at its last session (37 C/Resolution 85) and that election of members to the new Advisory Board of the Medical Benefits Fund had taken place from 21 to 23 October 2015. The representative of the Director-General then continued to the second part of the report, which addressed the financial situation of the Fund and, in particular, raised the issue of After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI).

8.9 The financial situation of the Medical Benefits Fund, "the pay as you go scheme", had improved and the reserves as at 30 September 2015 stood at 17 months of expenditure, in line with the ideal level of 15-18 months, as requested by External Auditor. The Director-General's representative then gave an overview of the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability, which reflected the estimated total future costs associated with providing health insurance to existing retirees and current staff upon their retirement. The liability had increased significantly by 51% to \$1.27 billion as at 31 December 2014. That significant increase was attributable to the change from 4% to 2.3% of the discount rate used in the valuation of the liability. Measures had been taken to address the long-term funding of the liability by introducing a 4% payroll charge applied since 1 January 2015 on extrabudgetary projects which paid the salaries of staff who were participants in the Fund. With regard to funding from the regular budget, the Executive Board made a recommendation to the General Conference that it approve a 1% charge on staff costs to fund the ASHI liability with effect from 1 January 2016.

8.10 With regard to the concern expressed about the increasing financial obligations and queries, and on whether the liability was due to the fact that the Fund provided coverage for retirees and their dependents, Member States were informed that the Medical Benefits Fund did indeed provide such coverage for retirees and their dependents, in line with United Nations-wide practice and that was owed to the difficulty former staff members had to integrate national schemes upon retirement. It was highlighted that only dependents already enrolled during the active participation of the staff member were eligible for after-service coverage.

8.11 Member States stressed the need to mitigate the risks as highlighted by the recent IOS report, and requested an audit of the Fund to be made by the External Auditor. A number of participants of the Fund had also made such a request. Further, on the concern regarding the increase in the ASHI liability and the reasons why it has grown significantly, the principal reason was, as mentioned, owing to the impact of the discount rate. The underlying liability would actually have decreased if the discount rate had remained the same. Member States queried how other United Nations agencies were dealing with the ASHI liability and how UNESCO could finance it.

8.12 The representative of the Director-General stated that other United Nations agencies were dealing with the very same issues. An ASHI Working Group had been set up by the General Assembly to study the current situation among United Nations organizations and come up with long-term solutions. As outlined in the introductory part, UNESCO had taken measures to address the issue. However, the current proposal of 1% would not be enough. In fact, a proposal of 8% was needed. The representative of the Director-General also said that \$12 million had been set aside in document 38 C/5 as the proposed UNESCO contributions for retirees. The creation of a tripartite committee composed of Member States, the administration and participant representatives to find "home-grown" solutions to our liability to contain costs was suggested and approved. It was agreed by members of the APX Commission that the tripartite committee would also consider recommendations of the External Auditor.

8.13 Turning to item **10.1** "Staff Regulations and Staff Rules", the representative of the Director-General explained that Regulation 12.2 required the Director-General to report to each session of the General Conference on which Staff Rules had been introduced or amended to implement the Staff Regulations. In that regard, the Director-General introduced amendments, in the course of the biennium, to the following provisions: performance reports, following the introduction of a new performance assessment policy, and maternity leave, to harmonize with the United Nations common system provisions on leave for breastfeeding purposes. Furthermore, Regulation 12.1 of the Staff Regulations provided that the Regulations may be supplemented or amended by the General Conference subject to the maintenance of the acquired rights of staff members.

8.14 It was recalled that the Executive Board, at its 197th session, having examined the IOS audit report on recruitment, had requested the Director-General to implement the action plan for each recommendation and to propose any amendments to the Staff Regulations that would be necessary to implement those audit recommendations.

8.15 Reservations were expressed on two points: first, the priority consideration given to staff members in the recruitment process. Such a provision was questioned, insofar as the best candidate should be selected, whether internal or external. Second, the rationale behind the ability of the Director-General to limit certain posts to internal candidates as well as the priority given to staff members in the service of other United Nations agencies, again stressing that only the best candidates should be selected. It was explained that it would be so, in the case of downsizing, to ensure that staff members whose posts had been abolished had priority in applying and being considered for other posts. On the priority given to staff of other organizations of the United Nations for vacancies in UNESCO, it was confirmed that it was a standard provision in other organizations and that, if it were removed, UNESCO staff would no longer benefit from the possibility to be considered for posts in other United Nations organizations on a reciprocal basis.

8.16 It was emphasized that the Staff Regulation, as amended, would in fact guarantee that the best candidate would be selected, as posts would be advertised internally and externally at the same time for one month. It was highlighted that at equal competency, and equal competency only, staff members should have priority consideration for posts, as they must be able to advance in their career.

8.17 A minor amendment was also made to Staff Regulation 4.5.3 in order to clarify the term “tenure” in relation to the position of the Legal Adviser. The clarification was thought to be necessary following the provision of external legal advice in 2013 wherein it was noted that the use of the term tenure had not been consistent, and that a clarification would be appropriate. With the amendment, it was made clear that all decisions relating to the persons employed in the posts in the regulation would be subject to consultation with the Executive Board. Following the good practice introduced by the Director-General in formally consulting the Executive Board on the appointment of the Director of IOS, Member States also decided to embed that practice in the regulation to cover the Director of IOS and the Ethics Officer. The regulation remained strictly limited to those posts where independence was felt to be essential for the functioning of the post. The Executive Board decided separately, prior to recruitment, on the terms of reference and contract durations for those posts.

8.18 Next, item **10.3** concerning the “United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the appointment of Member States’ representatives to the UNESCO Staff Pension Committee for 2016-2017”, was taken without debate. Six Member States volunteered to serve as members, Brazil and Kenya offered continuation of service and the Philippines as a new member, alternates would be Oman, Libya and Canada and they would serve 2016-2017.

8.19 The APX Commission then examined item **11.2** on the “Mandate of the Headquarters Committee”, wherein they reiterated its mandate and continuing importance.

8.20 Closely linked to the above, the Commission moved on to item **11.1** concerning the “Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex”, which was introduced by the Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee, His Excellency the Ambassador of Bangladesh, who informed the Commission on the overall work accomplished by the Committee since the last session of the General Conference, in particular the approval of separate office rental scales that included a provision for long-term maintenance and conservation, including the mechanism for accumulating reserves for financing long-term maintenance and conservation of the Miollis and Bonvin buildings. He also explained that the Committee continued to follow-up current and future renovation projects at UNESCO Headquarters. The Committee was continuing its consideration of a number of ongoing items, in particular the UNESCO auxiliary services and would conclude those issues with success and report back to the Executive Board.

8.21 The representative of the Director-General provided additional elements on projects including the renovation of Room X, the forward security post, the optimization of space and the renovation of Building VII with a view to it being rented to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The regrouping of the Secretariat at the Fontenoy site had freed up space in the Bonvin building for rent following the adoption of a rental scale and the guidelines put in place by the Headquarters Committee.

8.22 The representative of the Director-General stated that the report paid particular attention to the action already taken or to be taken to ward off further degradation of the Headquarters buildings and in spite of budget restrictions, the Secretariat continued to take palliative actions to avoid further risks. In the light of the risks, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Headquarters Committee, had begun to consider a more sustainable and structural plan and identify financing options for the conservation of the Miollis and Bonvin sites. That would be the object of the work of the Headquarters Committee and the Secretariat in the upcoming biennium.

8.23 There were some concerns regarding IT security related to Permanent Delegations and tenants, but the Commission was reassured that the IT security for all tenants was ensured.

8.24 The Commission also took note of the urgency of works required by the Miollis and Bonvin sites. It was also stated that the rental of conference rooms should be paid and that the rental scale adopted by the Headquarters Committee should be applied and the use of rooms should no longer be free of charge. The revenue of room rental should serve for renovation. The representative of the Director-General confirmed that the Secretariat would be presenting the Headquarters Committee with guidelines for room tariffs based on full cost recovery and introducing a provision for maintenance and conservation.

8.25 The representative of the Director-General replied that to date, €940,000 out of the €1.2 million loan had already been reimbursed and that the final amount would be reimbursed in 2016-2017. A steering committee had been established for the renovation of Room I following a previous recommendation of the External Auditor. The steering committee would include two Headquarters Committee members as observers.

8.26 With regard to item **3.1** on “Methods of preparing the budget, budget estimates for 2016-2017 and budgeting techniques”, the Commission briefly discussed the concepts, which had been introduced throughout the current biennium at Executive Board session through budget orientation debates.

8.27 The representative of the Director-General made a brief presentation on the budgeting techniques used to prepare document 38 C/5 for 2016-2017. The Commission was reminded that the preparation of draft document 38 C/5 started with the Director-General’s preliminary proposals, submitted to the Executive Board at its 195th session in autumn 2014, wherein the Director-General presented three scenarios, namely: the Zero Real Growth scenario of \$682 million; the Zero Nominal Growth scenario of \$653 million; and the Zero Nominal Growth Plus scenario of \$667 million.

8.28 After examining the Director-General’s preliminary proposals, the Executive Board requested the Director-

General to prepare document 38 C/5 based on two scenarios, namely the Zero Nominal Growth Plus scenario of \$667 million and the Zero Nominal Growth scenario of \$653 million, together with their corresponding expenditure plans of \$518 million and \$507 million, respectively.

8.29 In that regard, document 38 C/5 was presented to the Executive Board at its 196th session for its initial review. The Executive Board had recommended that the General Conference approve the proposal for the \$667 million and the expenditure plan of \$518 million. The Executive Board at that time had also requested the Secretariat to make further refinements to budget allocations for the expected results of the five major programmes, which was done and submitted to the General Conference in document 38 C/6 Addendum 2.

8.30 The representative of the Director-General also outlined certain important features of document 38 C/5, namely its continuity with document 37 C/5 Approved, which covered a period of four years: 2014-2017. The Secretariat further noted that efforts were made to assign more resources to the five major programme in all scenarios, and to respect to the extent possible the priority rankings established by Member States.

8.31 With regard to the constant dollar rate, it was further noted that following a series of Executive Board decisions, and in light of the fact that the current market euro/dollar exchange rate was very close to the constant dollar rate used by UNESCO, the Executive Board decided to maintain the rate of \$1 = €0.869 for the 2016-2017 biennium covered by document 38 C/5 and to examine its revision in the following C/5 document.

8.32 Member States welcomed the improvements observed in document 38 C/5, and urged the Secretariat to continue the “work in progress” to further improve the implementation of results-based budgeting and the containment of incompressible costs.

8.33 In the light of item 3.1, the APX Commission moved on to item 3.2, “Consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017”. Parts I, III.A, III.B, and III.C were all adopted without debate and Part II.B called for debate only on the section relating to the Sector for External Relations and Public Information (ERI). Several Members of the Commission took the floor to express their views on the proposed draft resolution presented by a Member State.

8.34 While some Members supported the proposal, which was to ensure that regional consultations were conducted in a face-to-face environment, others recalled the discussions held at the last session of the Executive Board and the financial implications that such consultations would entail. The representative of the Director-General recalled the recent decision adopted at the last session of the Board on the roadmap on the organization of regional consultations on the C/5 document. He also noted the modalities set out in the Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO and the holding of the annual interregional meeting of National Commissions and various other types of National Commission meetings.

8.35 Following the debate, the APX Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt without amendment the resolution proposed, while emphasizing the importance of face-to-face meetings, as it seemed imperative to increase the interaction between Headquarters and National Commissions through regional consultations and other means. Eventually, all decisions under the item were adopted without amendment.

8.36 In discussing item 3.4 concerning the “Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)”, the representative of the Director-General gave a brief presentation of the major phases of the preparation of the Programme for that period. The resolution of the General Conference at its 38th session would set the stage for the Secretariat to launch the preparation of the future Programme and Budget, guided by the strategic orientations and the views expressed by the Member States. Consultations would continue throughout the new biennium through an online questionnaire, e-discussions and the Executive Board sessions leading up to the adoption of draft document 39 C/5 at the 39th session of the General Conference.

8.37 Member States highlighted the importance of UNESCO's normative role, as well as its role in providing upstream policy advice, and the need for greater focus on all forms of inequality and discrimination, including gender equality. Member States also mentioned priority issues such as the multidisciplinary mandate of the Organization, presence in the field, the need for the Organization to become fit for delivery and to play an effective role in supporting Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. It was also noted that more strategic guidance was needed on how to bring those questions forward, such as striking the right balance between the normative and operational activities in the process for developing the next programme and budget. While all Member States commended the implementation of results-based budgeting, they also stressed that the application of such techniques had to fit the programmes to which they were applied.

8.38 It was underlined that when the discussions concerning the preparation of document 39 C/5 began, the diversity of programmes that were at the core of UNESCO had to be taken into account in their evaluation. It was noted that not all were quantifiable in the short term. It was further noted that major programmes such as Major Programme III (Social and Human Sciences) had to be considered in the light of their role with regard to effective social inclusion, reduced inequality and poverty eradication.

8.39 Mr President, the APX Commission debated item 5.1 on the “New format of reporting to the Executive Board on programme implementation”. When introducing the item, the representative of the Director-General indicated that in response to the concerns expressed at the last session of the Executive Board regarding the length of the EX/4 document and level of detail, the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), in close cooperation with programme sectors and the Division of Knowledge Management and Information Systems (KMI) had streamlined and simplified the system and consequently the length of the online report from the System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER) would be reduced by about two thirds, while retaining essential information for Member States’

decisions.

8.40 The representative of the Director-General recalled that the work initiated three years ago had resulted from consultations and collaboration between the Secretariat and the governing bodies. It was further recalled that through 195 EX/Decision 4.V, the Executive Board had introduced the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) to be presented at every spring session and the Strategic Result Report (SRR) to be presented every four years. Accordingly, the first PIR had been presented at the 196th session of the Executive Board and the SISTER online report had been presented at both the 195th and 197th sessions of the Executive Board.

8.41 The representative of the Director-General specified that in response to calls for further linking Part I and Part II of the EX/4 document, work would be engaged with the Bureau of Financial Management (BFM) along those lines whilst maintaining the integrity of its two parts. It was indicated that in pursuit of streamlining and simplification and in light of the current elaboration of the PIR and SRR, the Secretariat proposed to revert to a cumulative report for the PIR. As such, the coverage of the PIR would be coherent with UNESCO's internal information technology systems and thereby decrease the reporting burden on the Secretariat and facilitate Member States' discussions.

8.42 Some Member States further indicated that if the SISTER online report had to be maintained for the autumn session of the Executive Board, it should be accompanied by a written executive summary. As an alternative to the SISTER online report, the representative of the Director-General proposed that programme Assistant Directors-General (ADGs) deliver a brief summary of key trends orally, thereby facilitating discussions at the autumn sessions of the Executive Board.

8.43 With regard to item 9.5 on the "Working Capital Fund: level and administration", the members of the APX Commission endorsed without debate the recommendation of the Director-General concerning the authorized level for 2016-2017 and the use of its resources.

8.44 Turning to item 5.3 on the "Revision of the Financial Regulations for Special Accounts", the representative of the Director-General presented the approach for the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendation following the audit of the Emergency Fund.

8.45 On a query about the possibility of decentralizing some of the Special Accounts listed in the document, the representative of the Director-General informed Member States that nothing in the Financial Regulations for Special Accounts prevented decentralization and that it was in the mandate of each sector to decide on the decentralization as part of their management. It was further mentioned that there was already one Special Account managed by the field.

8.46 Member States requested more detailed information and additional explanations on the Funds-in-Trust Overhead Costs Account (FITOCA) with regard to the source of income and more specifically on the use of funds, account administration, decision-making with respect to funds allocation as well as an audit of the account. The representative of the Director-General, drawing attention to the document presented at the 197th session of the Executive Board, describing the details on FITOCA, explained the principles relating to the account. The source of income of the account, the flat rate applied to extrabudgetary projects in order to cover indirect variable costs particularly administrative costs in Headquarters and field offices, and the detailed number of posts funded under FITOCA were noted.

8.47 The representative of the Director-General further indicated that all funds, including all Special Accounts, were audited and included in the financial statements of the Organization. It was noted that in 2011, an external audit on the cost-recovery policy and FITOCA had been undertaken and the Secretariat had implemented some of the recommendations, including those relating to posts covered under FITOCA.

8.48 Member States asked the Secretariat to explain the difference between the cost recovery Special Account and FITOCA in order to provide them with a better understanding. The representative of the Director-General stated that cost recovery and overheads, including their different components, were regularly presented to the Executive Board as part of the document on resource mobilization and implementation of the action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary projects. It was clarified that cost recovery related to staff costs of regular programme staff charged to extrabudgetary projects. Such recovery was credited to the cost recovery account for use by the relevant units within the sector to implement their programmes. Regarding FITOCA, the representative of the Director-General stated that FITOCA covered indirect variable costs, in particular the administrative costs in Headquarters and field offices. It was further stated that the definition was included in document 182 EX/42, stating that the "programme support cost rate would only recover the support costs of Headquarters central services and field office administrative units and that all other costs should be charged directly to projects", which was in line with UNESCO's cost-recovery policy.

8.49 Member States requested that FITOCA management and oversight be further discussed by the Executive Board, together with a detailed annual report on the use of funds under the account. Member States reiterated their assertion that right from its establishment, FITOCA had been seen as recovering money lent from the regular programme budget to enable the implementation of extrabudgetary projects. They used the term regular programme subsidizing extrabudgetary projects. As such, it was indeed logical, dating back to the establishment of the FITOCA Special Account, that Member States should guide how the FITOCA resources were allocated and distributed. With that in mind, the resolution provided such guidance be given through regular reporting items to the Executive Board.

8.50 The draft resolution on the item was re-examined during the last meeting, upon the approval of the Member States, to take into account the financial and legal implications of the first iteration of the decision. It should be noted that the decision only affected Special Accounts and not Funds-in-Trusts, including self-benefiting funds-in-trust, which was particularly important in the case of the largest of those, Brazil's self-benefiting funds-in-trust, which was not a Special

Account.

8.51 Mr President, let me now move on to the items relating to the financial reports of the Organization. They are the financial report and audited consolidated financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the financial period ending 31 December 2013, and the report by the External Auditor and the financial report relating to the accounts ending 31 December 2014, and the report by the External Auditor. These are items 9.1 and 9.2, and were discussed together. Member States commended the External Auditor of our Organization, Mr Didier Migaud (France), for the high quality of his work. They also expressed satisfaction with his unqualified opinion regarding both accounting periods.

8.52 The External Auditor drew the attention of the Commission to the four main audit recommendations: (i) the need to amend the financial regulations and rules to ensure that financial statements could be approved on a yearly basis; (ii) to move from the use of a constant dollar rate to a rate closer to economic reality; (iii) to put in place a reliable long-term ASHI funding system; and (iv) to harmonize the accounting practices and information technology systems to increase the reliability of the consolidated financial statements.

8.53 The representative of the Director-General emphasized that the audited financial statements were prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and included all sources of funds of the Organization. The results showed net deficits in the 2013 and 2014 financial periods. In 2014, the deficit was 40% lower owing to improvements in the general fund and extrabudgetary funds. Revenue increased by 0.4%, mainly owing to the euro assessed contributions converted into United States dollars at a higher exchange rate in 2014. Expenses decreased mainly owing to employee expenses and other expenses, such as the foreign exchange losses variation. On performance by segment, the regular programme segment recorded a lower deficit of \$35.2 million, compared to \$64.5 million in 2013, which was largely attributable to an increase in revenue (more voluntary contributions and exchange rate variations) and a decrease in expenses, particularly a reduction of employee benefit expenses.

8.54 The Organization's overall net assets position, for the first time, was a negative -\$241.5 million, compared to a positive balance previously, in 2013, which meant that the Organization had more liabilities than assets. The negative position was attributable to the significant increase in the ASHI liability from \$0.7 billion in 2010 to \$1.3 billion in 2014. Outstanding assessed contributions from Member States had also increased from \$72 million in 2010 to \$353 million in 2014.

8.55 On the status of the five outstanding audit recommendations, three of them were subject to resolutions proposed for consideration at the current session of the General Conference. On a query about the exchange rate and the frequency of adjustments that would need to be made to adjust the exchange rate, the External Auditor reiterated the need to use a euro/dollar budget rate that was closer to economic reality in order to avoid all adjustments and inherent risks.

8.56 The External Auditor was also thanked for his work in highlighting the issues regarding the use of the Emergency Fund and the proposal to close it in 2015. Member States agreed with his assessment that the action would have been premature and contrary to the relevant regulations. Ultimately, the Emergency Fund was not closed, and its balance was proposed to support the programmes in the next biennium under the ZNG+ scenario. It was pointedly stated that the date of the opening of an account was the date of the opening of an account and no other interpretation was possible or appropriate. It was stressed that the General Conference should duly be informed of any breach of regulations.

8.57 Mr President, the last items on the agenda: item 5.2 "Follow-up of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations concerning the methods of work of UNESCO's intergovernmental bodies - Report by the External Auditor" and item 5.8 "Governance and working procedures and methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO" were discussed jointly.

8.58 The External Auditor presented the two documents, recalling the self-evaluation exercise that the Member States had submitted themselves to, and the audit methods and scope. The Auditor regretted the absence of a mapping/cartography of the various governing entities. Member States underlined the urgent need to improve governance and supported the creation of an open working group, which would examine the recommendations of the evaluation, requiring a more in-depth debate. Member States supported and echoed the draft resolution proposed in that regard.

8.59 Member States suggested topics for future audits to the External Auditor, whilst recalling that the External Auditor retained full independence to choose the topics based on his assessment of what was appropriate. Referring to the organizational change that had led to the creation of the Bureau of Financial Management (BFM), combining the former comptroller's office and the budget section, it was suggested that it would be worth verifying that the checks and balances within BFM were still valid, considering that the implementation of the budget and decisions on expenditures and the application of accountability framework were currently in the same service. Verification was also requested to ensure that the decisions taken by BFM complied with the regulations, with particular attention given to FITOCA.

8.60 Along with an evaluation of the 2011/12 road map, to see whether it had been completed, especially in respect to Executive Officer/Administrative Officer reform, an audit of the "conflict of interest" management in the Organization was requested. Further suggestions to the External Auditor concerned the "one dollar contracts", in particular on how the individuals were selected for that type of contract and what was the basis for their selection, how they were held accountable, in which sector they were managed, what was their mission and what was the real cost. In other words, if there were residency, travel, insurance or other costs associated with such contracts. Also questioned was whether they had diplomatic immunity, whether there were any reputational risks to the Organization associated with the use of one dollar contracts, and finally the geographical distribution of such contracts.

8.61 The External Auditor was also requested to make suggestions of priority areas for the investment plan in relation to the new “invest for efficient delivery fund” that the Secretariat was currently working on, for example, by suggesting the areas where there would be the best return on investment. The changes to the travel policy in 2011 were also highlighted and an audit of the impact of the policy and how it was implemented was called for. The External Auditor thanked the Member States for their suggestions and confirmed that a thorough analysis of their input would be made and taken into account to establish the audit plan for the next biennium.

8.62 Mr President, I would like to conclude this presentation by extending my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of the debates of the APX Commission. This is my final APX Commission report, after serving four years as Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission of the Executive Board and Chairperson of the APX Commission of the General Conference. I wish to congratulate all Member States on what we have achieved in that time, with consensus on every decision, including the tough ones like budgets, priorities and governance. But we always had a spirited and usually well-informed debate.

8.63 I also wish to thank the Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Karel Komárek of the Czech Republic, Ms Vera Lacoëuilhe of Saint Lucia, Mr Joshua Kalinoe of Papua New Guinea and Mr Sylvanus Makokha of Kenya. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the distinguished delegate of Germany, Mr Stefan Krawielicki, who chaired the working group on voting rights. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Islam of Bangladesh, for his presentation to the Commission.

8.64 Mr President, the rapid pace of the discussions and decisions taken in the APX Commission may have surprised some and I do believe that it was thanks to the excellent preparatory work that the Executive Board Members had undertaken, in turn duly assisted ably by the Preparatory Group. I suggested at the 37th session of the General Conference and I once again suggest that the General Conference next time schedule two days less for the APX Commission, even more so since the Executive Board will henceforth meet more regularly.

8.65 Now, in further expressing my gratitude I would also like extend my thanks to the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and all their representatives, in particular to Mr Tang, the Officer in charge of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) and Mr Le Saux the Deputy Director of BSP; the Director of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS); the Legal Adviser; the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources Management; the Director of the Bureau for the Management of Support Services (MSS); the Director of the Division of Knowledge Management and Information Systems (KMI), the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and all the other senior officials who assisted us. My thanks goes also to our interpreters and translators, conference room clerks and screen typists. I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who provided me, as the Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission of the Board over the last two years, with their help and advice, especially on the delicate work we undertook to strike a consensus on the budget scenario.

8.66 Mr President, in particular, I wish to thank you for your help and guidance and our productive exchanges and your support to the APX Commission, and last and by absolutely no means least I want to thank the Secretary of the APX Commission, Mr Sachin Bhatt, who has accompanied me in my work as FA Chair for four years. I also thank from the bottom of my heart his team, Juan, Olive, Eunice, Virginie, Emily and Raihana for their excellent support. Thank you very much.

9. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Ambassador Sudders, for your comprehensive presentation and for your very able stewardship of the work of the Commission. I believe it was a journey worth travelling. Are there any comments or objections on document 38 C/90? If there are no objections, may I assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the APX Commission and adopts the draft resolution contained in it, subject to the decisions that the General Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for the next biennium. I see no objection. *It is so decided.*

10. **Saint Lucia:**

I am not objecting Mr President. I want to speak after you.

11. **The President:**

You want to speak after the adoption? Thank you very much, Saint Lucia. Let me then invite Saint Lucia to take the floor.

12. **Saint Lucia:**

Mr President, I would just like to thank the Chairperson of the APX Commission for his report and express the gratitude of my delegation for his hard work and commitment to defending the values of the Organization. He has been a consensus builder on most complicated issues such as the one on the budget. The door of his FA/APX office has always been open to those of us who needed his assistance. Finally, through you, Mr President, I would like to thank Ambassador Sudders, the person, for his great spirit, humour, integrity and courage. Thank you.

13. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Indeed, your President here can attest to that, having been a Member of the Executive Board. So I wish to congratulate you, Ambassador Sudders, as Chairperson of the APX Commission and thank all the members of the Commission for the most efficient work.

Report of the Education Commission (ED) (38 C/91)

Rapport de la Commission Éducation (ED) (38 C/91)

Informe de la Comisión de Educación (ED) (38 C/91)

Доклад Комиссии по образованию (ED) (38 C/91)

تقرير لجنة التربية (ED) (38 C/91)

教育委员会 (ED) 的报告 (38 C/91)

14. The President:

Your Excellencies, the next item on our agenda for this afternoon is the report of the Education Commission. I would therefore like to give the floor to His Excellency, Mr Alexis Kalenius, Vice-Chairperson of the Education Commission, who will introduce the report contained in document 38 C/91 on behalf of the Commission. Sir, you have the floor.

15.1 Mr Kalenius (Finland) (Vice-Chairperson of the Education Commission):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The Education Commission of the 38th session of the General Conference has completed its proceedings and I have the privilege, on behalf of the Chairperson and the Commission, to submit to you the main conclusions of our three days of intensive and fruitful discussions, which successfully covered 13 agenda items.

15.2 Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, let me start by recalling briefly the opening of the Commission on Thursday 5 November. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson invited the Commission to weigh the significance of the current year and all that it represented for the international community, for education and for UNESCO. Significance because of the United Nations' and UNESCO's 70th birthday, and our 70 years' continued commitment to building peace in the minds of men and women along with the fundamental role of education in that process.

15.3 The Chairperson reminded the Commission of how 2015 had been a year calling for reflective and introspective assessments. It was the year in which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the education for all (EFA) goals came to a close. We have all assessed the successes – and the shortcomings – in reaching the targets. But 2015 was the year when countries worked to shape and adopt a new development agenda, concretized in September with the adoption of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

15.4 Education is central to the new sustainable development agenda, with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 seeking to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. Opening our deliberations, we had the benefit of the outcomes of the high-level meeting that took place on 4 November, where Ministers discussed the Education 2030 Agenda and adopted its Framework for Action.

15.5 The Chairperson called upon the Commission to view education not in isolation from other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but rather encouraged us all to consider that the realization of SDG 4 was essential for the success of all the others. The challenge ahead was both to give attention to the complex interrelationships between education and key development sectors and also to determine which education strategies, policies and programmes are most effectively linked to the economic, social, environmental and political priorities of the new sustainable development agenda as a whole.

15.6 Let me now turn to debate 1 and debate 4, the items of which were linked to Education 2030, including the role of UNESCO in the implementation of Education 2030, as well as more programmatic dimensions relating to the programme and budget of the Education Sector and the contribution of different stakeholders including youth. Four items were covered under the debates: item 3.4, “Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)”; item 4.14, “UNESCO's role in the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda”; item 4.5, “Conclusions of the Youth Forum” as regards education; and item 3.2, on the “Consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017” for Major Programme I – Education.

15.7 In introducing the debates, the Assistant Director-General for Education praised the achievements realized during the past two years in charting the Education 2030 Agenda. Recalling the long and thorough consultation process and the concerted efforts by the Member States and the global education community to promote a single, renewed education agenda, Education 2030, recognizing the unfinished business of EFA, yet going beyond, with a universal and holistic approach, the Assistant Director-General for Education also warned us that looking ahead, the real work was just about to start, as the implementation of Education 2030 would be a massive undertaking requiring all stakeholders' investment and engagement, with UNESCO playing a key role in the leadership and coordination.

15.8 The Assistant Director-General for Education recalled how document 38 C/54 outlined three key roles for UNESCO in the implementation of SDG 4: (i) leading coordination and partnership building; (ii) reviewing/monitoring and reporting progress towards the achievement of the education targets; and (iii) supporting the Member States in the implementation.

15.9 With regards to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5), the Assistant Director-General for Education laid forth how the Organization would further capitalize on its multidisciplinary expertise and enhance its intersectoral approach in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

15.10 Concerning the draft budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5), the Assistant Director-General for Education reminded the Education Commission that it was asked to adopt the budget allocation only for the next two years (2016-2017), with some minor programmatic changes taking into account recent developments, in particular Education 2030, as the last General Conference had adopted the quadrennial programme for 2014-2017.

15.11 The Assistant Director-General for Education explained the few adjustments introduced in the Education programme with the view to ensuring that the Sector was better “fit for purpose” to respond fully and effectively to Education 2030. He highlighted that those adjustments concerned mainly main line of action (MLA) 3, the title of which had been revised in the light of the 2030 Agenda and currently read “Leading and coordinating the Education 2030 Agenda through partnerships, monitoring and research”.

15.12 A total of 38 Member States and 10 observers participated in the first debate on draft document 39 C/5, Education 2030 and the Youth Forum, while 15 Member States took the floor to share their views during the fourth debate regarding the draft budget of document 38 C/5.

15.13 The Commission expressed its appreciation for the leadership of the Director-General in developing Education 2030 and its Framework for Action. Many delegates voiced their support to UNESCO’s role as leader and coordinator of Education 2030. Delegates also supported the adoption of the draft budget and the review of the main line of action, which they considered reflected well the high priority given to education by the Organization and its role in leading and coordinating Education 2030. Furthermore, its role as standard-setter through its normative instruments in areas such as higher education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) was emphasized.

15.14 Many Member States also expressed their full commitment to the new Education 2030 Agenda. The fundamental responsibility of the Members States in the implementation of Education 2030 was reiterated by many Member States and observers. They emphasized that UNESCO had a critical role in supporting the Member States in the implementation of the agenda.

15.15 The Education Commission urged the Director-General to clearly define how UNESCO would implement Education 2030, using the adopted Framework for Action as a reference for its programmes, and how it would contribute to the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In that context, the Commission requested UNESCO to communicate to the Member States the new structure that would be put in place to implement Education 2030.

15.16 The Commission also encouraged the Organization to further pursue results-based management (RBM) and highlighted the importance of monitoring and favouring the outputs of its programmes to assess their viability in the walk towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

15.17 In addition, the Education Commission strongly urged UNESCO to support the implementation of Education 2030 in close partnership with the existing UNESCO networks such as category 1 institutes, category 2 centres, UNESCO National Commissions, UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training and UNEVOC Network, University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN), Global Network of Learning Cities, Goodwill Ambassadors and Special Envoys.

15.18 The comparative advantage of UNESCO in the field of monitoring and statistics relating to education was also highlighted by many members of the Commission. The delegates urged UNESCO to collect relevant data with the view to informing decision making. In that regard, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) was considered as a key player. The work of the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* (GMR), which had been renamed *Global Education Monitoring Report* (GEM Report) was also appreciated. Many delegates stressed that sufficient funds and human resources should be allocated to both UIS and the GEM Report.

15.19 In that context, the role of UNESCO in supporting the Member States in developing the capacity for collecting data, managing statistics and monitoring in the field of education was considered by the delegates to be of utmost importance. The Commission encouraged UNESCO to support the development of national education statistics services.

15.20 The importance of promoting lifelong learning and quality education was reiterated by many delegates. Education as a fundamental human right and the importance of bridging formal, non-formal and informal education were stressed by a number of delegates. Qualified teachers were considered of critical importance in delivering quality education. The Commission urged UNESCO to pay particular attention to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and to reinforcing the relationship between education and the world of work. Delegates also called for the consideration of linkages between early childhood care and education, including the implications on learners’ performances. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) were mentioned by many delegates as drivers for promoting access to and quality of education. The critical role of parents in participating in the education processes of children was highlighted by several observers.

15.21 UNESCO’s work on global citizenship education (GCED) and education for sustainable development (ESD) were also appreciated and the Commission urged UNESCO to continue its efforts and work to promote those areas. Promotion of cultural diversity in view of fostering global citizenship was considered to be one of the fields in which UNESCO should contribute through greater intersectoral cooperation.

15.22 Many members of the Education Commission stressed that the focus of Education 2030 should be on the vulnerable and marginalized, girls and women, children and indigenous people. Several Member States commended the two global priorities of UNESCO: global priority Africa and global priority gender equality. Delegates urged UNESCO to continue prioritizing countries in Africa and small island developing States. The importance of South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation in that regard was emphasized.

15.23 The importance of involving youth in the decision-making processes of UNESCO was highlighted. The contribution of youth through the UNESCO Youth Forum was well appreciated and the recommendations by the Youth Forum encouraging schools to be seen as learning communities were welcomed. The Commission suggested that platforms be provided for young people to participate in Education 2030.

15.24 Finally, the central role of education in contributing to the implementation of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was highlighted. UNESCO's unique mandate of working in the fields of education, culture, science and communications was considered to be an important comparative advantage. Many Member States urged UNESCO to improve its intersectoral cooperation with a view to fostering its contribution across the SDGs, in particular in the areas of health, democracy, gender and climate change.

15.25 In his response, the Assistant Director-General for Education warmly thanked all the delegates for their comments and wide appreciation for UNESCO's work and their support of its leadership and coordination role for the implementation of Education 2030. Taking careful note of their demands and visions during the debates, he referred to the summaries prepared by the secretariats of each commission to be submitted at the last joint meeting of commissions on 18 November, as the first phase of a series of consultations, which would lead to the formulation of the Director-General's preliminary proposals concerning document 39 C/5.

15.26 He also responded to the concern expressed as to how to start addressing the major challenges in implementing the new agenda by emphasizing how UNESCO, using its convening power, strategically positioned itself as a platform, inviting Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to be part of the steering committee for Education 2030, the new mechanism for coordination, and by reaffirming the Education Sector's commitment to strengthen an intersectoral approach, together with other sectors, also drawing on the Organization's comparative advantages.

15.27 The proposed resolution on UNESCO's role in the implementation of Education 2030 was adopted with amendments proposed by some Member States.

15.28 The Commission adopted the draft resolutions relating to Major Programme I and its seven category 1 institutes, contained in volume I of document 38 C/5 as amended by documents 38 C/6, 38C/6 Addendum and 38 C/6 Addendum 2, as well as orally by the Commission. The five draft resolutions submitted by Member States, as contained in document 38 C/8 regarding Major Programme I were all adopted by the Commission, some taking into account the Director-General's observations.

15.29 Following adoption of those draft resolutions, the Commission moved to the second debate which included two items, namely item 6.3 related to the preliminary report concerning the preparation of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications, and item 7.8 on the consolidated report on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education.

15.30 Some 27 Member States and 1 observer took the floor to address the two items. Many Member States welcomed the preliminary report concerning the preparation of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications and its findings. Strong support was expressed by almost all Member States taking the floor in favour of the development of such a global convention. In addition, a number of countries stated their readiness and desire to participate in the drafting committee to be convened.

15.31 The need for such a global standard-setting instrument was highlighted by some States in the absence of any legally binding framework at the international level regulating the recognition of higher education qualifications. Furthermore, the initiative was recognized by many as being more relevant than ever, given the current context of the migrant crisis and rising numbers of refugees. The future instrument's potential to support and accompany academic and professional mobility was praised.

15.32 The envisaged process was commended for how it would contribute to increasing transparency, quality, equity and reciprocity by many States. Quality assurance was one of the key principles that was underlined, so as to ensure that recognition mechanisms were reliable and trusted. In improving quality assurance systems, the instrument would also become a tool against fraud.

15.33 The diversity of national education systems as well as other local specificities, such as national government structures, led several Member States to call for a flexible approach, emphasizing common values but allowing regional and national differences to be taken into consideration.

15.34 One of the dominant and recurrent views expressed was that of the importance of the regional conventions. Their implementation needed to be further strengthened and their revision processes continued. Many agreed that the development of a global convention should take into consideration the already existing regional ones and build upon them, identifying common principles but also examining the specificities, given the importance of not having contradictions between the regional and global conventions.

15.35 Member States called upon UNESCO to strengthen the capacity building offered to further develop the higher education system at the national level as well as for the functioning of the regional conventions. The consultative process outlined in the report received broad support. Some Member States expressed concerns over the costs issues implied in the development and especially the implementation of such a global convention.

15.36 In his response, the representative of the Director-General thanked Member States for their broad support for the work on the global instrument and took due note of the reserves expressed by Member States, in particular the need for general principles allowing the accommodation of local specificities, as well as the importance of continued support for the ongoing process of revising the regional conventions. Responding to the concerns regarding the funding – a preoccupation for the Secretariat also – he recalled that the implementation of a global instrument would rely on the existing structures put in place for the regional instruments, but did also express his hope that Member States would be attentive to the additional funding needs.

15.37 The draft resolution concerning the preparation of a global convention was adopted with amendments by several Member States, and the draft resolution concerning the consolidated report on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation was adopted with the amendments made by the Legal Committee as well as an additional amendment proposed by one Member State.

15.38 The third debate addressed the implementation of 37 C/Resolution 67 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories. The proposed resolution on the item was adopted without debate. Six Member States made statements on the item after the adoption of the resolution.

15.39 Fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, as I already summarized debate four at the outset of this report, we shall now turn to debate five which included the examination of two revised normative instruments: the Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education and the Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

15.40 The representative of the Director-General started to introduce the items by reminding the Commission of the consultation and drafting processes followed since the 37th session of the General Conference where it was decided to undertake their revision. Some 22 Member States and 5 observers expressed their views on the items.

15.41 Broad support for the revision of both recommendations was expressed, welcoming the suggested changes to their texts, which were deemed to accurately reflect the realities and challenges, as well as national priorities. Both were considered, as new international standards, crucial to accompanying the implementation of Education 2030.

15.42 Member States expressed their satisfaction with the consultation processes and commended UNESCO and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) for the synergies they enabled for the development of both texts and the comprehensiveness, depth and innovativeness of the consultations.

15.43 Several delegates called upon all Member States to ensure that the provisions of the recommendations would be integrated into national legislations, policies, and be financed so as to not remain merely aspirational. Specificities of Member States and their local conditions were recalled to emphasize the need for flexibility in the implementation of the recommendations.

15.44 The importance of developing lifelong learning, including through the recognition, validation and accreditation of non-formal and informal learning, through the establishment of national qualifications frameworks and through the development of pathways and permeable systems was repeatedly stressed by Member States, commending the recommendations for their perspectives on that.

15.45 In light of how technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and adult learning and education both fell within the remit of various sectors and required the engagement of various stakeholders, Member States commended the recommendations for underlining the importance of intersectoral policies, inter-ministerial work and stakeholders' involvement.

15.46 The recognition of the diversity of forms of learning encompassed in both texts, as well as the promotion of the use of information and communication technology (ICTs) and online forms of education and learning were warmly welcomed. Specific importance was given to the development of teaching and training staff, as well as to ensure that TVET and adult learning and education truly included all, comprising marginalized and vulnerable people, in particular girls and women. The establishment of an informal group called "Friends of TVET", with the purpose of sharing experiences in the area, was mentioned and an invitation was extended to all Member States to support the group. The work accomplished by the UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC) was also appreciated and deemed as essential for supporting the Member States in the implementation of the Recommendation.

15.47 In their responses, the representatives of the Director-General thanked Member States for their appreciation of both the consultation processes and outcomes. With regard to the Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education, the representative of the Director-General indicated how its monitoring and promotion would be a part of the monitoring of the Belem Framework for Action. The Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) would be given due attention in the development of a new TVET strategy, which would identify new approaches and avenues to implement and monitor the Recommendation. The two draft resolutions were adopted, each as amended by one Member State.

15.48 Debate 6 covered items relating to the management of the education-related category 1 institutes, and to the establishment of two new category 2 institutes and centres. Presentations of reports on the 2014-2015 activities were given by the chairpersons or the representatives of the governing boards of six UNESCO category 1 institutes in education, namely: the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE); the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), the UNESCO Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA); and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP).

15.49 The report of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) was presented by the Director of the Institute. The institutes' presentations were followed by a presentation by the Director of the UNESCO Office in Santiago de Chile on the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC). When introducing the items under debate, the Assistant Director-General for Education recalled some background elements, namely the comprehensive review of the then six education-related category 1 institutes jointly undertaken by the Education Sector and UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) with a view to identifying ways to improve their management, as well as the report by the External Auditor on the governance and financial reporting of the institutes. He then explained how the Education Sector had duly taken into consideration the

recommendations of IOS and the External Auditor, by accomplishing steady progress in improving the management of the education-related category 1 institutes in three key areas, namely (i) programme management and coordination; (ii) financial and budget management; and (iii) human resources management.

15.50 Twenty Member States took the floor for the debate and the discussions that ensued showed the overall appreciation of Member States for the Institute's work. Tribute was paid to the work done to make management more transparent and UNECO was encouraged to continue implementing the recommendations of IOS and the External Auditor. A call was made to clarify the mandates so as to avoid duplication and foster each institute's specific role in contributing to Education 2030 in complementary ways.

15.51 The importance of IESALC as the only category 1 institute in higher education was recalled by many Member States, especially those from the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

15.52 The representative of the Director-General took due note of the importance of making sure there would be no duplication in the implementation of Education 2030, in which the institutes had an important role to play. He mentioned the six-year strategic plan developed for IESALC with the view to ensuring sustainable core funding. He also welcomed, for IITE, the willingness by the host country to provide further core funding. The draft resolution on the management of the education-related category 1 institutes, including the revisions to the statutes of IBE and IITE, were approved with an amendment by one Member State.

15.53 The second agenda item under the debate dealt with the proposals for the establishment of two category 2 centres, one in Bangladesh – namely the International Mother Language Institute – and the other in China – namely the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation. The proposals to establish the centres were supported by several Member States and the item was adopted without debate.

15.54 Ladies and gentlemen, let me now turn to our seventh and last debate, which covered item **4.18** concerning the proclamation of 5 November as "World Day of Romani Language". One Member State and one observer expressed support for the draft resolution, which was adopted without amendments.

15.55 Distinguished delegates, I have now completed my presentation on the work of the Education Commission. Allow me to conclude my presentation by congratulating the members of the Commission for a very participatory meeting with intense and constructive debates, which, I believe, will now allow the Education Sector to move forward as it embarks on the demanding journey towards 2030. I would also like to thank the representative of the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for Education, Mr Qian Tang, for the useful clarifications he provided to the Commission, which allowed it to carry out its work. Let me also thank the members of the secretariat of the ED Commission for their dedication and professionalism. I thank you for your attention.

16. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency for the presentation. Are there any comments or suggestions on this report? May I then consider that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Education Commission. Dominican Republic, you have the floor.

17. **Dominican Republic:**

Gracias, señor Presidente. Desearía felicitar a la Comisión de Educación por el trabajo realizado y dirigirme personalmente a su Presidenta, Kris Rampersad, que ejerció esas funciones en representación del GRULAC e imprimió su dinámica a los trabajos de esa Comisión, cuyos resultados fueron muy exitosos, con opiniones muy favorables por parte de los Estados Miembros. Le pediría especialmente que esta observación de la República Dominicana figurara en las Actas. Muchísimas gracias.

(17) **Dominican Republic** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Mr President. I wish to congratulate the Commission on Education for the work it has performed and, in particular, its Chairperson, Kris Rampersad, who carried out that function on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and brought her dynamism to the Commission's work. The results were very successful, with Member States expressing very positive opinions. I wish to request specifically that these remarks by the Dominican Republic appear in the record of the meeting. Thank you.

18. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Indeed, we have taken note of that comment. Any further interventions? I see none. Belize.

19. **Belize:**

Thank you Mr President. I wish to thank the presenters of the APX Commission and Education Commission reports, particularly the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of those commissions. They have done a wonderful job. Mr President, I wish to especially mention Ambassador Sudders. He is a brilliant young man who I have grown to admire and I hope he will vie for other leadership roles at UNESCO. I wish to give particular and special mention to my distinguished colleague from Trinidad and Tobago, Ms Kris Ramprasad. Ms Ramprasad has done such a stellar job. She was resolute, composed, humorous, distinguished, competent, excellent, articulate, abled and qualified. I saw her in person myself. She performed exemplarily, with fidelity and zeal, and this is the same way I have seen her perform on the Executive Board, especially when she took the chair of the PX Commission as Vice-Chair. Ms Ramprasad has given of her time and talent selflessly and I hold her in high esteem. I wish to congratulate her on her team for her extraordinary service, not just for Trinidad and Tobago but also, as the Dominican Republic said, for the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), and not just GRULAC, she was also doing service for the world, since we are the world. Thank you very much, Mr President.

20.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much. Indeed, we are the world. May I then consider that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Education Commission and hereby adopts the draft resolutions proposed in document 38 C/91, subject to the decision that the Conference may take when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for 2016-2017? Thank you very much. *It is so decided.* I wish to once again congratulate all members of the Education Commission under the able leadership of the Chairperson for their good work and the efficiency with which they tackled their agenda.

20.2 Dear colleagues, we have thus finished our work for today. As mentioned at the beginning of this meeting, there will be no plenary session tomorrow. The plenary will reconvene on Monday, 16 November 2015, at 10 a.m. for the Leaders' Forum. We will have the great honour to receive several heads of State and government on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. I would strongly recommend that you be in Room I at 9.45 a.m. sharp so as to welcome our distinguished visitors. I will now give the floor to the Secretary who will provide some information on this particular event.

21. **Le Secrétaire:**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. À l'occasion du Forum des dirigeants de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, les 16 et 17 novembre, la Conférence générale recevra, le lundi 16 novembre, les Présidents de la République islamique d'Iran, de la Bulgarie, du Cameroun, de l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, du Gabon, de la Libye, de la Lituanie et de la Mongolie. Le mardi 17 novembre, la Conférence générale recevra le Premier Ministre du Bangladesh, puis les Présidents de Malte, de l'Azerbaïdjan, du Mali et de la France. Le programme détaillé du Forum des dirigeants et des interventions des hautes personnalités gouvernementales qui s'y exprimeront sera affiché sur les écrans et dans le bulletin d'information des délégués en ligne.

21.2 S'agissant de la soirée de célébration du 70^e anniversaire de notre Organisation, le 16 novembre, la cérémonie commencera par un concert de l'Orchestre mondial pour la paix (World Peace Orchestra), proclamé « Artiste pour la paix de l'UNESCO », à 19 heures dans la salle I. Ensuite, la Directrice générale et trois anciens directeurs généraux de l'Organisation, MM. M'Bow, Mayor et Matsuura, feront une allocution pour célébrer cet anniversaire.

21.3 La cérémonie sera suivie, à 20 h 45, du lancement d'une projection multimédia unique sur les façades du bâtiment du Siège de l'UNESCO, visible de la piazza Suffren, du hall Ségur, du restaurant du 7^e étage ainsi que de l'avenue de Lowendal. La projection architecturale, d'un cycle de 15 minutes, sera rediffusée en continu jusqu'à minuit. Les délégués pourront venir voir la projection le 17 novembre aussi, de 18 heures à minuit. La projection sera montrée une dernière fois le 18 novembre, à partir de 18 heures jusqu'à minuit également.

21.4 Enfin, la cérémonie de remise du prix international UNESCO-Guinée équatoriale pour la recherche en sciences de la vie aura lieu demain, samedi 14 novembre, à 15 heures, en présence de S. E. M. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Président de la Guinée équatoriale. La salle I devant être réaménagée pour préparer cette cérémonie, tous les délégués sont invités à retirer leurs effets personnels et documents et à ne rien laisser dans la salle dès la clôture de cette séance plénière. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

22. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Before I adjourn the meeting, let me remind you, dear delegates, Your Excellencies, that the voting is still open in Room IV. Please, those of you who have not yet voted, before you leave, we kindly request you to go and submit your vote. On that note, *this meeting is now adjourned.* Thank you very much and have a lovely weekend.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.
La séance est levée à 17 h 55
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55
Заседание закрывается в 17.55
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٥,٥٥ بعد الظهر
会议于 17 时 55 分结束*

Fourteenth plenary meeting

Monday 16 November 2015 at 10.15 a.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Quatorzième séance plénière

Lundi 16 novembre 2015 à 10 h 15
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Decimocuarta sesión plenaria

Lunes 16 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.15
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Четырнадцатое пленарное заседание

понедельник 16 ноября 2015 г. в 10.15
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الرابعة عشرة

الاثنين ١٦ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ١٠,١٥ صباحا
الرئيس: السيد **سيماتاا** (ناميبيا)

第十四次全体会议

2015年11月16日星期一 10时15分
主席: **Simataa 先生** (纳米比亚)

Leaders' Forum
Forum des dirigeants
Foro de dirigentes
Форум руководителей
منتدى القادة
领导人论坛

1.1 The President:

Thank you very much. Good morning ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the fourteenth plenary meeting of the General Conference which will be devoted to the Leaders' Forum. Your Excellencies, heads of State, heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends. I am certain that all 195 Member States of UNESCO share our sentiment of shock and deep sadness in the aftermath of the atrocious terrorist attacks which struck this beautiful city on Friday evening. Violent extremists targeted the most beautiful things – girls and boys enjoying a rock concert, families watching a friendly football match, young couples having dinner in a street café, or just strolling down the beautiful streets of Paris.

1.2 Over 100 people have been shot dead, deprived of their future and deprived of their dreams. Hundreds of millions of men and women around the world are in a state of shock. These horrible events show clearly just how far away we are, as a civilization, from the ideals of perpetual peace, of a world in harmony, a world where dialogue prevails. They also show, very clearly, what UNESCO still needs to do, and how relevant UNESCO's mandate remains. As I said in my statement of solidarity with France: terrorists were not born terrorists, but have become so. Human beings are not born evil but are oriented in evil ways.

1.3 Excellencies, in order to pay respect to the innocent victims of terrorism in Paris and around the world, I propose to hold a minute of silence at 12 p.m. later today. This is the moment when the whole host country will come to a standstill to send a message of peace and pay tribute to the memory of the fallen innocent victims. The General Conference of UNESCO will thus show its solidarity with the French people and their Government. Before I invite our distinguished speakers this morning, please allow me to say a few words of welcome at this Leaders' Forum of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Address by the President of the 38th session of the General Conference

Allocution du Président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale

Discurso pronunciado por el Presidente de la 38^a reunión de la Conferencia General

Выступление Председателя 38-й сессии Генеральной конференции

كلمة رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

大会第三十八届会议主席致辞

2.1 The President:

Your Excellencies, heads of State and government, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Honourable Ministers and heads of delegations, Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates to UNESCO, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. I have the honour, as President of the 38th session of the General Conference, to open this special and historic session of the Leaders Forum.

2.2 First and foremost, I wish to express, on behalf of the UNESCO Member States, our deepest sympathy for the victims of the spate of terrorist attacks over the past week – stretching from Lebanon, to Iraq, and in particular the deadly attacks last Friday in Paris, France. In particular, I would like to express our sincere condolences and profound solidarity to the French people and their Government, as well as the other nations that lost nationals during the attacks.

2.3 Notwithstanding the tragic events of last Friday, we are gathered here today, as nations under the banner of UNESCO, on our 70th anniversary, to proclaim to the world that the human spirit shall never be suppressed. That humanity's yearning for peace, tolerance and mutual coexistence must be resurrected. We therefore reaffirm the strength of the United Nations' solidarity, as the attacks in Paris brought new dimensions not only to the veracity of anti-terrorism interventions in this country, but also to the worldwide response that they will trigger.

2.4 Clearly, no single country or organization can address today's complex challenges alone. Collective and synchronized global action is called for. We need therefore, to embrace multilateralism and adopt joint actions to address complex challenges facing humanity today.

2.5 Seventy years after the birth of UNESCO and the United Nations, expectations are high among Member States and the peoples of the world for our Organization to deliver. The world is currently facing many challenges, including extremism and radicalization, extreme poverty and unprecedented human-made and natural disasters. In the field of education, the sciences, culture and communication, UNESCO's mandate and actions are urgently needed to address complex issues of our times and rescue the fate of humanity as a whole.

2.6 Today, we celebrate the accomplishments of the Organization, however conscious of the imperative to revive the power of the inspiration that guided the founding fathers and mothers of our Organization. We need to rekindle their sense of hope and vision for an equitable and sustainable future. This is the expectation of our peoples as enunciated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2.7 Our Organization has demonstrated its vast experience in education, from planning to quality, from education for

sustainable development to education for global citizenship and education to fight extremism. UNESCO and its Member States should continue to promote equitable quality education as the key to building a fairer, more peaceful and more harmonious world.

2.8 UNESCO has been strengthening the scientific basis for the protection of the environment and for the sustainable use of natural resources while enhancing the dissemination of scientific knowledge worldwide. We should continue to promote the role of the sciences to understand the dynamics of our environment, and to develop technologies to enhance our health and quality of life.

2.9 UNESCO has been fostering the production of knowledge on social transformations and enhancing the relevance of social science research to influence evidence-based policy-making and development. The Organization should continue to pursue its commitment to identify new approaches to social challenges and issues, particularly the growing inequalities.

2.10 UNESCO has been a key player in promoting the role of culture as an enabler and a driver of sustainable development, a role now duly recognized by the international community. We should continue to promote heritage preservation and protection and the development of creative industries to contribute to inclusive and social development.

2.11 UNESCO has been committed to promoting freedom of expression and an open knowledge society. We should continue to do so in order to bridge the digital divide and to facilitate free flow of information and ideas and ensure access to information and knowledge. UNESCO, as a laboratory of ideas operating at the global, regional, national and local levels, should consistently provide leadership in the Organization's core functions: it must serve as a forum for international cooperation and intellectual exchange.

2.12 UNESCO's convening power should be maximized and should continue to be a reference worldwide. UNESCO must keep abreast with emerging issues and stimulate research and actions. Our Organization is both a technical and operational United Nations agency, which cannot become an agency that only deals with symbols, but also with very practical, operational results on the ground, to the benefit of the nations, communities and individuals, who are the prime beneficiaries of our operations.

2.13 UNESCO, founded from the rubble of the Second World War in response to a yearning for universal peace and cooperation, has been proclaiming its resolute belief in the dignity and value of each human being without any distinction, and in equality between woman and man. We have an eternal obligation to honour and respect that yearning. As we turn to the future, we must keep that promise, and keep on realising it in our lifetimes.

2.14 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Kalu Ndukwe Kalu once said: "The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy". Let us pursue the vision of UNESCO's founding fathers and mothers 70 years ago. Let us pursue and create a lasting legacy for future generations. Let us pursue equitable and sustainable human development. Let us pledge to pursue the ideals of our Organization for the good of humanity. On that note, once again, Your Excellencies, welcome and thank you very much for having joined us this morning. I thank you for your attention.

2.15 I now have the pleasure of inviting the Director-General to offer her message of welcome. Madam Director-General, you now have the floor.

3.1 **The Director-General:**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, heads of State and government, Ministers, Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen. One hundred and twenty-nine people killed in cold blood. Three hundred and fifty-two people wounded – a city and a country in a state of emergency, a world shocked. The results of the barbarous terrorist attacks on 13 November in Paris are tragic and they reached across the globe.

3.2 On behalf of UNESCO and in my own name, I wish to renew my sympathy, solidarity and condolences with the people of France and express our support to the families and friends of those who lost their lives. This criminal, barbaric act of violence affects us all. It attacks what is most dear to us: freedom, human rights, our sense of belonging, our very sense of humanity. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this is an attack against the humanity we share and this is why it is so horrendous. We can never accept this. We can never give in. We must stand together with France, with all women and men, with all societies. And we must be clear – these attacks oppose violent extremists and those who believe in living together; they oppose those who disseminate hatred and division and those who believe in compassion, tolerance, diversity and unity.

3.3 This violence reminds us of the vulnerability of all societies today. It reminds us also of our resilience. It reminds us of the unshakeable power of our aspiration for peace. This aspiration took form 70 years ago on precisely this day, 16 November 1945, at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London. UNESCO was born in the wake of a war, seeking human rights and dignity as never before in reaction to violent extremism, racism and anti-Semitism. This Organization was born from the conviction that we needed new ways to build peace through solidarity, through respect and mutual understanding, respect for human rights and human dignity through education, culture, the sciences, communication and information.

3.4 Today, we must counter a threat that is fueled by an exclusive vision of the world and identity based on false interpretations of faith, hatred of others, ignorance and intolerance. This requires soft power as well. This is why we must never tire in repeating the opening lines of the UNESCO Constitution: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men [and women] that the defenses of peace must be constructed". This is the DNA of our Organization and this has never been so urgent, so relevant or so important.

(The Director-General continues in French)

3.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, cela n'a de sens de nous réunir aujourd'hui que si nous savons transformer notre douleur en une force collective pour la paix. Si nous savons nous projeter à long terme et développer ensemble une réponse adaptée à ce danger mortel qui ne connaît pas de frontières et peut frapper n'importe où.

3.6 L'extrémisme violent a tué cette année à Paris, à Copenhague, à Ankara, à Tunis, à Beyrouth, dans le ciel du Sinaï et ailleurs. Dans leur écrasante majorité, les victimes des attentats de vendredi étaient jeunes, entre 20 et 30 ans. Ils ont été tués par d'autres jeunes, âgés eux aussi de 20 à 30 ans. Comment comprendre cette jeunesse qui cède à l'idéologie de la mort ? Comment répondre à ce mépris de la vie humaine ? L'UNESCO a une responsabilité particulière à assumer, une mission particulière à remplir au sein du système des Nations Unies. Il faut revenir aux sources de la radicalisation, combattre l'extrémisme là où il prend ses racines – dans l'esprit des jeunes, à l'école ; renforcer l'éducation aux droits humains par un effort mondial sans précédent pour accompagner les professeurs ; revoir les manuels, transmettre les valeurs dans la classe et au-dehors – et c'est possible si nous le décidons ; enseigner la diversité des cultures, l'histoire des religions ; ne pas laisser les enfants grandir dans l'ignorance et dans les préjugés ; refonder notre logiciel de transmission d'une culture de la paix ; équiper les gens des outils et de l'esprit critique indispensables pour résister à la propagande qui se déverse sur l'Internet et ailleurs ; leur apprendre à utiliser les médias ; savoir repérer les signes avant-coureurs de la radicalisation ; s'appuyer beaucoup plus fortement sur tous les relais de la jeunesse, les familles, les artistes, les nouveaux médias, au-delà des institutions traditionnelles ; apporter l'éducation dans les zones de conflit, dans les camps de réfugiés, où des millions d'adolescents laissés à eux-mêmes sont vulnérables aux fausses promesses des groupes armés qui se nourrissent du sang de la jeunesse.

3.7 Le fanatisme, « cette peste de l'âme » dont parle Voltaire, doit se combattre par toutes les armes de l'esprit, par les forces de la raison. Et c'est notre devoir de défaire l'extrémisme violent, comme les fondateurs de cette Maison ont su tracer un cap pour empêcher le retour du totalitarisme génocidaire nazi. C'est aussi pour cette raison que nous avons souhaité maintenir ce Forum des dirigeants en accord avec la France, notre État hôte, en hommage aux victimes, en hommage au sang-froid des citoyens ordinaires qui témoignent de leur volonté de rester debout. Et c'est déjà une réponse définitive à l'idéologie mortifère des extrémistes. Cette force-là doit s'exprimer autrement que dans des marches solennelles et des gerbes de fleurs. Nous avons tous un rôle à jouer pour faire entendre la voix de la vie, de la pensée, de la culture, des droits de l'homme, de l'esprit libre des êtres humains, et les dirigeants réunis aujourd'hui à l'UNESCO ont marqué, par leur présence, leur volonté d'y contribuer. Je vous remercie.

4. The President:

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General, for your very inspiring words. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our first speaker this morning is His Excellency, Mr Rosen Plevneliev, President of Bulgaria.

5.1 Mr Plevneliev (President of Bulgaria):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Today, we were supposed to gather here on a joyous occasion, the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Sadly, the agenda has changed.

5.2 On 13 November, Paris, the city of light, went dark. Paris, the city of music and laughter, fell silent. Shock and terror reigned on the streets. More than 100 innocent people lost their lives in deadly terrorist attacks. But Parisians are people who enjoy and celebrate life. Parisians are masters of their souls. Parisians cherish the freedom of being themselves, in choosing their friends, regardless of the colour of their skin, religion, culture or origin. *Liberté, égalité et fraternité* are the very foundation of their and our way of life. We all choose the world heritage and the world culture to be shared, cherished and celebrated as Parisians do. The morning after the attacks, the people of Paris and the world went on the streets, saying firmly "no" to fear, refusing to change who we are and what we believe in. We all choose life, because we are all Parisians. We all choose light, we all choose freedom and joy because we are all Parisians.

5.3 Dear friends, terrorist attacks all over the world have shown that violent extremism transcends national borders. No one is immune and no one is safe. It is time to act together and address the causes for terrorism not just the consequences. No one on our planet is born a terrorist. Terrorists are created. Social exclusion, inequality and lack of access to basic human rights are what fuels hatred and division. There are many young people that have no jobs, no perspective and no goal in life. Radicalism is just a step away. Today's social integration policies need to be improved and become more inclusive. Marginalization has no ethnicity, no religion or skin colour. We must adopt policies and measures that would prevent the radicalization of marginalized groups and ensure their better integration in local societies through education, dialogue and active citizenship. Marginalization is what allows extremist and radical groups such as Daesh to penetrate into our societies and strike where it hurts the most – our values, our way of life. Marginalization contributes to ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world and fuels the spread of radical ideologies.

5.4 Terrorist fighters will be certainly defeated by the international antiterrorist coalition. But the ideology of terrorism cannot be defeated by weapons. It could be defeated by better ideas, by education and tolerant societies. Only by putting aside short-sighted national interests and by uniting against this global menace, will we win this fight. No doubt we will win the war against terrorism. But most importantly we need to win the peace in the conflict areas. We need a comprehensive, multilateral and all-inclusive approach. Close cooperation is needed not only between governments and law enforcement institutions, but also with civil society, local communities, media and private sector to ensure durable and viable solutions. The international community has to upgrade the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and once again reaffirm its commitment to the fight against terrorism. An urgent adoption of a new results-oriented roadmap is of utmost importance. It is time we invest more efforts in institution building, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Providing an economic perspective on site for conflict-affected countries and societies is of primary

importance. This is the responsibility of the entire international community. Having recovered from two world wars, united Europe has the experience and the capacity to be the leader of this international effort.

5.5 Our democracies certainly are not perfect. They do not always function well. But it is democracy that makes us strong, that makes us free and human. Our strength is unity and shared values. Our weapon is integration. Only integration makes human progress possible. We need more, not less integration in Europe today. The modern history of Europe is a history of cooperation, of diplomacy and of technological progress, not of wars and conflicts. The modern history of Europe gives a unique example to the world that peace is only possible when nations reach such a level of integration and cooperation that makes future war impossible. Nations are strong not because of their armies and weapons, but because of their talent and their culture. The success of a country is not measured by territory and moving borders, but by the success of ordinary people. In this difficult moment we certainly need a strong political leadership and active citizens. We need leaders who understand that differences should be resolved peacefully. We need leaders who support and upgrade the world order and do not destroy the international order. We want to see principles, not interests to prevail on the global stage.

5.6 Dear friends, UNESCO is a unique organization and has an important role to play. We have all the right tools - promoting cultural and religious dialogue, preventing youth radicalization through education for all, sharing scientific knowledge for the better future of humanity. For 70 years "building peace in the minds of men and women" has been UNESCO's mission; the "diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace" its *raison d'être*. Throughout the years, this unique Organization has become the leading international forum dedicated to the protection of humankind's spiritual and cultural heritage. It has helped address numerous challenges, throughout the world, through dialogue and respect for different opinions. It has helped and it has solved many of the world's problems. It has taught us to respect and promote human dignity and equality and to cherish cultural and religious diversity. It is time to invest more in and support more the unique role of UNESCO and give a boost to its resources to educate, to share more cultural diversity in order to ensure a just and sustainable future for everyone.

5.7 The deliberate destruction of world cultural heritage sites by terrorists is a severe blow to human civilization. Let us pay a special tribute to UNESCO for its tremendous work in protecting cultural heritage in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and all over the world, and fighting globally the trafficking of cultural artifacts.

5.8 Dear friends, five years since its beginning, the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to represent a major threat to international peace and stability. The ongoing hostilities in several conflict zones have forced millions to leave their homes on a perilous journey to safety. Instead of being in the classroom, hundreds of thousands of children are crossing the Mediterranean, putting their future on the line. Hundreds of thousands are currently at Europe's doorstep asking for nothing else but the right to live in peace and dignity.

5.9 Unfortunately, nationalism and populism in Europe is on the rise again. Feeding on people's fears, nationalistic parties are currently growing stronger, promoting intolerance, hatred and xenophobia. Let us not allow them to use last Friday's attacks for short-term political goals. Closing our borders to those who are different from us, whose life is in danger, and forgetting Europe's core values will be the biggest mistake of united Europe. If we do that, it means terrorists have won. It means that Paris will never be the same – a city of bright lights, of tolerance, of mutual respect and multicultural dialogue. Modern patriotism, not nationalism, is needed now. A wise and respected president, President de Gaulle once said: "Patriots are those who love their country, nationalists are those who hate that of others".

5.10 Seventy years after the end of the Second World War, we must not repeat the mistakes of the past. The Second World War was made possible by the "suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world", "by the denial of the democratic principles of dignity, equality and mutual respect". We must never again allow such a tragedy. History needs to be remembered and told accurately. Media and education institutions share a responsibility for upholding the culture of remembrance and having it be an integral part of the global perspective of young generations. UNESCO plays and will play a crucial role for that.

5.11 Dear friends, let us never forget what means to be a Parisian – freedom to be who you are and the shared belief that we are all born equal to live as brothers and sisters. We must not forget that in every society there is always someone who would prefer the sword to the pen, that there will be always fanatics who will try to kill innocent people in the name of God. But a brutal murder has nothing to do with God. Because God was wise enough not to allow anyone to dominate over the others. We are all born equal. We are born in peace, to live in peace and to work for peace. God is teaching us that every life matters, no matter if Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jew or other.

5.12 The events that shocked Paris caused a wave of solidarity. Together, united, the citizens of Europe and all over the world openly stated that they would stand to protect human life, dignity and freedom. So, dear friends, let us support every initiative against fanaticism, xenophobia and antisemitism. Sometimes even the smallest effort is enough to drive away the darkness and bring back hope and light. Even the worst of evil will be stopped when people with different religious, ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds, unite and firmly say "no" to hatred. We are impressed by the words of the young Muslim, Lassana Bathily, who saved several innocent lives during the hostage crisis earlier this year in Paris: "We are brothers. It is not a question of Jews, Christians or Muslims. We are all in the same boat and we have to help one another".

5.13 Today, just across from my office in the very heart of the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, there are temples of different religions – a well preserved fourth-century early Orthodox Church, an Orthodox cathedral, a Catholic cathedral, a mosque and a synagogue. They have all co-existed peacefully for centuries. This is a great example of wisdom, of tolerance, and respect for diversity. Multiculturalism works in Paris, works in Sofia, works in Europe and works in the world. Let us all, politicians and civil society, never forget that it is up to all of us to shape the world we live in. And let us

not stop making it a better place.

5.14 The only way that brings us forward is through reconciliation and understanding, through tolerance and respect for diversity. Aggression, nationalism and populism do not bring any good future. Let us choose the civilized way, let us choose the European way and let us choose the democratic way. Let us give a positive example to the world. Let us never tolerate injustice. Let us never stop investing our hearts and energy into creating a world where cultural diversity is treasured, tolerance is shared, and humanism is held high. This will be the best way to commemorate the lost innocent lives in terrorist attacks in Paris and all over the world. May they rest in peace!

6.1 The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your very enlightening and enriching speech. We are, once again, humbled and honoured by your presence here this morning. Thank you very much.

6.2 Your Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of all Member States of UNESCO, I am honoured to welcome our next speaker, His Excellency, Mr Paul Biya, President of Cameroon. President Biya is a respected African statesman who has been leading his country for the past four decades, first as Prime Minister and then as President. During his tenure, relations between Cameroon and UNESCO have strengthened significantly. UNESCO is a great partner of the Government of Cameroon in ensuring education, access to information and communication tools and also in ensuring sustainable development to all. Ladies and gentlemen, eight years ago almost to the day, President Biya was in this very room, addressing the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. His presence here today is yet another sign of the close relations that exist and that will continue to exist between UNESCO and Cameroon. Mr President, we are humbled by your presence, and I now have the distinct pleasure and privilege on behalf of the General Conference to invite you to take the floor.

7.1 M. Biya (Président du Cameroun) :

Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs d'État et de délégation, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter sincèrement Monsieur le Ministre Stanley Mutumba Simataa pour son élection à la présidence de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale.

7.2 Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, au moment où l'on célèbre les 70 ans de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et des institutions spécialisées, dont l'UNESCO, je suis heureux de voir l'Afrique, à travers votre pays, présider cette Conférence générale. Il s'agit là d'un symbole fort qui montre combien le monde continue de changer – positivement. À cet extraordinaire changement, le système des Nations Unies – et l'UNESCO en particulier – a beaucoup contribué, qu'il s'agisse du soutien à l'indépendance politique de notre continent, de l'affirmation de sa personnalité ou de la préservation de sa culture. Ainsi, l'Afrique réhabilitée a fait son retour au sein de la communauté des nations.

7.3 Malgré des siècles de souffrances et de subordination, l'Afrique n'a jamais cessé de croire et d'espérer en l'homme. Elle a apporté à la communauté des nations son humanisme, fait de respect de la personne humaine et de sa dignité, un humanisme marqué du sceau de la fraternité et de la solidarité. Ainsi, s'explique sa quête pour un nouvel ordre mondial plus juste et plus solidaire. L'Afrique n'a eu aucune peine à faire siens les idéaux contenus dans la Charte de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. Mon pays connaît d'expérience, Monsieur le Président, le poids de votre charge. Il vous assure de son soutien.

7.4 Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, le Cameroun, qui est heureux de participer à la célébration du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, voudrait par ma voix remercier vivement Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, pour son invitation. Je ressens comme un honneur le privilège de prendre la parole au cours de cette session historique. Je commencerai par rappeler la relation particulière qui existe entre mon pays et l'UNESCO, et le système des Nations Unies. À l'issue de la première guerre mondiale, le Cameroun a été placé sous mandat de la Société des nations, et plus tard sous tutelle de l'ONU. C'est sous l'égide de celle-ci qu'il a poursuivi avec bonheur sa marche vers l'indépendance. Le Cameroun se considère donc, à juste titre, comme pupille de l'ONU et de la communauté internationale. Au sein de la vaste famille du système des Nations Unies, le Cameroun éprouve une inclination particulière pour l'UNESCO. La raison en est simple. Pays pacifique et tolérant, peuple de populations d'origines, de religions et de traditions culturelles différentes, il se reconnaît dans l'idéal humaniste de l'UNESCO, dont l'objectif ultime est « l'épanouissement » de l'homme et l'harmonie entre les peuples.

7.5 Comme l'UNESCO, le Cameroun pense que nos différences, loin d'être un handicap, sont une source d'enrichissement. Mon pays partage aussi cette vision de paix perpétuelle par laquelle s'ouvre l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation que je vais me permettre de citer : « Les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix ». L'harmonie et l'entente entre les peuples sont intimement liées à la reconnaissance et au respect mutuel des différentes cultures ainsi qu'à leur dialogue. La diffusion de l'éducation et du progrès des sciences ne peut qu'y contribuer. Fort heureusement, l'UNESCO se consacre depuis sa création à la promotion de ces valeurs. En effet, là où la guerre montre son visage hideux, on peut en voir les conséquences tragiques pour les populations et pour le patrimoine culturel de l'humanité. Ce qui se passe en République arabe syrienne, en Iraq et au Mali illustre à suffisance.

7.6 Loin de nous décourager, ces exemples déplorables doivent, au contraire, nous renforcer dans notre détermination à faire échec à ces idéologies funestes et rétrogrades. Mon propre pays, havre de stabilité, en fait aujourd'hui la douloureuse expérience. Il subit depuis quelques années les attaques terroristes de Boko Haram. Cette secte sème le deuil et la désolation dans les familles, cause des déplacements de populations et un afflux de réfugiés.

Elle perturbe la vie économique et sociale de la région de l'extrême-Nord de mon pays. Pire, cette nébuleuse, par son intolérance, distille des germes de division à partir de considérations ethnico-religieuses. Elle s'attaque ainsi aux fondements mêmes de notre pays : son unité. Le combat pour l'éradication de cette secte nous oblige à consacrer à notre défense des ressources importantes, au détriment de l'amélioration des conditions de vie des Camerounais. La mutualisation des moyens avec nos voisins, la mise en place d'une force multinationale mixte de l'Union africaine et l'appui appréciable des puissances amies, dont la France, me laissent penser que nous viendrons à bout de cet ennemi barbare.

7.7 C'est le lieu pour moi de rappeler qu'aucun pays n'est à l'abri des attaques terroristes. Ce qui vient de se passer à Paris, le soir du 13 novembre, est particulièrement significatif. Le combat contre le terrorisme est le combat de toute nation qui met le respect de la personne humaine et de sa vie au premier rang de ses valeurs. Ce combat incombe à chaque nation. Il appartient à chaque nation d'y apporter sa contribution.

7.8 Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, au cours des décennies passées, le soutien de nos partenaires extérieurs et des organisations internationales ne nous a pas manqué. Il nous a aidés, au fil du temps, à édifier une société démocratique et à assurer notre développement. Notre ambition est d'atteindre l'émergence à l'horizon 2035. Au nombre de nos partenaires, l'UNESCO occupe une place de choix. Je voudrais donc maintenant dire quelques mots sur notre coopération avec celle-ci.

7.9 Dans le domaine de l'éducation, l'UNESCO a contribué à la mise en œuvre de grands projets, tels que la promotion de l'éducation pour tous, la lutte contre l'analphabétisme, le renforcement des pédagogies, l'éducation à la citoyenneté et la modernisation de notre système universitaire.

7.10 Dans le Secteur des sciences, l'UNESCO nous encourage dans l'amélioration de la gestion de l'environnement et le fonctionnement du Centre national de microscience.

7.11 Pour ce qui est de la culture et de la communication, on peut évoquer, pour s'en féliciter, le renforcement des capacités des acteurs culturels et l'amélioration de la gestion des aires protégées, ainsi que la promotion de l'accès à l'information.

7.12 Cette brève énumération ne saurait être exhaustive tant sont importantes et diversifiées les réalisations de l'UNESCO dans mon pays. Je dois également saluer l'implantation au Cameroun du siège sous-régional de l'UNESCO pour l'Afrique centrale. Cette décision va assurément consolider son action dans notre sous-région.

7.13 En terminant, qu'il me soit permis d'exprimer ma haute appréciation du travail accompli par l'UNESCO au Cameroun sous l'autorité de Mme Irina Bokova. Je tiens à l'en féliciter chaleureusement et à l'en remercier. Qu'elle sache que sa visite dans mon pays l'an dernier reste gravée dans les mémoires. Je vous remercie.

8.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your speech and for your expression of your country's readiness to continue to cooperate with and support UNESCO in areas under its mandate.

8.2 Your Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. The next speaker on our list is yet another distinguished leader, His Excellency, Mr Gjorge Ivanov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. President Ivanov was sworn in as the fourth democratically elected President of his country in 2009 and re-elected in 2014. Before entering government service, President Ivanov had a distinguished academic career as Head of the Political Studies Department and Vice Dean of the Justinianus Primus Faculty of Law in Skopje. President Ivanov believes strongly in the power of young people to transform our wealth. During his presidency, he has established a number of programmes that enable young, talented and ambitious people to improve their skills, develop their creativity and managerial capacities. He established the "Best Young Scientist" award as well as the President's School for Young Leaders which has provided new knowledge, experience and skills to hundreds of young people. Your Excellency, we are very happy to welcome you this morning. I now have the pleasure and privilege on behalf of the General Conference to invite you to address us. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

9.1 **Mr Ivanov** (President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

(address delivered in Macedonian; English text provided by the delegation):

Distinguished Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Bokova, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, it is my honour to speak at this historic event celebrating an important jubilee. The grand narrative of human history is marked by the clash of builders and destroyers, of creators and annihilators, of artists and censors, of defenders and enemies of diversity, of those who transfer and those who forbid knowledge. Today, in our era when global connectivity has reached unthinkable speed, volume and scope, we are all witnesses, but also participants in the clash between global civilization and global chaos, between order and disorder.

9.2 For 70 years now, the United Nations and UNESCO have been at the centre of this clash. There are many specialized agencies within the United Nations, dealing with issues related to the existential needs of humanity, such as food, water, and the environment. However, UNESCO has placed its focus on things that, one might say, are not bare necessities, but without which life would be difficult to bear. Why? Because one of the fundamental features of human life is the profound need for meaning and belonging. And this feeling of belonging is not merely ethereal. Belonging is built through education that introduces us to the world, through the people we communicate with, the music we enjoy, the art we admire, the science that expands our horizons and everything else that defines our worldview. Cultural heritage helps us in our search for sense and belonging in this time of new world disorder. By protecting cultural heritage, we simply admit that the world does not start, nor will it finish with us.

9.3 Ladies and gentlemen, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia belongs to the cultural mosaic of humanity united in UNESCO. In UNESCO, we truly feel at home. Together we have achieved a great deal. I wish to underline just a few examples. We are protecting and promoting the natural and cultural treasures of the Ohrid region. With its Neolithic settlements, ancient fortresses, early Christian basilicas, Byzantine frescoes and icons, and Ottoman heritage, the Ohrid region is an overview of millennia of living at a cultural crossroads in symbiosis with nature. We have introduced the Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs in Štip and the Kopachkata folk dance on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In 2008, we opened the Regional Centre for the Digitization of Cultural Heritage in Skopje with a view to sharing the treasures of southeast Europe with the world. In 2013, the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology in Skopje became the only UNESCO institute dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage against risks of major earthquakes.

9.4 We have celebrated many jubilees with UNESCO. We marked the 100th anniversary since the birth of the mother of the twentieth century, Mother Teresa from Skopje. Together, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Struga Poetry Evenings, one of the oldest poetry festivals in the world, which has also been the home of many Nobel laureates. However, UNESCO was also there for us in some difficult moments, like in 2009 when the monastery Saint John Bigorski caught fire. Together, we are fighting against trafficking of cultural artefacts.

9.5 As a Member of the Executive Board for the past four years, we have been consistent in our support to strengthen the international role of UNESCO. We advocated work efficiency and stimulation of the intellectual and material potential of the Organization. UNESCO is dedicated to the education of youth, and education is provided through dialogue. Next year, in 2016, we will mark 1,100 years since the passing of the Slavic educator, Saint Clement of Ohrid. This will be an opportunity to revert to the roots of Slavic literacy. This Macedonian initiative was supported by Bulgaria, Poland and the Russian Federation. Together we will promote the work of this great saint and teacher whose legacy has been enshrined in the Slavic languages spoken by 315 million people all over the world.

9.6 Dear participants, 11 centuries ago, the monastery Saint Naum of Ohrid was built on the Ohrid lakeshore. For centuries, this Christian monastery has been a place where both Christians and Muslims praise God under one roof. And it is not the only one – in Macedonia, there is a multitude of such multi-religious temples which are an expression of the Macedonian model of co-existence, respect and acceptance of diversity. We see diversity not as a threat, but as a potential source for enriching our culture and identity. Macedonia is not the only country with such heritage. The Balkans are an abundantly rich civilization corridor connecting East and West, and North and South.

9.7 But, ladies and gentlemen, there is a serious danger that Macedonia might soon be one of the rare countries offering such an example. Many spiritually and culturally rich regions are today in danger of being submerged in spiritual and cultural poverty. Only three months ago, on 21 August 2015, ISIL destroyed such a monastery in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Monastery of Saint Elian was not on the World Heritage List and rare were those outside of the Syrian Arab Republic who knew about it. However, instead of a tourist attraction, this monastery was the thread that used to bring local Christians and Muslims together. Today, this and many other similar spiritual centres in the Middle East are only ruins. By ruining these holy places, what is also ruined is co-existence among religions.

9.8 Cultural heritage is so much more than a tourist attraction. It is the foundation upon which the entire human civilization is built. Without that solid foundation, our new tangible and intangible works would be cast in quicksand and would inevitably sink into the oblivion of time. In this global disorder, the irreversible destruction of heritage in the Middle East is equal to undermining the very foundations of our human civilization. When the systematic destruction of entire communities, their homes and temples began in the Middle East, the world did not show the least resistance. We forgot that it is not only theirs, but our past as well. Too mild in countering crimes, we are now bothered by the consequences of those crimes.

9.9 We are now in the year 2015, establishing the agenda for sustainable development by reducing disaster risk and climate change. But just as we have no alternative planet, we also have no alternative civilization or alternative past for that matter. If we treat the past in such a way, then what kind of future might await us? With our indecisiveness and irresponsibility, we deprive young generations of all of the things that we failed to protect.

9.10 Dear friends, in the same way that we are making a retrospective of the past seven years, future generations will make a retrospective of our achievements. My dilemma is what our descendants will remember us for. If we continue ignoring the destruction of heritage, then we shall only be remembered as indifferent egoists. And if we do not ignore these barbaric acts, but keep our reactions declarative, then we will be nothing more than concerned hypocrites. Indifferent egoists or concerned hypocrites – we must not allow either the former or the latter to become the legacy of our generation. Not because of us, but because of our descendants, and not just because of the tangible value, but also the intangible value, of cultural heritage, which goes hand-in-hand with the search for meaning and belonging.

9.11 Throughout history, there have been builders and destroyers, and it is not the first time that destroyers have had their five minutes. When, 70 years ago, we established the United Nations and UNESCO, we promised that we should never again be passive spectators of evil. And yet, destroyers seem to fall through the cracks again.

9.12 Ladies and gentlemen, where did we go off the rails and how did we find ourselves lost in this labyrinth? How did we allow for this violence directed against the present, but also past and future generations? Led by the idea that “man is the measure of all things”, we have made a wrong calculation. We have entered the race for progress and breakthroughs, in parallel with the race for inequitable exploitation of resources; a race in which the only rule states that there are no rules. We have embraced progress, but at the same time we have rejected tradition. We have become the victims of chronological snobbery. We believe in the illusion that if something is old, then it surely must be wrong and bad; and if new, then it must be true and good.

9.13 We have become the carriers of a global pandemic of a virus known as *homo consumericus*. We have tried to build and develop our modern civilization without ethics. We have become virtuosos of political correctness. We try to ease our conscience by claiming that we are tolerant, and forgetting that one tolerates what one must, but one respects and accepts what one loves. We have marginalized religion, forgetting that the majority of people in the world believe in the transcendental. We have separated freedoms and rights from duties and responsibilities. Where has all of this brought us?

9.14 In the past decades, many global and regional organizations were unfortunately seduced by the idea that religion is a passing fashion and thus decided to marginalize it. But not UNESCO. Many organizations demonized religion as a reason for conflicts in the world. But not UNESCO. UNESCO rightly understood that the reasons behind conflicts should not be sought in religion, but in the abuse of religion. For violence in the name of religion is violence against religion itself.

9.15 Ladies and gentlemen, contrary to those who believed that the world is becoming increasingly secularized, we see that the world is increasingly de-secularized, without being homogenized. And so, if the world is becoming more, rather than less religious, then the remedy for religious violence cannot be sought in less religion, but in more interreligious dialogue. UNESCO recognized this need in time. Therefore, when back in 2003 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia initiated the first Regional Forum of Dialogue among Civilizations, this was realized in cooperation with UNESCO. This forum of leaders of southeast Europe helped us recall that no matter how different we might be we are nevertheless part of the common Balkan cultural space. Regretfully, the dialogue disappeared when most needed, when Europe is again relapsing into one of its old diseases, xenophobia – and not only Europe! Intolerance, exclusion and racism in the world have increased manifold. Therefore, the need for dialogue has also significantly increased.

9.16 This is why we intend to renew the dialogue among civilizations in cooperation with UNESCO. We will also organize the Fourth World Conference on InterReligious and Intercivilizational Dialogue. As before, our efforts will be guided by the conviction that dialogue among different religions and worldviews ends where their diversity begins. The purpose of dialogue is not, and must not be, overcoming, but respecting and accepting diversity. This is the reason why we strongly support the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

9.17 This is especially important today, particularly for Europe, where an entire river of refugees and migrants is headed, bearing their own ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity. The migrant and refugee crisis is at the same time an opportunity to learn again how to live with our deepest religious and cultural differences. Education, culture and science are vital to this endeavour.

9.18 Excellencies, some might ask how all of this is related to sustainable development. It is indeed, and in so many ways. In order to achieve sustainable development, we need a holistic approach that will encompass funding for development, disaster risk reduction and reaching a new climate agreement right here in Paris. All of this is unfeasible, however, without building a culture of sustainability. And culture is built through education. UNESCO's major project dedicated to youth, Education 2030, will have a decisive role to play.

9.19 UNESCO is here to help us by protecting the monuments that remind us not only of our biggest triumphs, but also of our biggest failures. Easter Island, Chichen Itza, and Angkor are warnings for the consequences of unsustainable exploitation of resources. The tragedy in the Middle East reminds us that sustainable development is impossible without peace, justice and order. For this, we need dialogue among religions and civilizations, or in other words, a dialogue among people. Global and regional stakeholders included in the development agenda must learn how to find their way in the complex world of religion and culture, instead of just ignoring or marginalizing their importance. In order to achieve that, they need to learn from UNESCO.

9.20 However, UNESCO is facing serious challenges in this global disorder of ours. The first challenge is lack of well-deserved and necessary financial and political support. In conditions of economic crisis, the first to suffer are education, culture and science projects. Without them, we will only incite the negative cycle. The second challenge is interference of politics in the Organization. The lack of respect for international law made UNESCO collateral damage of global disorder – and it is exactly this Organization that should help us restore order.

9.21 This year of celebration should be a wake-up call for all of us. The world needs UNESCO today more than ever before. But UNESCO needs our countries as well. The way to help is to keep the hands of realpolitik off the Organization. We will help by providing the deserved financial support necessary to successfully finalize the successful reforms of the Organization. If not, then we will need decades to find our way out of the labyrinth we are lost in. UNESCO is our hope to get back on the right track; to substitute exclusion with acceptance, and xenophobia with respect and acceptance of diversity; to substitute monologue with dialogue of civilizations, and chronological snobbery with respect for the past. All of this can be done with the help of UNESCO, the safeguard of humanity's cultural DNA. Thank you.

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your very inspiring speech. Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, the next distinguished speaker on our list is His Excellency, Mr Aguila Saleh Issa Gwaider, President of the House of Representatives, and Acting Head of State of Libya. His Excellency, Mr Gwaider, is an experienced politician who has been a Member of Parliament since 1991. Since becoming the Acting Head of State of Libya, Mr Gwaider has strongly advocated for the need for national reconciliation and the initiation of a comprehensive dialogue for all Libyan people in efforts to end hostilities in his country. Restoring security and stability in Libya is key to ensuring education for all, safeguarding the country's rich cultural heritage and making progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. Your

Excellency, we sincerely hope that your efforts in this regard will be successful. It is now my distinct pleasure and honour to invite you, Your Excellency, to take the floor.

١١,١ السيد قويدر (القائم بأعمال رئيس الدولة في ليبيا):

بسم الله الرحمان الرحيم، السيد رئيس المؤتمر، أصحاب الفخامة، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، معالي السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا المديرية العامة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة، بداية أتقدم بأحرّ التعازي وأصدق عبارات المواساة لفرنسا رئيساً وحكومة وشعباً في ضحايا الإرهاب. وأدين بأشدّ العبارات هذا العمل الجبان الذي أسفر عن العشرات من القتلى والجرحى من المواطنين المسالمين الأبرياء. ونؤكد أننا بدأً واحدة لمحاربة الإرهاب بشتى الوسائل. ونسأل الله الشفاء العاجل للجرحى، ولذوي الضحايا الصبر، وللشعب الفرنسي الأمن والسلامة، وأن تكون آخر الأحران. وبعد، اسمحو لي أصحاب الفخامة والمعالي والسعادة أن أتوجه بالشكر الجزيل للسيدة بوكوفا على توجيه الدعوة لنا لحضور هذه المناسبة والاحتفال بالذكرى السنوية السبعين لميلاد منظمنا الموقرة، اليونسكو. وإذا أشعر بسعادة بالغة بأن أكون معكم اليوم، فإني في الوقت نفسه، أشعر بجسامة المسؤولية التي أحمّلها لأنقل إليكم مشاغل ومعاناة الشعب الليبي المجاهد الصبور في هذه الظروف العصيبة التي تعيشها بلادنا، وأعبر لكم أيضاً عن آماله وتطلعاته المستقبلية لحياة حرة آمنة وكريمة. كما أرى أنه من واجبي مشاركتكم الرأي في أهم القضايا التي تشغل بال المجتمع الدولي، ولا سيما تلك التي تقع ضمن اختصاصات اليونسكو.

١١,٢ السيدات والسادة، إن الأهداف الشاملة للمجتمع الدولي المتفق عليها، بما فيها الأهداف الإنمائية، تشكل منطلقات لاستراتيجيات اليونسكو وأنشطتها، ومن ثم فإن كفاءات وقدرات المنظمة الفريدة في مجالات اختصاصاتها، وهي التربية والعلوم والثقافة والاتصال والمعلومات، تساهم في بلوغ الأهداف وبناء السلام والقضاء على الفقر وتحقيق التنمية المستدامة وإقامة الحوار بين الثقافات، ومن أهم تلك الأولويات: المساواة بين الجنسين، وتأمين التعليم الجيد للجميع، ومواجهة التحديات الاجتماعية والأخلاقية، وتعزيز التعاون الثقافي، وبناء مجتمعات المعرفة الاستيعابية من خلال المعلومات والاتصال.

١١,٣ السيدات والسادة، عندما نذكر التنمية المستدامة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية والبيئية، فإن تنفيذها لن يتأتى دون آليات فاعلة للتنفيذ، يأتي في مقدمتها توفير التمويل اللازم الذي يشمل الوفاء بالتعهدات في مجال تقديم المساعدة، وإقامة شراكات حقيقية، وتشجيع نقل التكنولوجيا، وبناء القدرات، والتنسيق والتعاون على الصعيد الدولي. وإننا نؤكد أهمية تعزيز التنوع الثقافي والحوار وثقافة السلام، ونؤكد ضرورة تحقيق الأهداف لمواجهة التحديات، وتنطلع إلى أن تضطلع اليونسكو بدور قيادي على الصعيدين الدولي والإقليمي في إطار الأمم المتحدة وإصلاح هذه المنظمة، بالإضافة إلى التدابير التي تتخذها المنظمة لتأكيد مصداقيتها وفعاليتها. وبفضل العمل والتعاون، يمكن مواجهة التحديات ورسم معالم اليونسكو بصورة أفضل بكثير للاستجابة لاحتياجات القرن الحالي. ومن الضروري تعزيز الروابط بين التربية والثقافة، كما حثّ على ذلك رؤساء وحكومات أفريقيا، وتعبئة العلم والتكنولوجيا والابتكار لتحقيق تنمية مستدامة تعطي الأولوية للقضاء على الفقر انسجاماً مع المبادئ التوجيهية التي وضعها مؤتمر الاتحاد الأفريقي في أديس أبابا سنة ٢٠٠٧.

١١,٤ السيدات والسادة، إن الإرهاب القاعدي والداعشي قد أفسد كل شيء ونشر الحروب الأهلية وجعل مستقبل أبنائنا رهينة بين الدماء والدمار. فمن واجبنا جميعاً أن نوحّد جهودنا ونبذل المساعي لمواجهة الإرهاب ومنع انتشاره. فقد كان للمجتمع الدولي دور محوري في مساندة الشعب الليبي إبان ثورة ١٧ شباط/فبراير عام ٢٠١١، ونحن نشعر بأنه في الإمكان أن يكون للمجتمع الدولي دور كبير في مساعدة السلطات الشرعية في بلادنا لمحاربة الإرهاب. وبهذه المناسبة، أطالب مجدداً برفع الحظر عن تسليح الجيش الليبي ليحمي التراب الليبي ومؤسسات الدولة ويقضي على الإرهاب ويقلل من انتشاره في الدول الأخرى. وإن منع وصول السلاح إلى الإرهاب الداعشي يمنع فرصة تعزيز وجوده وبالتالي لا ينمو في ليبيا ويتمدد خارجها، ثم يلحق الضرر بالجميع.

١١,٥ السيدات والسادة، إن الجيش الليبي يعمل جاهداً ويقدم التضحيات يومياً من أجل القضاء على الإرهاب والتطرف الذي دمرّ البنى التحتية في البلاد وشرّد مئات الآلاف بالداخل والخارج، وهو يواجه هؤلاء المتطرفين بأسلحة أقل مما يملكونه. ومن خلال هذا المنبر، أدعو كافة الدول إلى مساندة الشعب الليبي من خلال رفع الحظر عن تسليح الجيش الليبي للقضاء على الإرهاب والتطرف ومنعه من عبور البحار والصحاري والوصول إلى الدول الأخرى.

١١,٦ السيدات والسادة، لقد بذلت بلادنا جهداً كبيراً لتحقيق أهداف التنمية وعملت على استيعابها في خططها التنموية التي تعترّ تنفيذها بسبب عدم الاستقرار السياسي والانفلات الأمني. ونحن نتطلع إلى عودة استتباب الأمن والاستقرار في البلاد لتقوم السلطات الليبية بوضع خطة وطنية طويلة المدى تتسق مع خطة التنمية المستدامة.

١١,٧ السيدات والسادة، تمر بلادنا منذ اندلاع ثورة السابع عشر من شباط/فبراير بظروف استثنائية خطيرة بعد تحوّل الثورة إلى صراع مسلح أدى إلى ظهور جماعات ومليشيات مسلحة خارجة عن القانون أصبحت تعرقل المسار الديمقراطي وتسيطر على موارد الدولة تحقيقاً لمصالحها الجهادية، وأتاح الفرصة لجماعات إرهابية رفضت خيارات الشعب الليبي الديمقراطية المتمثلة في مجلس النواب والحكومة المنتهية عنه، وأصبحت في نزاع مسلح مع الجيش والسلطات الشرعية، مما ساهم في عرقلة الجهود لنشر الديمقراطية وترسيخ مبادئ دولة القانون. وفي ظل هذا الوضع، أصبحت كثير من موارد الدولة رهينة لهذه المليشيات التي استباحت كثيراً من المواقع الأثرية والدينية والتاريخية فتعرض بعضها للإزالة والسرقة، الأمر الذي أصبح يشكل خطراً حقيقياً دفع مصلحة الآثار الليبية إلى رفع قضايا أمام المحاكم المحلية والدولية ضد تصرفات هذه الجماعات. وامتدّ أثر هذه الجماعات أيضاً ليمثل خطراً على ثقافة الليبيين الذين كانوا على مر التاريخ يستهجنون العنف والتطرف، وأصبحوا الآن يواجهون ثقافة التطرف والإرهاب التي تحاول أن تنشرها الجماعات الإرهابية وتعمل على إقناع الشباب بثقافة متطرفة وعنيفة لا تقبل الآخر ولا تتوجه نحو التعليم الحديث الذي تعتبره منافياً لأفكارها المتطرفة.

١١,٨ السيدات والسادة، إن ليبيا بوصفها عضواً في الأمم المتحدة بكافة فروعها ومنظماتها، بما فيها منظمة التربية والعلم والثقافة (اليونسكو)، تنتظر منكم الدعم من أجل نشر ثقافة الحوار والديمقراطية وترسيخ تعليم حر حديث، والمساهمة في الحفاظ على موروثها الثقافي والأثري. فليبيا لطلما كانت موطناً للسلم

والأمن على مر الزمن، وما وجود آثار حضارات الإغريق والرومان والبيزنطيين في مناطق ليبية إلا دليل على تاريخ مستقر لهذه البقعة من الأرض التي تجانست فيها كل الأديان وتلاشت فيها كل الاختلافات.

١١،٩ السيدات والسادة، إن جهود السلطات الليبية في مكافحة الإرهاب وإنقاذ ليبيا والعالم من جرائمه يعرقلها الدعم الخارجي للإرهاب، وإصرار مجلس الأمن التابع للأمم المتحدة على مخالفة قراراته بالموافقة على طلبات تسليح الجيش. وللأسف، إن بعض الأعضاء الدائمين في مجلس الأمن يبررون ذلك بتحاشي التأثير السلبي على الحوار السياسي الذي نعرف أنه أفضى إلى التوقيع على مسودة الاتفاق من قبل مجلس النواب الذي قدم تنازلات كثيرة من أجل الوفاق. لكن المؤتمر الوطني، المنتهية ولايته، رفض التوقيع. ورغم ذلك، لا يزالون يمنعون تسليح الجيش، الأمر الذي قد يؤخر الحسم في المعركة ويعطي الجماعات الإرهابية الفرصة للحصول على مزيد من السلاح.

١١،٩ السيدات والسادة، لا يسعني إلا توجيه الدعوة للمجتمع الدولي للاهتمام بشكل أكبر بحقوق الإنسان والتركيز على التعليم الجيد والصحة ودعم حقوق المرأة ومناصرة الشباب من خلال توفير فرص العمل لهم وإشراكهم في برنامج التنمية لتحقيق النجاح المطلوب.

١١،١٠ السيدات والسادة، لا يخفى عليكم أن الشعب الفلسطيني لا يزال يواجه احتلالاً غير قانوني منذ عدة عقود. وإلى يومنا هذا، يقوم الاحتلال بتشريد الشعب الفلسطيني وقهره بشتى الطرق وينكر عليه حقه في إقامة دولته المستقلة. وإننا بذلك نجدد دعمنا ووقوفنا إلى جانب الشعب الفلسطيني المناضل، ونعبر عن مساندتنا لحقه في إقامة دولته المستقلة ذات السيادة وعاصمتها القدس الشريف، وعودة اللاجئين لديارهم.

١١،١١ السيدات والسادة، لقد عرقلت الظروف الحالية في ليبيا برامج مختلفة كانت وزارة التعليم بصدد تنفيذها بالتعاون مع منظمة اليونسكو. وفي هذا الصدد، نؤكد حرصنا على تفعيل هذه البرامج في أقرب وقت ممكن وندعو المنظمة إلى تقديم الدعم العيني الفعال لبلادنا في هذه الظروف الصعبة. ونود أن نذكر بأن العملية التعليمية في ليبيا الآنية والمستقبلية والدفاع عن الموروث الثقافي والأثري ليس فقط مسؤولية السلطات الليبية، بل هو أيضاً مسؤولية المنظمات الدولية كمنظمتكم التي تعمل على رعاية العلم والبحث العلمي وتساهم في تحقيق نجاح علمي نافع للإنسانية والحفاظ على الموروث الثقافي والأثري للشعوب كافة، وشكراً سيدي الرئيس.

(11.1) **M. Gwaider** (Chef d'État par intérim de la Libye) (*traduit de l'arabe*) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs et membres de délégations, Votre Excellence Madame Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, je dois tout d'abord exprimer mes plus sincères condoléances au Président, au Gouvernement et au peuple français pour les victimes du terrorisme. Je condamne de la façon la plus sévère cet acte lâche qui a fait des douzaines de tués et de blessés parmi les citoyens paisibles et innocents. Nous rappelons que nous combattons le terrorisme, la main dans la main, par tous les moyens. Nous prions Dieu pour le prompt rétablissement des blessés et lui demandons d'accorder la patience aux parents des victimes, ainsi que la paix et la sécurité au peuple français – que ceci soit la fin des tristesses. Ensuite, permettez-moi, Excellences, d'exprimer tous mes remerciements à Mme Bokova pour nous avoir invités à assister à cette célébration du soixante-dixième anniversaire de notre vénérable Organisation, l'UNESCO. Je suis extrêmement heureux d'être avec vous aujourd'hui ; en même temps, j'ai la lourde responsabilité de vous faire part des préoccupations et des souffrances du peuple libyen, vaillant et patient dans les circonstances difficiles que connaît actuellement notre pays. Je vous exprime également ses espoirs et ses aspirations pour une vie libre, dans la sécurité et la dignité. Il est de mon devoir de vous faire part de mon opinion sur les plus grandes questions qui préoccupent la communauté internationale, en particulier celles qui relèvent des domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

(11.2) Mesdames et Messieurs, les objectifs globaux convenus par la communauté internationale, notamment les objectifs de développement, constituent le point de départ des stratégies et des activités de l'UNESCO. De ce fait, l'expertise et les capacités uniques de l'Organisation dans ses domaines de compétence que sont l'éducation, les sciences, la culture, la communication et l'information, contribuent à la réalisation des objectifs d'édification de la paix, d'élimination de la pauvreté, de développement durable et d'instauration du dialogue entre les cultures. Les priorités les plus importantes sont selon nous l'égalité entre les sexes, l'assurance d'une éducation de qualité pour tous, l'action pour relever les défis sociaux et éthiques, le renforcement de la coopération culturelle, et l'édification de sociétés du savoir inclusives grâce à l'information et à la communication.

(11.3) Mesdames et Messieurs, le développement durable, économique, social, culturel et environnemental, requiert des mécanismes efficaces de mise-en-œuvre, et en premier lieu la disponibilité des fonds nécessaires, notamment avec le respect des engagements en matière d'aide, la création de véritables partenariats, la promotion du transfert de technologies, le renforcement des capacités, ainsi que la coordination et la coopération au niveau international. Nous soulignons l'importance de la diversité culturelle, du dialogue et de la culture de la paix, et nous réitérons la nécessité d'atteindre ces objectifs afin de faire face aux défis. Nous espérons que l'UNESCO puisse jouer un rôle de premier plan aux niveaux international et régional dans le cadre des Nations Unies et qu'elle puisse contribuer à la réforme de cette organisation, en plus des mesures qu'elle doit prendre pour asseoir sa crédibilité et son efficacité. C'est grâce à l'action et à la coopération qu'il sera possible d'affronter les défis et de définir les paramètres de l'UNESCO de façon beaucoup plus claire afin de répondre aux besoins de ce siècle. Il est nécessaire de renforcer les liens entre l'éducation et la culture, comme nous y encourageons les chefs d'état et de gouvernement africains, et de mettre à profit la science, la technologie et l'innovation pour parvenir à un développement durable qui donne la priorité à l'élimination de la pauvreté, en accord avec les principes directeurs adoptés par la Conférence de l'Union africaine à Addis-Abeba en 2007.

(11.4) Mesdames et Messieurs, le terrorisme d'al-Qaïda et de Daesh a tout corrompu, a engendré des guerres civiles et a fait de l'avenir de nos enfants l'otage du sang et de la destruction. Il est de notre devoir à tous d'unir nos forces pour tenter de contrecarrer le terrorisme et de l'empêcher de se répandre. La communauté internationale a joué un rôle clé dans le soutien au peuple libyen lors de la révolution du 17 février 2011. Nous pensons que la communauté internationale peut également jouer un rôle de premier plan pour aider les autorités légitimes de mon pays à combattre le terrorisme. À cet égard, je demande encore une fois que l'on lève l'interdiction d'armer l'armée libyenne afin que celle-ci puisse défendre le sol libyen et les institutions de l'État, éliminer le terrorisme et en éviter la propagation aux autres pays. Le fait d'empêcher les armes de

parvenir aux terroristes de Daesh les empêche de renforcer leur présence et, par conséquent, de se développer en Libye et de s'étendre au-delà de ses frontières, et de nuire à tout le monde.

(11.5) Mesdames et Messieurs, l'armée libyenne travaille de toutes ses forces et fait quotidiennement de grands sacrifices afin d'éliminer le terrorisme et l'extrémisme qui ont détruit l'infrastructure du pays et ont conduit au déplacement de milliers de gens à l'intérieur du pays et au-delà de ses frontières. Elle fait face à ces extrémistes avec bien moins d'armes que n'en possèdent les terroristes. De cette tribune, j'appelle tous les pays à soutenir le peuple libyen en levant l'interdiction d'armer l'armée libyenne afin d'éliminer le terrorisme et l'extrémisme et de les empêcher de traverser les mers et les déserts pour s'étendre à d'autres pays.

(11.6) Mesdames et Messieurs, mon pays a déployé d'immenses efforts pour atteindre les objectifs de développement, et il s'est efforcé de les inclure dans ses plans de développement, dont la mise en œuvre est rendue difficile par le manque de stabilité politique et les dérives sécuritaires. Nous espérons un retour à la normalité en matière de sécurité et de stabilité dans le pays afin que les autorités libyennes puissent élaborer un plan national à long terme qui soit en accord avec le plan de développement durable.

(11.7) Mesdames et Messieurs, depuis la révolution du 17 février, mon pays connaît des circonstances graves et exceptionnelles avec la transformation de la révolution en conflit armé, faisant émerger des groupes et milices armés hors-la-loi qui entravent la marche démocratique et s'emparent des ressources de l'État pour servir leurs intérêts régionaux. Les groupes terroristes ont refusé les choix démocratiques du peuple libyen que représentent la Chambre des députés et le gouvernement qui en découle. Ils sont entrés en conflit armé avec l'armée des autorités légitimes, ce qui a perturbé les efforts visant à propager la démocratie et inculquer les principes de l'état de droit. Cette situation fait que beaucoup des ressources de l'État ont été accaparées par les milices qui ont visé beaucoup de sites archéologiques, religieux et historiques, certains ayant même été enlevés ou volés, ce qui constitue un véritable danger et a poussé les autorités archéologiques libyennes à tenter des actions en justice auprès de tribunaux locaux et internationaux contre les agissements de ces groupes. L'impact de ces groupes menace désormais la culture des Libyens qui se sont toujours, au cours de l'histoire, élevés contre la violence et l'extrémisme. Les Libyens se retrouvent désormais confrontés à la culture de l'extrémisme et du terrorisme que tentent de propager ces groupes qui s'efforcent d'inculquer aux jeunes une culture violente et extrémiste qui rejette l'Autre et n'accepte pas l'éducation moderne, qu'ils considèrent comme contraire à leurs idées extrémistes.

(11.8) Mesdames et Messieurs, la Libye, en tant que membre des Nations Unies ainsi que de toutes ses institutions et organismes, dont l'UNESCO, attend de vous un soutien afin de propager une culture du dialogue et de la démocratie, d'instaurer une éducation libre et moderne, et de contribuer à la préservation de son patrimoine culturel et archéologique. La Libye a toujours été la patrie de la paix et de la sécurité, tout au long des années. Que représentent les vestiges des civilisations grecque, romaine et byzantine disséminés dans diverses régions de la Libye sinon la preuve d'une histoire stable dans cette partie du monde où se sont côtoyées toutes les religions et où toutes les différences entre elles se sont estompées ?

(10.9) Mesdames et Messieurs, les efforts des autorités libyennes pour combattre le terrorisme et sauver la Libye, ainsi que le monde entier, de ses crimes sont entravés par un appui extérieur au terrorisme et le fait que le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU persiste à ne pas appliquer ses propres résolutions approuvant les demandes d'armement de l'armée. Malheureusement, certains des membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité justifient cela en prétextant la nécessité d'éviter un effet néfaste sur le dialogue politique, dont nous savons qu'il a conduit à la signature du projet d'accord par la Chambre des députés, qui a fait de grandes concessions afin de trouver un terrain d'entente. Mais le Congrès national, dont le mandat arrive à échéance, a refusé de signer. Cependant, ils continuent d'empêcher l'armement de l'armée, retardant potentiellement une l'issue de ce combat et donnant aux groupes terroristes l'occasion de se procurer encore davantage d'armes.

(11.10) Mesdames et Messieurs, je ne peux omettre d'inviter la communauté internationale à se préoccuper davantage des droits de l'homme et à concentrer ses efforts sur l'éducation de qualité, la santé, le soutien aux droits des femmes, ainsi que l'aide apportée aux jeunes à travers des possibilités d'emploi et la participation aux programmes de développement, afin d'obtenir le succès espéré.

(11.11) Mesdames et Messieurs, vous n'ignorez pas que le peuple palestinien reste confronté à une occupation illégale depuis déjà plusieurs décennies. Encore aujourd'hui, du fait de l'occupation, le peuple palestinien est expulsé de ses foyers et opprimé par tous les moyens, et se voit refuser le droit d'établir son propre État indépendant. C'est pourquoi nous renouvelons notre appui et notre prise de position en faveur du vaillant peuple palestinien, et nous soutenons son droit d'établir son propre État indépendant et souverain, avec Jérusalem comme capitale, ainsi que le droit des réfugiés de retourner dans leurs foyers.

(11.12) Mesdames et Messieurs, les circonstances actuelles en Libye entravent divers programmes que le Ministère de l'éducation met actuellement en œuvre en coopération avec l'UNESCO. À cet égard, nous réaffirmons notre souhait de relancer ces programmes dans les plus brefs délais, et nous prions l'Organisation d'apporter un soutien matériel efficace à notre pays dans ces circonstances difficiles. Nous aimerions rappeler que le processus éducatif dans la Libye d'aujourd'hui et de demain, ainsi que la défense du patrimoine culturel et archéologique, ne relèvent pas seulement des autorités libyennes, mais également des organisations internationales comme l'UNESCO, qui œuvre pour la science et la recherche scientifique, et contribue à l'obtention de succès utiles pour l'humanité et à la préservation du patrimoine culturel et archéologique de tous les peuples. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

12.1 The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your speech and equally thank you once again for having honoured our invitation. Your Excellencies, we are coming close to 12 noon. We will pause here for a moment until the time comes for us to observe that minute of silence in concert with the entire country, and thereafter we will continue to benefit from speeches that will be delivered by Her Excellency, the President of Lithuania, and finally Her Excellency, the Minister of Human Resources Development of India. Thank you very much. We will wait for that right time. And then I will invite all of us to observe that minute of silence.

12.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, it is now noon. The City of Paris and the entire nation of France and peace-loving people throughout the world will pay tribute to the fallen victims of last Friday's attack. I now invite the General Conference to rise and hold a minute of silence.

The assembly observed one minute of silence in tribute to the victims of terrorism in France.

13. **The President:**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour and distinct pleasure to introduce our next distinguished speaker, Her Excellency, Ms Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania. Her Excellency is a social scientist and academic by background. She holds two doctoral degrees and was a lecturer for a number of years before joining Lithuania's Foreign Ministry. Her Excellency has served as Finance Minister of her country, as well as European Union Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget before being elected as the first woman President of Lithuania. She is currently serving a second term. Your Excellency, I wish to warmly congratulate you on Lithuania's election to the Executive Board. We are honoured by your presence, and we are eager to hear your speech. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

14.1 **Ms Grybauskaitė** (President of Lithuania):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen, for all of us today, it is important that we are exactly in the place, the city, where all of us stood still for a minute of silence. We all stood in liberty, equality and fraternity and we always will. We join efforts in defense of our values, our principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. We are not afraid and we will never be. Terrorism has no religion, race or nationality, but it also knows no borders. That is why we have a responsibility to stand united in the face of aggression.

14.2 The 70th anniversary of UNESCO for us is an opportunity to note our achievements, learn from our mistakes and prepare for the challenges we face today. Never before have so many people enjoyed such high standards of living or benefited from so much cooperation. At the same time, the past few years have taught us that progress can be reversed. And we are seeing this today in some of our countries. Wars, conflict and terrorism spread instability. An increased international effort to promote peace, human rights and democracy is essential. The new United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should, and will, address these principles and lead the change.

14.3 Today, three main spheres of UNESCO's engagement deserve special and particular attention. First, education; second, freedom of expression; and third, protection of heritage. Why education? Lasting peace, sustainable development and eradication of poverty all depend on access to education. Radicalism and hate flourish exactly where education fails. A growing number of children and young people are out of school in countries affected by conflict and wars. Additional resources need to be mobilized for this purpose. In the twenty-first century, child marriages are still widespread. This phenomenon deprives young girls of access to schooling and a better life. Ending child marriage is a global challenge for all of us. Better education for girls and young women is an answer to it. UNESCO's commitment to 12 years of free, publicly-funded, quality education, of which at least nine years are compulsory, needs to become a reality before 2030. Education is a fundamental human right of which nobody should be deprived.

14.4 The second area of concern is freedom of expression. People must have the right to speak freely and journalists must be able to report their stories without fear. Free speech is our weapon in the fight against terrorist propaganda. When a crime against a journalist is committed, it is an attack on human rights. It is an attack on all of us. Recent violence against journalists in the occupied Crimea (Ukraine), in the Middle East or in the heart of Paris only confirms that we have reached the point of no return. Efforts of the media community, of Member States and international organizations have to be united in order to stop it. It is for this reason that Lithuania initiated in the United Nations Security Council a resolution that urges Member States to ensure accountability for crimes committed against journalists in situations of armed conflict.

14.5 And third, we must unite for heritage because it is the heritage of our civilizations. We are outraged by the attacks against cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. These are unprecedented acts of barbarism and attacks against the core values of humanity. It is our duty to help protect our common world heritage by expanding and deepening cooperation and to seek accountability when international norms are severely violated.

14.6 Ladies and gentlemen, today more than ever we need a united response and action to protect our values and principles. We need a UNESCO that can act through cooperation and partnership, a UNESCO that can promote peace by ensuring access to education, defending freedom of the media and protecting our heritage. These are the obligations that we have to the memory of those that lost their lives in Paris and to our future generations. Thank you.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank the President of the Republic of Lithuania for a very inspiring speech. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our next speaker for this morning is Ms Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Human Resource Development of India. After a successful career as an award-winning actress, Her Excellency entered the political world by becoming a member of parliament in 2011. She was appointed Minister of Human Resource Development last year in the cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Your Excellency, we warmly welcome you and are looking forward to your address. I now have the pleasure to invite you to take the floor.

16.1 **Ms Irani** (Minister of Human Resource Development of India):

Excellencies, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. As the sun set on Friday evening in the City of Light and death unleashed itself on the streets, Parisians resolutely looked into the eyes of hate and said "No! No, we shall not be subjugated by fear". And with this message, as the sun rises on the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, let it be known that those who unleash terror on humanity will be met by justice, those who endeavour to sow the seeds of hate in the hearts of our young shall be defeated, those who conspire to kill peace shall be met by our collective determination to ensure that hope in humanity endures.

16.2 Seven years ago in this very month of November, the city of dreams, Mumbai, was brutally attacked by those who wanted our dreams of prosperity to perish. Mumbaikars all, Indians all, today say to our brothers and sisters in Paris – we shall overcome; overcome the desire of a selected few to suppress our liberty, equality and fraternity. I congratulate UNESCO, Heads of State and the distinguished audience here, this eminent collectivity, for their presence, support and solidarity in the face of this attack, not only on Paris and Parisians, but on all of humanity.

16.3 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as we all know, UNESCO was established by the community of nations, amidst the rubble and disarray in the aftermath of the Second World War. It was intended and planned to be an institution with a difference, with a message and a mission. Never before has its message been more relevant, its task more immediate and urgent. The message 70 years ago was loud and unequivocal. It was enshrined, not just in stone outside this building but in the Preamble to its Constitution and its belief and practice: “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”

16.4 Ladies and gentlemen, India stands committed to the ideals of UNESCO, and to the furtherance of its role and activities. On our part, we bring to the Organization a 5,000-year-old legacy of tolerance and inclusiveness, discourse and debate, harmony and cooperation, all reflected in the unparalleled diversity of our nation called Bharat, a land of many languages, cultures, faiths and ethnicities. India, with its national creed wedded to peace and nonviolence has been a staunch and ardent supporter of UNESCO. As early as 1947, Mahatma Gandhi had expressed the deep Indian interest in the efforts of UNESCO to “secure peace through educational and cultural activities”.

16.5 On several occasions in the past 18 months, I personally had occasion to turn to his writings, to glean from them the wisdom and vision that can guide our educational system. Some of Gandhi’s most compellingly expressed views were on education. He did not want the education system to only benefit the mind or the intellect, but to provide as well for moral and physical development of our children. Education, he said, must not only produce learned minds, but also enlightened souls.

16.6 Ladies and gentlemen, India is one with UNESCO in the prioritization of girls’ education. We have launched an initiative “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” which celebrates the girl child and seeks to ensure the continued participation of girls in education. It seeks to not only create equal opportunities but also change mindsets. Some of those factors inhibiting participation in education, such as the provision of toilets in schools, may seem trivial to many here, but we know it is a deciding factor for many girls who seek to continue their education. Therefore, through our “Swachh Vidyalaya” initiative, we have ensured that those basic necessities do not impede or inhibit any girl child’s education. In an historic first in independent India, by leveraging technology and through a collaborative spirit reflective of human resolve to provide time-bound solutions, we have ensured separate toilets for our girl students in all government-run schools. Over 400,000 toilets built in over 250,000 schools, all in just one year.

16.7 Our civilizations are built on the spirit of enquiry and reform. These values were cradled in the venerated traditions of India, which encouraged a certain spirit of enquiry – a sense of curiosity that seeks to ameliorate the human condition. Our developmental challenges have further shaped our thinking and the emphasis that we place on science, technology and innovation. This belief has prompted our Government to launch the “Rashtriya Avishkaar Abhiyaan” (the National Innovation Movement), to motivate and engage children in science, mathematics and technology through observation, experimentation and fructification of ideas through inferences and model-building.

16.8 We share UNESCO’s conviction that the sciences, through the innovations and technologies that they foster, will be critical in unearthing the possibilities for sustainable development. Our efforts towards channelling more resources for research and development in India are rooted in the belief that widely-accessible and environmentally responsible scientific solutions will be the key to our vision for the world beyond 2015. It is with this belief that over the years, government funding to our premier institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has increased manifold to focus not only on basic research but also translational research for benefits, both to our country and economy. However, funding alone does not create innovations, which need an ecosystem to sustain them and require the best and brightest to be part of it. Through our Government’s Global Initiative for Academic Networks and in the spirit of international cooperation and exchange, we invite academicians and experts from all over the world to fill knowledge gaps by engaging with our students and faculties and to create academic networks for long-term research.

16.9 One of the most celebrated outcomes of education is its role in the expansion of the frontiers of our knowledge. Our goal is to leave an imprint on time through support for research, innovation, and technology in India. The research that we seek to encourage is one that is in alignment with the needs of our country. And we want to take this research to evolve appropriate technologies for sustainable rural development, with focus on water management, organic farming, renewable energy, frugal technology, infrastructure, rural livelihood and employment.

16.10 It is my belief that market forces do not always necessarily encourage socially-relevant innovations, unless provided with the necessarily impetus by governments. This has prompted us to launch a unique programme called “Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan” (Developed India Movement), which seeks to engage our premier institutions with local communities to address developmental challenges through technological solutions to their problems. As part of this programme, each premier institution selects a number of villages to identify and address problems requiring technological intervention. Education must be socially and contextually relevant and rooted in the lives and aspirations of our people.

16.11 Higher education is built upon the foundation that school education provides. India has been able to attract boys and girls to schools through its emphasis on education for all or the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan and, during the last 15 years, there has been a significant rise in enrolment in schools at the higher education level as a result. However, a sharp increase in the number of students and educational institutions has led to an increased need for quality teachers.

In order to meet this demand, Prime Minister Modi launched the “National Mission on Teachers and Teaching” on 25 December 2014. The Mission has a two-pronged strategy – increasing the availability of teachers and improving the quality of existing teachers through training and retraining. The Mission also focuses on improving the administration of our schools and higher educational institutions through leadership programmes to be anchored by top management institutions in the country.

16.12 One of the most exciting developments in recent years has been the welcome addition of information and communication technology (ICT) to our globalized lives. India has been fortunate to be able to fill its sails with these winds in the sea of communication and technology and we endeavour to use ICTs to expand educational opportunities. We are creating a national e-library to support our learners through the availability of quality learning courseware. The e-library, with almost one million volumes today and growing rapidly, will provide free and unfiltered access to knowledge and learning, bringing a new and catalytically different dimension. As we look ahead, this could be a “game changer”, delivering education and knowledge to millions. We invite nations, educational institutions and UNESCO, to be part of this remarkable journey.

16.13 We are also in the process of developing a robust Indian platform called Swayam for this very purpose. From this platform will flow specially designed massive open online courses (MOOCs) – close to 250,000 hours of e-learning for our students to learn and absorb, inexpensively and at their own pace. Likewise, e-Pathshala is a portal and mobile apps project which delivers to all our students, teachers, parents, researchers and educators all school books from grade 1 to 12 free for use of our citizens. We have attempted to leverage new technology to create learning opportunities for every Indian citizen. In this global community, we seek to share our experiences, our technologies, and the new knowledge frontiers that we have opened. In this and more, we seek to partner with UNESCO, and I would in fact urge the Organization to take initiatives for collaborative knowledge sharing in the virtual space, which would further help us all in our collective efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in a timely manner.

16.14 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, all of our efforts are aimed at opening the windows of opportunity to education. Our approach to education is built on a philosophy in which human existence is looked upon as a rare gift to be utilized both for inner development and for the welfare of society at large. And this approach benefits greatly from an increase in genuine dialogue and engagement between nations and cultures. We have thus sought to enable greater interaction of scholars and scientists from all over the world with our students and faculty. I encourage all of you to come to India to experience the transformation that is afoot and contribute to it by sharing your perspectives.

16.15 The spirit of global cooperation is prominent in our engagement with the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals, including the one on education, reflect the international community’s acknowledgment that education can play a decisive role in fostering a sense of shared responsibility and in bringing about fundamental changes in how we coexist with each other and our planet. We have worked with other countries to ensure that the goals are acceptable and universally-relevant to all countries, while acknowledging their unique national contexts and socio-economic diversities. Ultimately, we believe that we need to arm young people with the skills and compassion that allows them to carve a self-confident identity, while being respectful of others. This is also one of the targets of the SDG on education.

16.16 We are already contributing to that global campaign through the New-Delhi based Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, an institute which was set up in partnership with UNESCO to help countries in the South-Asian region, and beyond, and transform their education systems, drawing on UNESCO’s experience and inspired by the Mahatma’s legacy.

16.17 Ladies and gentlemen, Gandhi said that when we educate our children, we give them the strength to stand up to violence with peace. We give them the right to a life of fair trials and the freedom to learn from mistakes. And we help them define their identity in ways that make them appreciate differences, tolerate diversity and see the universal human spirit in all of us. We, today ladies and gentlemen, are at the crossroads of a momentous turn in history. The next few years will be years of historic change, as the world renews, rediscovers and recreates itself, and absorbs and assimilates the elixir of a sustainable way of life. We have been entrusted with the responsibility of transforming the world as we know it through the 2030 Agenda. This developmental agenda will not only guide our efforts for the next 15 years but define our legacy for the generations to come. As the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has noted, the United Nations needs to seize this historic opportunity for renewal lest we risk irrelevance and a tragic withering. Our future must rest on building a sustainable planet for our generations to come.

16.18 UNESCO, with its recognized expertise and mandate in the areas of education, the sciences, culture and communication and information can do much, on the one hand, to empower people with requisite knowledge, technical and vocational skills and capacities and, on the other hand, to help the international community and individual countries to devise new solutions to complex challenges. The contemporary discussion has to revolve around an integrated, holistic philosophy in which human existence is looked upon as a rare gift to be utilized to the benefit of all of humanity. It is also because of this timeless current of thought that India has an unwavering belief in multilateralism. We need a genuine dialogue and engagement between countries. And that is why we stress that political resolve and an inclination to share both technology and financial resources are essential to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

16.19 A purposeful movement towards a more equitable socio-economic order that respects the unsustainable burden we are presently placing on our planet is essential if the future is to be defined by peace. Ultimately a world in which a few appropriate the vast majority of the world’s resources is not a sustainable paradigm. Thank you so much, ladies and gentlemen.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States I would like to thank you most sincerely for your very inspiring speech. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our last speaker for this morning is His Excellency, Mr Mountaga Tall, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Mali, who will deliver the message from the President of Mali, His Excellency, Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Your Excellency, you now have the floor, Sir.

18.1 **M. Tall** (Ministre de L'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique du Mali) :

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs d'État et de gouvernement, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de porter auprès de cette auguste assemblée le message personnel du Président de la République du Mali, S. E. M. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, qui avait souhaité être avec vous ce matin et qui avait pris toutes les dispositions pour ce faire, mais comme on dit : « Les hommes proposent, Dieu dispose ».

18.2 Le Mali condamne avec la dernière énergie les actes odieux de terrorisme intervenus à Paris dans la nuit du 13 au 14 novembre 2015. Ces actes barbares reflètent l'horrible dessein de personnes niant toutes les valeurs humaines. Par ces actes qui ne visent pas que la France mais le monde entier, les terroristes montrent encore leur vrai visage. Ils cherchent à faire régner la peur, la division, la suspicion au sein de la communauté des hommes. Ils cherchent à nous braquer les uns contre les autres sur un fond prétendument religieux, sur un fond communautaire. C'est à cela que nous devons opposer le refus le plus catégorique. Par solidarité avec la France en deuil, le Président Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta me fait porter le message de son amitié envers le peuple français.

18.3 Le terrorisme, Mesdames et Messieurs, est devenu une gangrène planétaire qui appelle à un combat sans relâche. Comme un caméléon, il s'adapte à tout, utilise tous les moyens modernes et frappe d'innocentes personnes en toute lâcheté. Notre réponse ne doit ni attendre ni être tributaire des calculs politiques. Face à ces actes de désolation, nous devons être capables de réagir avec vigueur et faire maintenir l'espoir partout dans le cœur des enfants du monde. Nous devons refuser que la haine l'emporte sur l'amour entre les hommes. Nous devons refuser que les armes l'emportent sur la raison et sur le cœur.

18.4 Le Mali est solidaire du peuple français. Hier lui-même victime de terrorisme, le Mali a recouru aux pays amis, dont la France, pour assurer sa survie. Des Français sont venus se battre au Mali, pour le Mali, au nom de cette longue amitié qui lie nos deux pays. Avant-hier à Verdun, hier à Tombouctou et Kidal, Maliens et Français ont combattu ensemble pour la paix et continuent de le faire. Les Présidents Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta et François Hollande étaient bras dessus bras dessous pour l'historique marche républicaine de janvier 2015 en guise de réponse du monde au lâche attentat contre le journal *Charlie Hebdo*. Il ne saurait en être autrement de la part du Mali et de son Président chaque fois qu'il s'agit de lutter contre la lâcheté, chaque fois que le besoin de solidarité avec les autres se manifeste.

18.5 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, ces actes, aussi violents soient-ils, ne pourront aucunement vaincre notre volonté et notre détermination à faire dialoguer les civilisations et les cultures. Le maintien du Forum des dirigeants dans ce contexte est un acte de courage et de résistance que le Mali apprécie hautement. Cette actualité brûlante montre encore une fois la pertinence de l'action de l'UNESCO dans le monde et le nécessaire soutien de tous les États pour renforcer cette action.

18.6 Madame la Directrice générale, il me plaît de saisir l'opportunité de cette tribune pour vous remercier encore une fois pour la solidarité manifestée à l'endroit du Mali. On se souvient, au Mali et ailleurs, de votre émotion face à l'autodafé des manuscrits anciens de Tombouctou aux côtés du Président Hollande, le 2 février 2013, au Mali. Effondrée par l'horrible spectacle de la destruction du riche patrimoine de Tombouctou, vous avez promis de ne pas croiser les bras. Sous votre impulsion, l'UNESCO a lancé une vaste campagne de reconstruction du patrimoine culturel mondial du Mali. Votre appel au monde, le plan d'action adopté et les différentes initiatives qui l'ont mis en œuvre ont permis de reconstruire les mausolées de nos saints que vous avez personnellement inaugurés en juin dernier à Tombouctou. Madame Bokova, vous n'imaginez pas l'immense bonheur de tout un peuple qui vous reste reconnaissant. En détruisant les mausolées de Tombouctou, en brûlant les manuscrits anciens de cette ville symbole de l'islam, les terroristes ont voulu provoquer l'indignation. Ils ont voulu tout effacer mais oublient-ils que l'Histoire ne s'efface pas d'un coup de canon ? Tombouctou, ville patrimoine de l'humanité, ne s'effondre pas sous la première menace. Ceux qui ont décrit Tombouctou – je voudrais citer René Caillé, Gordon Laing et Heinrich Barth – n'ont nulle part découvert des signes d'intolérance dans cette cité. Ils ont admiré la civilité des populations, soutenue par la culture immense d'hommes de lettres et de sciences, à Sankoré, une prestigieuse université médiévale. Que la maison du chrétien René Caillé côtoie les proches avenues de la mosquée de Sankoré et soit objet d'attraction dans une ville majoritairement musulmane suffit à mesurer l'esprit de tolérance des populations et la nature de l'islam qu'elles pratiquent. Les manuscrits que nos ancêtres ont légués à la postérité contiennent des connaissances qui nous servent à consolider notre entente et notre vivre ensemble. J'en appelle encore, Mesdames et Messieurs, à votre soutien pour faire parler ces manuscrits dont le Mali n'est que le gardien et qui appartiennent à la communauté internationale.

18.7 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, vous le savez, le Mali a transféré à la Cour pénale internationale le premier suspect pour destruction de patrimoine de l'humanité. C'est le lieu de saluer le Président Mahamadou Issoufou et Mme Irina Bokova – encore vous, Madame – pour l'effort conjugué qui a abouti à cet événement de grande portée historique. Nous devons tous soutenir avec énergie 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.

18.8 Le Mali également, par effet de solidarité, manifeste son soutien à la campagne #UnisPourLePatrimoine lancée à l'Université de Bagdad. Notre indignation est grande devant les scènes de destruction des biens appartenant à l'humanité et témoignant de la créativité des civilisations humaines. Il nous faut agir pour arrêter cette barbarie. Si nous

voulons vaincre l'extrémisme, il nous faudrait nous attaquer aux racines du mal qui sont essentiellement l'illettrisme. L'éducation, en réponse à l'extrémisme, est le socle de notre politique nationale après les soubresauts que notre pays a connus.

18.9 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Mali est désormais sur la voie de la paix grâce à votre solidarité et à votre amitié. Mon pays a tangué dans les eaux boueuses de la violence et de l'incompréhension. Cependant, le 20 mai passé, nous avons montré au monde entier que la pirogue Mali peut tanguer mais que jamais elle ne coulera. Pour arriver à ce résultat, que de doutes, que de lassitudes, que d'amertume, que de dépit vaincus ! Nous avons su garder espoir. Nous avons puisé dans nos ressorts pour garder la flamme de l'espoir allumée.

18.10 Le Président de la République du Mali, S. E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, remercie la communauté internationale pour son action aux côtés du Mali. Il adresse ses vifs remerciements au Président François Hollande et au Président Abdul Aziz Bouteflika pour la conduite magistrale de la médiation entre Maliens. Avec l'aide de tous, nous saurons nous réconcilier, nous saurons réconcilier les Maliens et ramener la joie dans le cœur de chacun et la paix dans l'esprit de tous. Ainsi, nous aurons été dignes de nos illustres devanciers qui, en fondant notre belle Organisation, étaient convaincus que – je cite – « les guerres prenant naissance dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix ». Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for having delivered the President's message. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have thus come to the end of the Leaders' Forum for this morning. Before adjourning our meeting, I wish to remind you that the plenary will reconvene this afternoon at 3 p.m. when we will have the pleasure of hearing the addresses of two former Directors-General of UNESCO, namely Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow and Mr Koichiro Matsuura. As for the reports of the commissions, the plenary will examine these in our session tomorrow morning. I wish you a pleasant lunch. Before you rise, can we please allow their Excellencies to retreat from the room and thereafter we will follow in a very orderly manner. Thank you very much for your cooperation. *This meeting is now adjourned.*

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45

Заседание закрывается в 12.45

رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٢,٤٥ بعد الظهر

会议于 12 时 45 分结束

Fifteenth plenary meeting

Monday 16 November 2015 at 3.15 p.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Quinzième séance plénière

Lundi 16 novembre 2015 à 15 h 15
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Decimoquinta sesión plenaria

Lunes 16 de noviembre de 2015 a las 15.15
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Пятнадцатое пленарное заседание

понедельник 16 ноября 2015 г. в 15.15
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الخامسة عشرة

الإثنين ١٦ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٣,١٥ بعد الظهر
الرئيس: السيد **سيماتاا** (ناميبيا)

第十五次全体会议

2015年11月16日星期一 15时15分

主席：**Simataa 先生**（纳米比亚）

Election of Members of the Executive Board (*continued*)
Élection de membres du Conseil exécutif (*suite*)
Elección de los Miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo (*continuación*)
Выборы членов Исполнительного совета (*продолжение*)
انتخاب أعضاء في المجلس التنفيذي (تابع)
选举执行局委员 (续)

1. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I declare open the fifteenth plenary meeting of the General Conference. Ladies and gentlemen, before starting with our programme for this afternoon, we will conclude the election of Members of the Executive Board by announcing the results of the second round of votes for the last remaining vacant seat for Group V (b). The run-off election took place on Friday afternoon last week, under the supervision of His Excellency Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee. I now have the pleasure to invite him to present the results of the ballot. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

2.1 **Mr Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to thank you, Mr President, for trusting me with the task of reporting to the plenary of the General Conference on the detailed results of the second round of elections to the Executive Board. I am grateful to the many people who made the second round of the elections possible. As already mentioned, I shall use my oral report to a forthcoming plenary session of the General Conference to express my thanks to those to whom I am indebted.

2.2 Mr President, as you have just mentioned, two countries in Group V (b), namely Saudi Arabia and Sudan, obtained the same number of votes in the first round of voting for the Executive Board on 11 November 2015. As a result, in accordance with Rule 94 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, a secret ballot restricted to those candidates took place on Friday 13 November. The result of that ballot is as follows: number of States with voting rights: 186. Absent: 32. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 3. Names of the Member States candidates and number of votes secured for each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Sudan: 86; Saudi Arabia: 65. Thank you very much, Mr President.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following four Member States of Group V (b) elected Members of the Executive Board: Lebanon, Oman, Qatar and Sudan. Once again, thank you very much.

Leaders' Forum (*continued*)
Forum des dirigeants (*suite*)
Foro de dirigentes (*continuación*)
Форум руководителей (*продолжение*)
منتدى القادة (تابع)
领导人论坛 (续)

4. **The President:**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I now have the pleasure of inviting Her Excellency, Ms Kané Aïchatou Boulama, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Niger, who will deliver the message of the President of Niger on the occasion of the Leaders' Forum. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

5.1 **Mme Boulama** (Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération du Niger) :

Excellence, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale ; Excellence, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif ; Excellence, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Irina Bokova ; Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et délégués permanents ; Mesdames et Messieurs, dignes représentants des dirigeants et chefs d'États membres de l'UNESCO. Permettez-moi tout d'abord de joindre ma voix à celles des illustres orateurs qui m'ont précédée pour exprimer mes sentiments de profonde tristesse et la solidarité du peuple nigérien avec le Gouvernement et le peuple français meurtris par la douloureuse épreuve qu'ils connaissent précisément en ce moment-ci à cause de la folie meurtrière d'hommes sans foi ni loi, j'ai nommé « les barbares dits djihadistes ».

5.2 En ce moment solennel où je m'adresse à cette auguste Assemblée que vous constituez, au nom de S. E. Issoufou Mahamadou, Président de la République du Niger, j'ai envie de vous surprendre en relevant le fait extraordinaire que voici. Ce qui unit le Niger à l'UNESCO, à l'ensemble des États membres, relève bien sûr de tous ces objectifs que nous partageons mais aussi et surtout de ce que le Niger apporte de particulier. Je vais évoquer cet incomparable joyau de la culture africaine que l'on appelle « la parenté ou le cousinage à plaisanterie ». « La parenté à plaisanterie », ou le *wassan tabastaka* en haoussa, vient en effet de trouver sa place sur la Liste du patrimoine immatériel de l'humanité grâce aux efforts conjugués du Niger et de l'UNESCO. « La parenté à plaisanterie » ou « cousinage à plaisanterie », ou encore le *wassan tabastaka*, vous est désormais offert en partage grâce à son inscription, cette année même, sur la Liste du patrimoine immatériel de l'humanité.

5.3 La culture de la paix, c'est la recherche, l'éducation, la formation de la jeunesse et la sensibilisation de la population pour éradiquer définitivement le radicalisme. La culture de la paix est une des valeurs promues par l'UNESCO et par « le cousinage à plaisanterie ». Cette « plaisanterie », vous le verrez, peut nous mener très loin, mais

je dois vous dire tout d'abord que je suis particulièrement émue d'exprimer la fierté que nous éprouvons, nous, Nigériens, devant ce que nous considérons comme une grande, très grande victoire culturelle.

5.4 L'inscription de « la parenté à plaisanterie » au patrimoine de l'humanité n'est pas seulement l'aboutissement de notre engagement commun mais couronne plus largement un combat poursuivi par le Niger, depuis un demi-siècle, pour la reconnaissance de l'histoire de la civilisation africaine. Ce combat a été porté par Boubou Hama, une de nos illustres figures nationales et pilier de la jeune République nigérienne, qui fut 14 ans durant le Président de son Parlement en même temps qu'un homme de lettres prolifique et aussi un des premiers rédacteurs de l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique, cet immense chantier culturel lancé par l'UNESCO dès le début des années 1960. Consacrant la richesse de nos traditions orales, l'inscription du *wassan tabastaka* au patrimoine de l'humanité est l'un des aboutissements remarquables du combat mené par Boubou Hama et, à sa suite, par tout notre pays. Cette richesse et le travail que nous avons accompli pour la mettre à jour constituent aujourd'hui le socle de notre identité culturelle. Sous son éclairage universel, le *wassan tabastaka* devient un symbole vivant qui, d'abord, nous ramène aux marques les plus essentielles de la construction de notre indépendance, à la réappropriation de notre histoire et à la fierté que nous pouvons en tirer. C'est sur le socle de cette identité culturelle que nous pouvons cultiver la cohésion et l'unité de la nation nigérienne. Vous savez combien elle nous est indispensable aujourd'hui pour faire face à la guerre que la secte Boko Haram a déclarée au Niger ainsi qu'à quelques-uns des pays voisins. Cette guerre, par le nom même de ceux qui la livrent, se fonde précisément sur la négation des principes d'ouverture à l'autre que nous a légués notre histoire à travers nos plus anciennes traditions, dont « la parenté à plaisanterie » est une dimension extraordinairement féconde.

5.5 Sans aller jusqu'à développer son immense champ d'application et ses ressorts extrêmement complexes, je me contenterai de vous livrer certaines des significations symboliques que nous pouvons en tirer aujourd'hui. La pratique de « la parenté à plaisanterie » est un jeu subtilement codifié qui permet de régler tout différend de manière pacifique. Transmis de manière informelle, de génération en génération, depuis la nuit des temps, le *wassan tabastaka* peut être considéré comme un outil social et évolutif favorisant la cohésion des familles et des groupes ethnolinguistiques au sein d'une même communauté. On pourrait dire, pour employer un langage actuel, qu'elle institue la reconnaissance de cette diversité culturelle qui est chère à l'UNESCO. Aujourd'hui, son inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial de l'humanité, en élargissant sa dynamique ou sa dialectique, donne un relief saisissant à son utilité. « Le cousinage à plaisanterie » peut, en effet, devenir le modèle subtil et logique d'un moyen de prévention des guerres. Je vous invite donc à méditer avec nous – nous, vos cousins nigériens – les leçons concrètes que nous devrions tirer, il me semble, de cette reconnaissance hautement symbolique. Ne se répète-t-il pas sans cesse autour de nous que nombre de conflits, dont nous avons été les témoins depuis une cinquantaine d'années, auraient pu être évités si les parties opposées avaient eu recours au *wassan tabastaka* ? Aussi anachroniques puissent-elles paraître au regard du sentiment de fatalité que nous inspire souvent l'histoire, nous en sommes cependant profondément convaincus. Cette conviction nous poussera, je n'en doute pas, à persévérer dans la défense et le partage de notre patrimoine, par tous les moyens possibles d'éducation et de médiatisation culturelle.

5.6 L'inscription de « la parenté à plaisanterie » au patrimoine de l'humanité s'accompagnera bientôt, nous l'espérons, d'une action auprès de la jeunesse de notre pays, comme auprès de celles de tous les continents, pour accorder la place que mérite dans l'histoire universelle la Charte du Mandén, établie au XIII^e siècle par l'empereur Soundjata. Édifiant objet de méditation, la Charte du Mandén n'est pas autre chose que le modèle précurseur de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, proclamée quelque sept siècles plus tard. À ce renversement impérial des clichés les plus méprisants sur l'histoire du continent africain qui sont hélas encore en vigueur, j'ajouterai que la Charte du Mandén inspire, pour une grande part, les remarquables valeurs de tolérance de la culture islamique dans cette région du monde, valeurs qu'il nous appartient à tous ici plus que jamais de défendre. La publication, en 1998, de la Charte a été considérée par le grand historien Djibril Tamsir Niane comme l'événement majeur de la fin du XX^e siècle. Comment ne serions-nous pas saisis par l'évidence ? Cette discrète plaquette éditée à Niamey et passée quasiment inaperçue révélait en effet à la face du monde l'esprit législateur structurant les sociétés africaines dès cette époque, et surtout la primauté que ces sociétés accordent depuis la nuit des temps à la négociation sur le contentieux, c'est-à-dire sur les risques de conflit.

5.7 Pour permettre à cet esprit de souffler sur notre pays, nous avons actuellement mis en œuvre un vaste programme culturel afin de développer en une série de manifestations inédites deux thèmes de prédilection de l'UNESCO : la culture de la paix et la préservation de notre patrimoine immatériel. Ce programme intégrera un symposium sur « le cousinage à plaisanterie » et je n'entrerai pas davantage dans ses détails. Le sujet est si vaste, si complexe, si différent d'une région à l'autre et si évolutif que je m'en tiendrai, devant vous, à ses aspects symboliques les plus ouverts et les plus vigoureux. Par ce choix, nous faisons du *wassan tabastaka* un symbole de la culture de la paix considérée à travers le prisme de la culture africaine et je veux espérer que c'est la meilleure réplique que nous puissions opposer aux agressions barbares dont nous sommes les victimes. Nous voulons nous convaincre, nous voulons vous convaincre, que pour prospérer dans ces circonstances dans nos régions, la culture doit reposer sur nos plus anciennes connaissances et valeurs. « Le cousinage à plaisanterie » exprime, à ce titre et par extension, un sens particulièrement intelligent et on ne peut plus actuel de solidarité entre les communautés humaines.

5.8 Cette solidarité si ardemment attendue par les peuples de toute la région du Sahel s'adaptera ainsi, par sa nature profonde, aux nouvelles dimensions que le XXI^e siècle offre à l'humanité sous le thème de la globalisation. Nous avons, certes, besoin de la mettre en œuvre au Niger comme une digue, mais elle ne pourra – c'est l'évidence – être solide et durable qu'à condition d'y associer les autres pays de la région. Pour entamer cette tâche de longue haleine, nous venons de lancer une invitation audacieuse aux pays ayant le Sahel et le Sahara en partage. Nous leur proposons de passer un pacte culturel pour nous entraîner réciproquement à une solidarité inspirée par l'histoire de nos échanges ancestraux. Au-delà de la volonté de protéger le patrimoine commun de nos cultures traditionnelles contre les risques d'uniformisation de la globalisation, les rencontres sahélo-sahariennes qui auront lieu probablement en avril prochain

sont aussi bien évidemment pour nous un autre symbole. Un symbole qui pourra mobiliser, nous l'espérons, les forces vives de nos pays, c'est-à-dire notre jeunesse, en l'invitant à se projeter dans une nouvelle vision plus pragmatique du panafricanisme. Le multiculturalisme africain nous paraît, en effet, comme le meilleur vecteur de la multilatéralisation systématique des échanges qui s'impose au XXI^e siècle, comme la condition du développement et de l'épanouissement des peuples d'Afrique.

5.9 « Il est clair désormais, déclarait récemment Romano Prodi, ancien Président de la Commission européenne et Président de la Fondation pour la collaboration entre les peuples, que l'on ne pourra obtenir davantage de paix, de développement et de prospérité qu'en surmontant la fragmentation politique et économique du continent africain ». Romano Prodi faisait référence ici à la Conférence de Bologne que le Président de la République du Niger, Issoufou Mahamadou, avait organisée en 2014 avec son soutien pour la sauvegarde du lac Tchad. Cette conférence a été et restera au regard de l'histoire universelle, j'en suis persuadée, comme un modèle de ce nouvel ordre mondial de solidarité auquel les nations africaines aspirent. La Conférence de Bologne a ouvert la voie à une solidarité transnationale et transcontinentale dont on peut espérer qu'elle pourra rétablir progressivement le déséquilibre du développement dont sont victimes les pays africains, ne serait-ce qu'au regard du réchauffement climatique dont le lac Tchad est la complexe et dramatique illustration. La question mérite de longs développements et le Niger, en tant que membre de la Commission du Bassin du lac Tchad – l'une de nos plus anciennes institutions panafricaines –, détient la capacité de développer nombre d'arguments impressionnants qui plaident pour sa sauvegarde. Et je n'hésiterai pas à affirmer que cette autre cause défendue par le Niger concerne l'humanité entière et plus particulièrement encore ceux de ses représentants qui se réuniront prochainement, ici même à Paris, pour la COP21.

5.10 Hélas, me voilà empêchée d'aller plus loin en raison de l'urgence dans laquelle se trouve le Niger de parer à la menace d'un incendie beaucoup plus grave que celui jadis évoqué par Amadou Hampâté Bâ au sujet de la disparition de nos traditions orales. Permettez-moi une petite parenthèse pour vous rappeler que cet humble membre du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO avait prononcé, le 1^{er} décembre 1960, un discours historique pour mobiliser les nations dans cette bataille tout en tournant la page du colonialisme. La menace qui pèse sur la prodigieuse mosaïque culturelle des peuples du Bassin du lac Tchad, vous l'avez compris, est celle exercée par Boko Haram et d'autres organisations extrémistes sans foi ni loi qui retardent la construction d'un avenir meilleur dans l'une des régions du monde les plus vulnérables au réchauffement climatique.

5.11 La boucle est bouclée. Nous voilà revenus à « la plaisanterie » par laquelle j'ai débuté mes propos, soit les liens qui associent le Niger à l'UNESCO dans la défense de nos traditions culturelles. Ces liens sont multiples et anciens, s'appliquant aux structures mêmes de notre construction moderne. Ils sont d'aujourd'hui, avec l'inscription de notre plaisanterie au patrimoine de l'humanité. Ils s'enrichiront demain dans une construction commune, ayant de plus en plus sa place et son efficacité dans la transformation du monde qui est en train de s'opérer sur la base d'une nouvelle coopération entre les peuples. La boucle se resserre sur la question essentielle de la diversité culturelle où nous pouvons pratiquer un nouveau tissage des symboles. La cause de la sauvegarde du lac Tchad ne pourra être pleinement entendue et défendue que si celui-ci est lui-même classé au patrimoine mondial de l'humanité. Cette formidable offensive pacifique ne pourra pas désarmer, oserai-je dire en guise de plaisanterie, elle est le sens que le Niger donne à l'équipage formé avec l'UNESCO pour agir aujourd'hui et demain. En creusant ce sillon culturel, je veux croire que nous parviendrons à lier paix et développement durable dans de nouvelles dynamiques de solidarité qui mobiliseront l'humanité pour opérer un rééquilibrage de l'apport du continent africain au reste du monde. Ce rééquilibrage va de pair avec le respect, de part et d'autre du monde, de la diversité des identités culturelles. De part et d'autre du monde, ce projet humaniste devra être considéré comme un vecteur commun de résistance à la barbarie.

5.12 Pour conclure, je tiens à saluer encore une fois la mémoire des victimes, partout à travers le monde, de ces nouveaux barbares qui abhorrent l'idée même d'une diversité culturelle et les libertés. Je voudrais plus particulièrement encore saluer la mémoire de celles et ceux qui ont payé de leur vie cette haine dans le dernier assaut que ces ennemis de l'islam ont livré ici-même, il y a quelques jours, en ensanglantant les rues de la capitale française : que la terre leur soit légère. Et j'ajouterai seulement : que la paix soit avec le peuple français et que la paix soit avec vous tous, respectables cousins.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. May I kindly request you to please convey the appreciation of the General Conference to His Excellency the President for this very inspiring message? And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my immense pleasure to give the floor to two very distinguished gentlemen – however, not together, it will be one by one. Together with the current Director-General Ms Irina Bokova, these are people who have marked the history of our Organization over the past decades. I will first start by inviting the former Director-General Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, who headed the Organization for a decade, from 1999 until 2009. Mr Matsuura, you have the floor, Sir.

7.1 **Mr Matsuura** (former Director-General of UNESCO):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General Irina Bokova, I would like to greet in particular former Director-General Mr M'Bow who is sitting there. The last time I met him was five years ago on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of UNESCO. Ms Bokova had invited us to come here to give an address; I was here with Mr M'Bow and Mr Mayor. I understand you are now 94 years old, Sir. It is amazing! You are still in good health. I would like to add, if I may, that I would like to see you once again in five years' time, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of UNESCO, if the Director-General of that time invites us to come here. More formally, I would like to thank Director-General Bokova for inviting me to come to UNESCO on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. My congratulations to the Organization and my congratulations to its head, Ms Bokova, and my congratulations to all Ambassadors and heads of delegations and the entire staff of UNESCO.

7.2 Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors and heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, we are, unfortunately, living in very difficult times. Many of the speakers who have preceded me have referred to the recent terrorist attacks which have caused many human victims, a very unfortunate incident but we cannot forget that it is not isolated. There are many other terrorist attacks in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, I would like to once again congratulate Ms Bokova for having decided to hold a Leaders' Forum and celebrate the 70th anniversary in spite of these terrorist attacks. It must have been a difficult decision. I clearly remember that I faced the same challenge back in 2001 when there was the 9/11 attack in New York City. At the time, many international conferences at high level were postponed, including the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. After all, these attacks did take place in the United States. This time, the attacks took place in Paris. I do imagine it was a difficult decision for you to decide to have the Leaders' Forum, inviting many heads of State and many heads of government and many ministers. At the time, back in 2001, in spite of a lot of hesitation, and even a lot of opposition, I decided to go ahead, to hold a further Executive Board session and the General Conference. Luckily enough, we are all still here and I am very sure that everything will go well this time. I have heard many very important speeches delivered by the invited guests this morning, and also this afternoon. I am delighted to be here together with all these important VIPs and to have the opportunity to say a few words. Like others, I would certainly like to condemn these terrorist attacks and also express my condolences to the victims of them. I certainly hope such attacks will not be repeated, not just in Paris but also in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, nobody knows what will happen in the coming days or the coming years.

7.3 Once again, like other speakers, I would like to stress that in today's difficult world, the role of UNESCO has become more and more important, more and more relevant. Since many have referred to the first sentence of the preamble of the Constitution of UNESCO, perhaps I should not repeat it, but nevertheless I would like to mention at least part of it, that is, the defences of peace must be built in the minds of men and women. I think that is the crucial slogan, the crucial target of the entire international community. UNESCO was created back in November 1945, and in my country, namely in Japan, there was immediately a positive echo; I am very proud to say that the first UNESCO association was created in Sendai, Japan, in August 1947, a year and a half later. I am happy to add, in this context, that Mr M'Bow, our former Director-General, was the first Director-General of UNESCO to visit Sendai, albeit many years later, to congratulate its inhabitants on their initiative to create the first UNESCO association. I would like to also add that my country, Japan, was accepted by UNESCO in July 1951, even before Japan regained its independence and sovereignty. I was still a student in secondary school, but I remember Japanese mass media, newspapers and radio, gave a great deal of publicity to Japan's entry into a very important international organization called UNESCO, which was in charge of key areas: education, culture, the sciences and communication. These are the four key areas of what is now called "soft power" in the context of building the defences of peace in the minds of men and women. So that impressed me, even though I was just a student at secondary school. Of course, I never imagined many years later that I would become Director-General of this important organization, and I was therefore very proud to be elected to that post in November 1999. At any rate, I would like to repeat, the mandate of UNESCO is crucial in today's world, and I do hope UNESCO will pursue its important mission under the leadership of Ms Bokova.

7.4 I would like to add in this context that, as some of the speakers have already said, some highly important new international development targets, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were adopted at the United Nations summit in New York in late September this year, targeting 2030. As you know, we had the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targeting 2015, which were adopted by the United Nations in September 2000. I was at the summit in New York myself, representing UNESCO. As you know, the MDGs focused on the immense reduction, even elimination, of absolute poverty. The new targets, the SDGs, target the elimination of absolute poverty, but there is a new element. There is SD, namely sustainable development, and the concept that is applicable not only to the developing world, but also to the developed world.

7.5 This then is a global concept, a very important new concept, which must be addressed by the entire international community, by all countries in the world. As you know, there are 17 goals, including the crucial goal on education. UNESCO must implement this education goal as specified in the SDGs. I would like to add that I know that Ms Bokova campaigned in order to have a new culture target included in the SDGs. I did so too, back in 2000 for the MDGs, but I failed, and I think she has made excellent progress, but finally there is no reference to culture in the SDGs. As many speakers in the Leaders' Forum have stressed, we have to establish a peaceful, multicultural society in the world – a multicultural society not just globally, but a multicultural society in all nations. Even though, I repeat, there is no particular target on culture in the SDGs, there UNESCO's role is very important, because UNESCO is the only international organization in charge of culture. We must create, on a solid basis, a peaceful multicultural society, globally and nationally. There I therefore reiterate the fact that UNESCO's role is crucial, and we look forward to Ms Bokova's strong leadership in this context. Thank you very much for your attention.

8. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Matsuura, for taking us along memory lane, and for re-emphasizing the centrality of UNESCO in quite a number of areas, particularly in the area of culture, for which UNESCO has unique responsibility throughout the world. Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, we had also planned to welcome Mr Federico Mayor Zaragoza, who served as the eighth Director-General of UNESCO from 1987 to 1999. Unfortunately though, the recent tragic events have prevented Mr Mayor from attending our meeting today. However, his speech will be delivered by Her Excellency, Ms Maria Teresa Lizaranzu Perinat, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Spain to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

9.1 **Sra Lizaranzu Perinat** (embajadora delegada permanente de España en la UNESCO):

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, estimados señoras y señores embajadores y delegados permanentes, autoridades, funcionarios y exfuncionarios, personal de la Organización,

señoras y señores: quiero trasladar el profundo agradecimiento de Federico Mayor Zaragoza por permitirle hoy leer estas palabras que hago mías, y comienzo:

9.2 Tengo en el recuerdo, con profundo reconocimiento, a todos los que en los setenta años que ahora celebramos han aportado esfuerzo, dedicación y diligencia en favor del prestigio de la UNESCO. Todos ellos son actores del aniversario que hoy tiene lugar. Señoras y señores: al dirigirme hoy a quienes representan a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura, cuya fundamental misión es “erigir los baluartes de la paz” para “evitar a las generaciones venideras el horror de la guerra”, deseo expresar mi más firme condena a quienes, inducidos perversamente al fanatismo y dominados por la ignorancia y el miedo, atentan gravemente contra la vida y la convivencia pacífica. A todas las víctimas, mi más emocionada estima. Y a sus familiares, a todos los que sufren estos bárbaros zarpazos, mi adhesión y cercanía. El mundo no puede seguir ensangrentado y amedrentado. Es necesaria una reacción a escala mundial, que no solo tenga la fuerza real y moral para actuar con firmeza y prontitud ahora, sino que, sabiendo las causas, pueda evitar que se repitan en el futuro.

9.3 Hace veinte años, en 1995, al cumplirse el cincuenta aniversario, la UNESCO participó muy activamente en la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer de Beijing; promovió y contribuyó a que tuviera lugar en Copenhague la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Social; y la Conferencia General aprobó unánimemente la “Declaración de principios sobre la tolerancia”, cuyo artículo primero establece con gran clarividencia las bases que permiten a todos los seres humanos, todos diversos hasta la unicidad, todos unidos por los “principios democráticos” enunciados en la Constitución de la UNESCO, vivir en paz, personal y colectivamente. Todos los seres humanos iguales en dignidad. Es necesaria y apremiante la transición desde una cultura de imposición, dominio, violencia y guerra a una cultura de encuentro, conciliación, alianza y paz. Este es el gran objetivo de la Organización. La Declaración y Programa de Acción sobre una Cultura de Paz aprobados por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el 13 de septiembre de 1999 incluyen múltiples medidas educativas, de fomento del conocimiento y práctica de los derechos humanos, de la igualdad de género, de la libre expresión, del desarrollo sostenible.

9.4 En aquel momento ya se vislumbraba, por primera vez en la historia, que era posible llevar a la práctica el inicio luminoso de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas: “Nosotros los pueblos [...], resueltos a preservar a las generaciones venideras del flagelo de la guerra”. Hasta entonces, desde el origen de los tiempos, el poder absoluto en manos de unos cuantos hombres, y los demás, hombres y mujeres, sometidos, atemorizados, silenciosos, obedientes. La inmensa mayoría de los seres humanos nacían, vivían y morían en unos pocos kilómetros cuadrados. Se hallaban confinados intelectual y territorialmente. Y la mujer —“piedra angular de la nueva era”, como me dijo el Presidente Nelson Mandela en Pretoria en 1996— no tenía la menor incidencia en la toma de decisiones. Pero, de pronto, con los progresos de la tecnología de la comunicación, los seres humanos dejaron — están dejando, progresivamente — de ser invisibles, anónimos y callados. Ya podían expresarse. Ya podían participar, base de la democracia. Ya sabían lo que acontecía a escala planetaria y devenían ciudadanos del mundo. Y la mujer, con sus cualidades inherentes, por fin en el estrado. Por fin en el escenario político, por fin progresivamente igual.

9.5 La Directora General destacaba en su escrito de invitación la “solidaridad —intelectual y moral, como establece el preámbulo de nuestra Constitución — que constituye el corazón mismo del mandato de la UNESCO”. Compartir, cooperar — palabra dilecta de mi muy ilustre antecesor el Director General Amadou-Mahtar M’Bow — y comprometerse. Solidaridad intergeneracional: en unos días se celebrará en París la cumbre sobre el medio ambiente. Es imperativo alcanzar acuerdos para que se evite lo que constituiría un error histórico inconcebible: puntos de no retorno. El Presidente Obama ha urgido soluciones diciendo que “nuestra generación es la primera que hace frente al desafío del cambio climático y la última que puede resolverlo”. Y el Papa Francisco, en su encíclica *Laudato si’* sobre la “situación ecológica”, declara que “hay que actuar hoy porque mañana podría ser tarde”. Nos hallamos frente a una situación que no admite aplazamientos ni recodos. Creo que es un gran acierto que se celebre en París — son de destacar las alianzas de ciudades para promover el desarrollo sostenible que la alcaldesa Anne Hidalgo ha promovido al respecto —, porque fue en esta ciudad, sede de la UNESCO, donde, a los pocos años de su fundación, en 1945, se creaba la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN) y se ponían en marcha el Programa Internacional de Correlación Geológica, el Programa Hidrológico Internacional (PHI), la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental (COI) y el gran programa de referencia, el Programa sobre el Hombre y la Biosfera (MAB).

9.6 Para el nuevo “despegue” del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, la UNESCO es también actor principal. La “voz de los pueblos” — ahora ya audible y que no puede ser desoída — pedirá cambios radicales antes de que se produzcan puntos de no retorno. Es apremiante un multilateralismo democrático y ha sido un inmenso error sustituir a las Naciones Unidas por grupos plutocráticos (G-7, G-6, G-8, G-20) y los valores éticos por valores mercantiles. Todos los días mueren de hambre miles de personas, la mayoría niños y niñas de uno a cinco años de edad, al tiempo que se invierten en armas y gastos militares 3.000 millones de dólares. La tragedia humana que representan los flujos de emigración forzados por la pobreza extrema es el resultado de la disminución de los fondos destinados al desarrollo. La reducción de la “solidaridad” internacional es otro de los desafíos que deben abordarse sin dilación.

9.7 La urgente convocatoria de un período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas para decidir, con participación de todos los países, las medidas más urgentes para hacer frente, antes de que sea demasiado tarde, al terror, al deterioro ambiental y a la extrema pobreza, aparece hoy como la única solución, retomando el gran diseño que hizo el Presidente Roosevelt del sistema de las Naciones Unidas hace setenta años. Ahora ya es posible: “Nosotros, los pueblos”. La voz de los pueblos, de grandes clamores populares, para la transición de la fuerza a la palabra, del siniestro adagio de “*si vis pacem, para bellum*” a “*si vis pacem, para verbum*”. No más espectadores impasibles, sino actores movilizados por las comunidades académica, científica, artística, intelectual en suma. Señora Directora General: la gran riqueza diferencial de la UNESCO es que, en todos los países, está enraizada, conceptual e institucionalmente, en escuelas asociadas, clubes y asociaciones UNESCO, patrimonio universal cultural,

natural e inmaterial, cátedras UNESCO, reservas de biosfera... El “por-venir” está “por-hacer”. Cada ser humano único capaz de crear, nuestra esperanza. En la invención del futuro, la UNESCO jugará un papel crucial. ¡Por muchos años! Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(9.1) **Ms Lizaranzu Perinat** (Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Spain to UNESCO) (*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, esteemed ambassadors and permanent delegates, officials, staff members and former staff members of the Organization, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to convey the sincere gratitude of Federico Mayor Zaragoza for enabling his statement to be read out to you, which I will now do.

(9.2) It is with profound recognition that I remember all those who, during the 70 years that we are now celebrating, contributed their strength, dedication and diligence to UNESCO's prestige. They all had a role to play in the anniversary that is taking place today. Ladies and gentlemen, as I address today the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, whose fundamental mission is to construct the defences of peace so as to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”, I would like to strongly condemn those who, perversely driven to fanaticism and overcome by ignorance and fear, pose a serious threat to life and to peaceful coexistence. My deepest respects go to the victims, and to their relatives, to all those who suffer from this barbaric scourge, my support and sympathy. The world cannot carry on, bloodied and terrified. A reaction is needed on a global scale, not only with the material and moral force to ensure determined and rapid action now, but also, in full awareness of the causes, to prevent a recurrence in the future.

(9.3) Twenty years ago, in 1995, as it was celebrating its 50th anniversary, UNESCO took a very active part in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing; it promoted and contributed to the holding of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, and the General Conference approved, unanimously, the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, whose Article 1 established with great perspicacity the foundations enabling all human beings, all so diverse that each is unique, all united for the “democratic principles” enshrined in the Constitution of UNESCO, to live in peace, personally and collectively. All human beings are equal in dignity. The transition from a culture of imposition, domination, violence and war to a culture of encounters, conciliation, alliance and peace is necessary and urgent. This is the Organization's great purpose. The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 September 1999 included a number of measures for education, fostering knowledge and the practice of human rights, gender equality, freedom of expression and sustainable development.

(9.4) At that moment, it could already be discerned for the first time in history, that it would be possible to put in practice the shining introduction to the Charter of the United Nations: “We the peoples [...], determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. Until then, since the dawn of time, absolute power had been in the hands of a few men, and the others, men and women, had been subjugated, terrified, silent and obedient. The vast majority of human beings were born, lived and died within a few square kilometres. They were limited, in intellectual and territorial terms. And women, the cornerstone of the new era, as President Nelson Mandela said to me in Pretoria, in 1996, had not the slightest influence on decision-making. However, all of a sudden, with advances in communication technology people were gradually ceasing to be invisible, anonymous and quiet. Finally they could express themselves. They could participate, which is the very basis of democracy. At last they knew what was happening in the world and they were becoming global citizens. And women, with their inherent qualities, were at last on the podium, at last in the political arena, at last gradually equal.

(9.5) In her written invitation, the Director-General emphasized the “solidarity, intellectual and moral, as set out in the Preamble to our Constitution, that constitutes the very heart of UNESCO's mandate”. Sharing, cooperating – a word dear to my most illustrious predecessor, Director-General, Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow – and commitment. Intergenerational solidarity: in a few days, in Paris, the summit on the environment will be held. It is imperative to reach agreements to ensure that what would constitute an unthinkable historical mistake is avoided: the point of no return. President Obama has urged for solutions, saying that “our generation is the first to face up to the challenge of climate change and the last that can solve it”. And Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato si* on the “ecological situation” said that we must act today because tomorrow might be too late. We are facing a situation that does not allow for deferment or deviation. I think it is a wise decision for it to be held in Paris – and it is worth highlighting the alliances of cities to promote sustainable development that Mayor Anne Hidalgo has advanced in this respect – because it is a city, home to UNESCO, where, a few years after its foundation in 1945, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was established, and the International Geological Correlation Programme, International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the major programme of reference, the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) were started.

(9.6) For the new “launch” of the United Nations system, UNESCO is also a key actor. The “voice of the peoples”, which is now audible and cannot be ignored, will demand radical change before the point of no return is reached. We are in urgent need of democratic multilateralism and it has been a serious mistake to replace the United Nations with plutocratic groups (G-7, G-6, G-8, G-20) and to trade ethical values for commercial values. Every day, thousands of people starve to death, most of them children aged one to five years, while \$3,000 million is spent on weapons and military expenditure. The human tragedy that is represented by flows of migration forced by extreme poverty is the outcome of the drop in funds earmarked for development. The fall in international “solidarity” is another of the challenges that must be addressed without delay.

(9.7) The urgent convening of an extraordinary series of United Nations General Assembly meetings to decide, with the participation of all countries, on the most urgent measures to cope, before it is too late, with the terror, environmental degradation and extreme poverty, now seems like the only solution, returning to the great design that President Roosevelt made of the United Nations system 70 years ago. Now, “we the people” is possible. The people's voice, a great popular clamour, for the transition from force to words, from the sinister saying “*si vis pacem, para bellum*” to “*si vis pacem, para verbum*”. Not as impassive spectators but actors mobilized by communities that are academic, scientific, artistic - in short, intellectual. Madam Director-General: the great wealth that makes UNESCO stand out is that in every country it is rooted, conceptually and institutionally, in associated schools, UNESCO clubs and associations, the universal cultural, natural and intangible heritage, UNESCO chairs, biosphere reserves, and so on. The future has yet to be forged. Every unique individual capable of creating is our hope. As the future is invented, UNESCO will play a crucial role. For many years to come! Thank you very much, Mr President.

10. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency, and please do convey our sincere gratitude to Mr Mayor for his very wise words and remarks. It is my immense pleasure now and honour, ladies and gentlemen, to welcome Mr Mayor's predecessor. Mr Amadou Mahtar-M'Bow began working for UNESCO in 1953, and I am going to share a secret with you.

In 1953, this young but aging man who is here as President of this General Conference, was not yet even born. That is our secret, and it remains here in the General Conference. Mr M'Bow was Director-General from 1974 to 1987, the first African head of a United Nations specialized agency. Mr M'Bow, it is a pleasure to invite you, Sir, to take the floor.

11.1 **M. M'Bow** (ancien Directeur général de l'UNESCO) :

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, mes premiers mots seront pour présenter mes condoléances les plus attristées au Gouvernement et au peuple français et aux familles qui ont perdu l'un ou l'autre de leurs membres dans cette soirée de folie que Paris a connue. Je voudrais dire ma solidarité avec tous ceux qui ont souffert de cet événement.

11.2 Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est la sixième fois que l'occasion m'est donnée de participer à la célébration d'une décennie de l'Organisation. La première fois, c'était en 1966, année où je fus élu membre du Conseil exécutif. Contrairement aux célébrations précédentes, je ne parlerai pas de l'Organisation ni de ses réalisations. Je me bornerai, puisque c'est sans doute la dernière fois que j'aurai à m'exprimer devant vous, à rappeler brièvement les circonstances de sa naissance, les espoirs fondés en elle par les 263 délégués appartenant à 44 pays et 8 organisations de caractère international qui, du 1^{er} novembre au 16 novembre 1945, ont siégé à Londres, et à rendre hommage à la mémoire des fondateurs et de ceux qui l'ont servie depuis sa création avec engagement et dévouement et avec toute la force de leur conviction. La guerre qui s'était achevée en mai 1945 en Europe et en août de la même année en Asie et dans le Pacifique, était la plus meurtrière, la plus dévastatrice que l'humanité ait jamais connue. Elle avait un caractère plus mondial encore que celle qui l'avait précédée, 25 ans auparavant. Elle avait fait des millions de victimes, militaires, certes – j'aurais pu en être, étant moi-même soldat pendant cette guerre –, mais surtout civiles. Elle avait plongé le monde dans l'effroi et dans la misère et provoqué des dégâts matériels énormes, et témoigné, par l'idéologie et les pratiques de ceux qui l'avaient provoquée, d'une perversion inimaginable des esprits.

11.3 Les fondateurs de l'UNESCO ont eu, de cette guerre, une expérience que n'avaient pas leurs devanciers qui, réunis à San Francisco en juin 1945, ont créé le système des Nations Unies. Il s'agit des effets des deux bombes atomiques qui avaient été lancées sur Hiroshima, puis sur Nagasaki, en août 1945, et qui avaient mis fin à la guerre en Asie et dans le Pacifique. Aussi ont-ils été préoccupés par le destin commun de l'humanité. Il a été établi, en effet, qu'avec ces armements, toute guerre où ceux-ci seraient inévitablement employés pourrait sonner le glas de l'humanité. Aussi les fondateurs de la nouvelle Organisation avaient-ils le sentiment de l'importance qu'elle devait avoir dans la préservation de la paix, paix inséparable du progrès général de l'humanité car l'injustice, la pauvreté et les inégalités engendrent généralement des frustrations et des tensions préjudiciables à la paix.

11.4 Dès l'ouverture de la Conférence, c'est le Chef de la délégation des États-Unis d'Amérique, Archibald MacLeish, qui élève le débat en déclarant – je le cite : « L'humanité a enfin la preuve que l'homme moderne se trouve devant une alternative à laquelle il ne saurait se soustraire, une alternative dont les deux termes doivent être pesés soigneusement et doivent faire l'objet d'un choix immédiat. [...] En voici les éléments : nous devons dire si nous préférons vivre ensemble ou si nous préférons – et je donne à ces termes leur sens littéral – cesser de vivre ». Léon Blum, chef de la délégation de la France, dira de son côté : « Nous savons tous, bien que notre imagination reste impuissante à nous le représenter, que toute nouvelle guerre prendrait le caractère d'une sorte de destruction cosmique. Nous savons tous que les peuples doivent s'unir ou périr ». Ainsi parlait Léon Blum.

11.5 Mme Ellen Wilkinson, Ministre de l'éducation du Royaume-Uni, Présidente de la Conférence, dut souligner qu'il importe « de veiller à ce que le monde ne soit plus obligé de revoir, pour la troisième fois, une épreuve qui pourrait fort bien, cette fois, être la dernière ». Les sentiments ainsi exprimés par Archibald MacLeish, Léon Blum et Mme Wilkinson étaient partagés par l'ensemble des membres de la Conférence. Dès lors, la coopération dans les domaines qui relèvent de la pensée et de l'esprit, à savoir l'éducation, la science, la culture, apparaît-elle comme essentielle à la préservation de la paix et de la sécurité qui va de pair avec l'action en vue du progrès commun de l'humanité.

11.6 Et le Premier Ministre du Royaume-Uni, M. Clement Attlee, ouvrant la Conférence, de faire remarquer aussi que le domaine de l'éducation et de la culture constitue l'un des aspects les plus importants de la vie internationale. « N'est-ce point après tout, dit Attlee, dans l'esprit des hommes que commencent les guerres ? ». Et il ajoute : « Éduquons nos peuples pour que leur esprit se tourne vers la paix ». Sa conviction est alors que « les peuples du monde sont comme des îles qui se lancent des appels, par-dessus des océans de malentendus. Ils ne se comprennent pas les uns les autres, ni dans leur histoire, ni dans leurs mœurs, ni dans leur mentalité. Et pourtant, mieux ils se comprendront, plus ils se rendront compte de tout ce qu'ils ont en commun et pourquoi et en quoi ils diffèrent les uns des autres, et moins ils seront tentés de se battre les uns contre les autres ». « Connais-toi toi-même », disait le vieux proverbe. « Connais ton voisin », disons-nous aujourd'hui. « Notre voisin, conclut Clement Attlee, c'est le monde entier. Paix sur la terre et bonne volonté envers tous les hommes ».

11.7 On comprend dès lors que pour Archibald MacLeish, la Conférence de Londres s'est réunie afin de préparer l'instrument destiné à développer la compréhension mutuelle dans toute l'humanité. « Ce n'est que lorsque les peuples de toutes les nations reconnaîtront qu'ils appartiennent à une humanité commune, que le choix des esprits deviendra celui des cœurs », dit-il. Aussi peut-on mieux comprendre les idéaux énoncés dans le préambule de l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation et les objectifs que ses fondateurs lui ont assignés.

11.8 La Charte de l'Organisation précise, en effet, que les Parties à la présente Convention, au nom de leurs peuples, déclarent notamment : « Qu'une paix fondée sur les seuls accords économiques et politiques des gouvernements ne saurait entraîner l'adhésion unanime, durable et sincère des peuples et que, par conséquent, cette paix doit être établie sur le fondement de la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de l'humanité. Pour ces motifs, les États signataires de cette Convention, résolus à assurer à tous le plein et égal accès à l'éducation, la libre poursuite de la vérité objective et le libre échange des idées et des connaissances, décident de développer et de multiplier les relations entre leurs peuples en

vue de se mieux comprendre et d'acquérir une connaissance plus précise et plus vraie de leurs coutumes respectives. En conséquence, ils créent par les présentes l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture afin d'atteindre graduellement, par la coopération des nations du monde dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture, les buts de paix internationale et de prospérité commune de l'humanité en vue desquels l'Organisation des Nations Unies a été constituée, et que sa Charte proclame. ».

11.9 L'état actuel du monde et les graves événements qui l'agitent montrent que, malgré les efforts déployés et les résultats obtenus au cours des 70 années passées, les objectifs assignés à l'UNESCO sont toujours d'actualité. Les efforts doivent donc être poursuivis sans relâche en dépit des difficultés qui n'ont pas épargné l'Organisation depuis sa création. Aussi voudrais-je rendre hommage à la mémoire des fondateurs, ceux que j'ai cités et tous les autres. Le même hommage s'adresse aux directeurs généraux qui se sont succédé à la tête de l'Organisation depuis sa création et aux fonctionnaires qui l'ont servie avec détermination.

11.10 Pour terminer, je voudrais formuler un vœu, celui de la publication par l'UNESCO du Rapport de la Conférence de Londres qui devrait être lu et médité par tous les représentants des États membres et par tous ceux qui ont la vocation d'œuvrer pour les idéaux de cette Organisation. Je voudrais aussi remercier la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, de son aimable invitation et lui dire, ainsi qu'à M. Federico Mayor – absent – et à M. Matsuura – ici présent –, combien je suis heureux de les revoir. Je sais avec quel dévouement ils ont servi l'Organisation et combien ils sont attachés à ses idéaux. À tous les représentants des États membres ici rassemblés, au personnel du Secrétariat, je voudrais redire aussi mes sentiments profonds d'attachement aux idéaux qui nous sont communs. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

12. The President:

Thank you very much Mr M'Bow. On behalf of all Member States, and indeed on behalf of staff members of UNESCO, I wish to thank Mr Matsuura, Mr Mayor and Mr M'Bow for their very inspiring, renewing, reviving remarks. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to give the floor to the current Director-General, the first woman to hold this position, but hopefully not the last woman to do so, Ms Irina Bokova, to say a few words to accompany the wise words that were delivered by her predecessors. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

13.1 La Directrice générale :

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Excellences, cher Monsieur Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, cher Monsieur Koïchiro Matsuura, c'est un moment très émouvant pour moi. Je n'imaginai pas la célébration de cet anniversaire, les 70 ans de l'UNESCO, sans la présence de mes prédécesseurs. Il n'était pas prévu que je fasse un discours, mais le message important délivré par mes trois prédécesseurs mérite que je leur rende hommage et que je leur exprime, encore une fois, le profond respect que j'éprouve à leur égard.

13.2 Les paroles de M. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, qui nous a rappelé le contexte historique de la naissance de l'UNESCO, ont élargi l'horizon en nous permettant de mieux comprendre ce que notre Organisation a apporté à l'humanité et à la recherche de la paix et d'un développement durable. Si nous pouvons dire aujourd'hui, à cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale, que l'Organisation a réussi à bien ancrer son mandat dans le domaine de l'éducation – éducation inclusive, équitable et de qualité pour tous et apprentissage tout au long de la vie –, que la culture est également bien reconnue comme un outil de développement durable, que l'égalité des genres, la liberté d'expression, la diversité culturelle et la biodiversité sont considérées comme parties intégrantes d'un développement durable, c'est bien grâce à tous les efforts déployés par l'Organisation au fil des années.

13.3 Permettez-moi de rappeler à mon tour quelques moments importants de la vie de notre Organisation, parce que les discours de M. Koïchiro Matsuura, de M. Federico Mayor – je regrette qu'il ne soit pas avec nous mais je comprends les circonstances – et de M. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow ont tous évoqué la vie et l'évolution de notre Organisation. La modestie a empêché M. M'Bow de rappeler que c'est lui qui a propulsé, avec enthousiasme et vigueur, l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique, qui est désormais l'un des programmes phares de l'Organisation. C'est en 1976 que le programme des réserves de biosphère a été développé, avec la création des 37 premières réserves de biosphère pour la conservation des écosystèmes et de la diversité biologique en liaison avec les communautés locales. C'est en 1977 que le Fonds international pour la promotion de la culture a commencé ses activités destinées à soutenir les cultures nationales, la création artistique et la coopération régionale et internationale. Et je crois bien que c'est en 1980 que le Programme international pour le développement de la communication a vu le jour, à la 21^e session de la Conférence générale. Je pourrais évidemment continuer à dérouler cette longue liste d'accomplissements, mais je dirai seulement que, sans l'engagement de M. M'Bow, éminent intellectuel, ancien Ministre de l'éducation, ancien fonctionnaire aussi de l'UNESCO, cette Organisation n'aurait pas avancé vers de nouveaux horizons.

13.4 Ensuite est venu, avec toute la force de sa conviction, M. Federico Mayor, ancien Ministre de l'éducation lui aussi, et recteur d'université. C'était à la fin des années 1980, au moment de la chute du mur de Berlin, un moment d'enthousiasme dans la vie de notre Organisation. On se souvient de la Conférence de Jomtien, en Thaïlande, en 1990, qui a marqué le début du programme Éducation pour tous et mis l'accent sur l'éducation en tant que vecteur de développement dans tout le système des Nations Unies. 1992 a vu la naissance du programme Mémoire du monde et ce grand moment qu'a été le lancement du programme de La Route de l'esclave. En 1997 a été créé le programme phare qu'est le Prix mondial de la liberté de la presse UNESCO/Guillermo Cano. Je tiens à rendre hommage à M. Federico Mayor pour l'impulsion très forte qu'il a donnée à la liberté d'expression et à notre grand programme que nous considérons toujours comme notre accomplissement majeur pour l'égalité des genres et la promotion de la femme, avec la création, en 1999, du programme L'Oréal-UNESCO Pour les Femmes et la science.

13.5 Puis est arrivé M. Koïchiro Matsuura, mon prédécesseur. Je mentionnerai le début de son mandat, avec le grand Forum tenu à Dakar, au Sénégal, sur l'Éducation pour tous. C'était le début des objectifs du Millénaire pour le

développement et le moment pour l'UNESCO d'établir dans le domaine de l'éducation un leadership qui a largement façonné l'ensemble des activités autour de l'éducation. Le mandat de M. Matsuura a ensuite été marqué par l'adoption des grandes conventions dans le domaine de la culture, et je sais combien il s'est personnellement engagé en faveur de l'élaboration, de l'adoption et de la promotion de ces conventions. Je veux parler de la Convention sur la protection du patrimoine culturel subaquatique, de la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel et, bien évidemment, de la Convention sur la promotion et la protection des expressions de la diversité culturelle, dont nous fêtons cette année le 10^e anniversaire. Je crois que l'adoption de ces conventions a très fortement marqué l'ensemble du travail de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de la culture, de la diversité culturelle, de la protection du patrimoine et nous a donné des arguments indiscutables pour promouvoir la notion de la culture comme vecteur de développement durable.

13.6 Les accomplissements et les acquis de l'Organisation doivent ainsi beaucoup au travail majeur réalisé par mes prédécesseurs. Je crois que chaque organisation doit avoir sa mémoire, chaque organisation doit avoir certains repères pour avancer. Aujourd'hui, les défis sont sans doute différents, parce que le monde bouge et change, et nous devons évidemment nous adapter à ces changements et chercher de nouvelles réponses à ces nouveaux défis qui se posent, mais je crois que sans ces accomplissements, nous ne pourrions aujourd'hui pas avancer ni trouver ces réponses.

13.7 Si j'ai demandé la parole, Monsieur le Président, c'est, je le répète, pour rendre hommage à mes trois prédécesseurs, M. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, M. Federico Mayor et M. Koïchiro Matsuura, que je félicite et salue avec tout mon respect, toute mon amitié et toute ma fidélité. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

14.1 **The President:**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Directrice générale. Thank you very much, Madam Director-General, once again, for your foresight in having invited your predecessors to join us on this very special occasion. Your Excellencies, as we have clearly heard, UNESCO's mandate is ever more relevant in addressing the most complex issues of our times. Education, the sciences, culture and communication are critical in achieving transformational change – change that is needed for the development of our nations.

14.2 Seven decades after the birth of UNESCO and the United Nations, the proposal advanced by the founding fathers and founding mothers of our Organization is still valid today: education, as a basic human right and a cornerstone of the comprehensive development of human societies; the sciences, as the key to enhance our understanding of the world we live in; and culture, as the ever-renewable resource to pursue our sustainable development; and of course communication as the medium for the free flow of information and ideas. These are prerequisites for the sustainable development of individuals, nations and communities. Today, UNESCO is 70 years old. We need to build on the accomplishments accumulated over the years, focus on the essential added value of the Organization and continue to build a better future for the sustainable and equitable development of all.

14.3 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have thus come to the end of our meeting today. The plenary will reconvene tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. to adopt the remaining reports of the commissions and committees. I also remind members of the Bureau that the fifth – and I believe final – meeting of the Bureau will be held tomorrow morning as usual at 9 a.m. in Room X. In the afternoon, we will have the pleasure of receiving the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Malta and our host country, France. I now wish to give the floor to the Secretary to make a brief announcement.

15.1 **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La manifestation de commémoration de ce soir commencera à 19 heures en salle I par des interludes musicaux joués par l'Orchestre mondial pour la paix. Les musiciens, représentant 19 nationalités, interpréteront des morceaux de Samuel Barber et de Tchaïkovski, à la mémoire des victimes des attaques terroristes de vendredi dernier. Cette interprétation sera dédiée également aux familles et aux proches des victimes.

15.2 La cérémonie sera suivie d'une projection architecturale en direct sur les façades de l'UNESCO, sur le thème de la paix et de la solidarité, dès la fin du concert. La salle I devant être préparée pour cette cérémonie, merci de veiller à prendre tous vos effets personnels et documents avant de quitter la salle. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

16. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Secretary. And now, before I use the gavel one last time today, let me invite the former Directors-General and the current Director-General to please proceed to the stage, where Mr M'Bow is, for a group photograph. Once they are done, the Chair of the Executive Board and my good self will then join them for another photo. Thank you very much. *The meeting is now **adjourned** until tomorrow.*

*The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.
La séance est levée à 16 h 35
Se levanta la sesión a las 16.35
Заседание закрывается в 16.35
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٤,٣٥ بعد الظهر
会议于 16 时 35 分结束*

Sixteenth plenary meeting

Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 10.10 a.m.
President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Seizième séance plénière

Mardi 17 novembre 2015 à 10 h 10
Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Decimosexta sesión plenaria

Martes 17 de noviembre de 2015 a las 10.10
Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Шестнадцатое пленарное заседание

вторник 17 ноября 2015 г. в 10.10
Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة السادسة عشرة

الثلاثاء ١٧ الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ١٠,١٠ صباحاً
الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第十六次全体会议

2015年11月17日星期二 10时10分
主席：Simataa 先生（纳米比亚）

Report on the work of the Bureau of the Conference
Rapport sur les travaux du Bureau de la Conférence
Informe sobre las labores de la Mesa de la Conferencia
Доклад Президиума о работе
تقرير عن أعمال مكتب المؤتمر العام
大会主席团的工作报告

1.1 The President:

Good morning Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the sixteenth plenary meeting of the General Conference. As you are aware, today and tomorrow will be the penultimate days of our General Conference. The plenary meetings of today and tomorrow will be dedicated to the examination of reports of the programme commissions and committees and the adoption of the Appropriation Resolution. We will also have a brief closing ceremony to mark the end of our work.

1.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, before starting with the adoption of the reports, I would like to inform you that the Bureau of the General Conference held its fifth meeting this morning. The Bureau reviewed the organization of the last phase of work of our General Conference and examined two draft resolutions which I will now present for your attention. The first draft resolution concerns the tribute to the President of the 37th session of the General Conference, Mr Hao Ping. The Bureau, at its meeting this morning, acknowledged the diplomatic skill, humility and wisdom with which Mr Hao Ping presided over the General Conference, and recommended the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document 38 C/PLEN/DR.2. Dear colleagues, if you so permit, I will now ask the Secretary to read out the text of this resolution. Mr Secretary you have the floor.

Tribute to the President of the 37th session of the General Conference
Hommage au Président de la 37^e session de la Conférence générale
Homenaje al Presidente de la 37^a reunión de la Conferencia General
Выражение признательности Председателю 37-й сессии Генеральной конференции
إشادة برئيس الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام
向大会第三十七届会议主席致敬

2. The Secretary:

Thank you, Mr President. The text of 38 C/PLEN/DR.2 reads as follows: "Tribute to the President of the General Conference. The General Conference, *mindful* that H.E. Mr Hao Ping concluded his term of office as President of the General Conference at the opening of the 38th session, *noting* with appreciation the efforts he deployed to promote harmony, dialogue and mutual understanding among the Member States of UNESCO, *acknowledging* his unswerving commitment to promote the universal values and ideals of the Organization, *appreciating* his accomplishments in developing public/private partnerships in support of UNESCO's programmes, *recognizing* his efforts to enhance the image and visibility of UNESCO around the world, advancing particularly girls' and women's education, dialogue among cultures, the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in education, and UNESCO's role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *recalling* the diplomatic skills, humility and wisdom with which he has carried out his high responsibilities, *conveys* its high esteem and gratitude to His Excellency, Mr Hao Ping, for the contribution he has made to UNESCO during his term of office". Thank you, Mr President.

3. The President:

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Ladies and gentlemen, may I take it that the General Conference adopts this resolution by acclamation? *It is so decided*. Thank you very much.

Tribute to the Chairperson of the Executive Board
Hommage au Président du Conseil exécutif
Homenaje al Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo
Выражение признательности Председателю Исполнительного совета
إشادة برئيس المجلس التنفيذي
向执行局主席致敬

4. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, the round of applause shows our collective appreciation of Mr Hao Ping's leadership. Excellencies, the General Committee also decided to pay tribute to the Chair of the Executive Board, His Excellency Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr who is here with us. The Committee recognized his leadership and professionalism and the dedication with which he presided over the Board, and proposed that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in document 38 C/PLEN/DR.3. Dear colleagues, I now give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference who will read out this text. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

5. The Secretary:

Thank you, Mr President. The draft resolution 38 C/PLEN/DR.3 reads as follows. "Tribute to the Chair of the Executive Board. The General Conference, *noting* that H.E. Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr will conclude his term of office as Chair of the Executive Board, which he has held since 22 November 2013, at the end of the 38th session of the General Conference, *recalling* the professionalism and dedication with which he assumed his role as Chair of the Executive

Board, *confirming* his unswerving commitment to the ideals of UNESCO's Constitution in the execution of his mandate, *recognizing* his leadership and support for UNESCO's mandate in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication and information, and his advocacy for UNESCO's relevance especially as it relates to, *inter alia*, the preparations of the post-2015 development agenda, including education beyond 2015, the protection and preservation of culture in conflict areas, and the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, *also recognizing* the important role he played in making full use of UNESCO's wealth of expertise and of its role as an intellectual and cultural hub, thus ensuring the Organization's continued importance and relevance in the world of today, through the organization of a series of meetings under the banner "UNESCO at 70 and Future Prospects" as the Organization celebrates its 70th anniversary, *acknowledging* the efforts made by the Executive Board, under his leadership, towards greater optimization of its governance role, *conveying* its appreciation for the work to renovate the Executive Board meeting room and the Delegates' Lounge, undertaken through his leadership, *expresses* its profound gratitude to H.E. Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr for the invaluable services that he has rendered to the Organization." Thank you, Mr President.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Excellencies, may I take it that the General Conference adopts this resolution by acclamation. Thank you very much. *It is so decided.* Ladies and gentlemen, allow me now to give the floor to the Director-General who wishes to say a few words. Madam Director-General.

7.1 **The Director-General:**

Thank you very much Mr President. Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am truly honoured to have this opportunity once again to thank Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr for his leadership of the Executive Board of UNESCO. Ambassador Amr, you have captained the Executive Board at a turning point, a turning point for the world, as countries accelerated to reach the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and shaped the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a turning point for the Organization as the call for UNESCO has risen from societies across the world for support in advancing inclusive, equitable education and quality education and lifelong learning for all, in harnessing the sciences, safeguarding culture in conflict, in protecting freedom of expression and, I believe, guided by deep commitment to the values of dialogue and respect and driven by the principles and objectives that have underpinned our Organization for the last 70 years. I wish to thank you once again for accompanying and helping UNESCO grow and succeed in all its tasks.

(The Director-General continues in French)

7.2 J'ai déjà eu l'occasion, Monsieur le Président, de vous saluer et d'évoquer tout ce que vous avez fait pendant la dernière session du Conseil exécutif. J'ai pu aussi vous remercier pour votre engagement en faveur de l'UNESCO en ces temps difficiles. Votre détermination à assurer la rénovation de la salle X est également un symbole de leadership. C'est aussi un symbole du rôle dirigeant du Conseil exécutif, notamment dans la dernière ligne de l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable et dans la préparation de la COP21.

7.3 La médaille du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO symbolise notre attachement collectif aux valeurs portées par l'Organisation, notre conviction que la haine et l'extrémisme violent peuvent être vaincus par l'éducation à la paix, par la culture de la paix. Contre cette maladie de l'esprit, c'est précisément avec les armes de l'esprit que nous devons lutter. Ce message revêt une signification particulière au lendemain des attentats de Paris. L'Égypte, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, connaît, elle aussi, le prix de l'extrémisme et a souffert, encore récemment, des attaques terroristes. Contre cette peste, l'UNESCO a une responsabilité particulière à assumer, une contribution à apporter. Votre action durant ces deux années à la tête du Conseil exécutif l'a bien montré et j'espère que nous poursuivrons cette tâche tous ensemble à l'avenir, sous d'autres formes.

7.4 Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, d'offrir à l'Ambassadeur Amr, Président du Conseil exécutif, la médaille de commémoration du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO devant cette assemblée plénière.

8. **The President**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Let me invite my dear friend and colleague, Ambassador Amr, to take the floor. My dear friend, you have the floor.

9. **Mr Amr (Egypt) (Chair of the Executive Board):**

Thank you Mr President. Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, my dear colleagues and friends, let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you all. It has been an honour to serve this Organization as Chair of the Executive Board. Mr President, Madam Director-General, I do not need to tell you just how much our world needs UNESCO. We are the moral compass that guides universal respect for justice and equality amongst all people, now more than ever. I wish you both all the best. I wish also good luck to my successor. Please note that I will remain faithful to UNESCO and will defend it forever.

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much my dear friend. That really was less than two minutes. Unfortunately I have run out of stock in terms of chocolates, but we will see what we can do bilaterally between us. Mr Chair of the Executive Board, dear friend, I hope that the medal presented to you by the Director-General will serve you as a constant reminder of the General Conference's strong appreciation of your leadership. On behalf of all of us here today, including many delegations who would have preferred to take the floor personally, I want to thank you very much again for your service and commitment to our beloved Organization. Once again, thank you very much.

Report of the Natural Sciences Commission (SC) (38 C/92)
Rapport de la Commission Sciences exactes et naturelles (SC) (38 C/92)
Informe de la Comisión de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales (SC) (38 C/92)
Доклад Комиссии по естественным наукам (SC) (38 C/92)
تقرير لجنة العلوم الطبيعية (SC) (٩٢/م٣٨)
自然科学委员会 (SC) 的报告 (38 C/92)

11. The President:

Excellencies, we will now proceed to examine the report of the Natural Sciences Commission. I would therefore like to give the floor to Her Excellency, Ms Noorul Ainur Binti Mohamed Nur, who will introduce the report contained in document 38 C/92. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12.1 Ms Nur (Malaysia) (Chairperson of the SC Commission):

Thank you Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Before I begin my report on the Natural Sciences Commission, I would like to express my sincere condolences and solidarity with the French people. Now more than ever, we must remain committed to UNESCO's mandate in building peace through shared understanding.

12.2 As Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission, it is my great pleasure to present the conclusions of the Commission's work to this honourable assembly. First and foremost, allow me to thank the members of the Bureau of the Natural Sciences Commission for their valuable support: Vice-Chairpersons Mr Nizamettin Kazanci (Turkey), Ms Ligia do Cardona (Dominican Republic) and Ms Gakou Salimata Fofana (Mali), Mr Abdullah Ahmed Abdulsalam (Sudan) and our Rapporteur Mr Radovan Stanislav Pejovnik (Slovenia). I also wish to pay tribute to the Secretary of the Natural Sciences Commission and to his team for their assistance behind the scenes in ensuring the efficient work of the Commission. I should also like to thank the representatives of the Director-General, Ms Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, and Mr Vladimir Ryabinin, Assistant Director-General and Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and Mr Jean Yves Le Saux, Director of Programme and Budget in the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP). Their productive exchanges with the Commission were most appreciated.

12.3 The Natural Sciences Commission began its work on Monday 9 November, and met four times. The Commission's work was organized around five debates and nine agenda items. I shall present the results of our work according to the adopted timetable, which is also reflected in the written report. Prior to the Commission's examination of the first item on the agenda, Mr Sergio Guevara, Chairperson of the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC-MAB) read out a joint statement by the Chairpersons of the following programmes: the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). In their joint statement, the Chairpersons pledged to support the Director-General as she seeks to reinforce the role of the sciences within UNESCO and in the broader international community. They underscored the importance of promoting awareness of the roles of the international science programmes and of UNESCO in the sciences within the United Nations system in order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would also like to thank Ms Houda Ait Mik, representative of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, and Ms Denise Young, representative of the International Council for Science, who spoke at this point. The Commission then took note of the reports of IBSP, IGCP, IHP, MAB and IOC on their activities in 2014–2015, as well as the report of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education.

12.4 Next to take the floor under agenda item 4.5, "Conclusion of the Youth Forum: Young Global Citizens for a Sustainable Planet", was the Youth Forum representative, Ms Samantha Montesarchio. Describing the Forum's conclusions as regards natural sciences, Ms Montesarchio emphasized the importance of addressing climate change, promoting innovation and focusing on the environmental education of future generations. The Commission thanked Ms Montesarchio for her presentation and took note of the Youth Forum's conclusions.

12.5 The Commission then took up item 3.4 of the agenda, namely the "Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)". The Director of the Programme and Budget for the Bureau of Strategic Planning gave a brief presentation of the preparation of the future Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (draft document 39 C/5). He recalled the recommendation of the 197th session of the Executive Board to the General Conference that it approve the roadmap proposed by the Secretariat for preparation of draft document 39 C/5. He explained the key milestones for the roadmap including the resolution taken by the General Conference at its 38th session to set the stage for launching the preparation of document 39 C/5. He emphasized the crucial importance of science, technology and innovation in the 2030 Agenda, and emphasized that UNESCO would play a major role in assisting Member States to achieve several science-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

12.6 In her address, the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC) emphasized that UNESCO's current programmes in science were particularly relevant to a number of the SDGs and had the potential in the future to contribute to an even greater extent to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. She informed the Commission that the Natural Sciences Sector had undertaken an exercise to link the Sector's work to the SDGs and its associated targets which was set to continue in document 38 C/5. She underscored that UNESCO had critical comparative advantages in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including extensive networks and its truly universal and multisectoral mandate. In addition, UNESCO was responsible for the UNESCO Science Report, the Global Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) and the World Water Development Report which were useful tools to measure progress in the 2030 Agenda.

12.7 In his address, the Assistant Director-General and Executive Secretary of IOC (ADG/Executive Secretary IOC) noted that oceans had been specifically addressed in SDG 14. He discussed how IOC would contribute to SDG 14, notably in the areas of capacity building, ocean observations, finding new solutions to issues such as ocean acidification and management tools for oceans. He also emphasized IOC's important work in climate change (notably its participation in the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - COP 21), mapping of ocean biodiversity, and its regional tsunami warning systems.

12.8 Forty-one delegates then took the floor to debate item **3.4**. A number of delegates, in particular from Africa, highlighted the importance of science technology and innovation in ensuring sustainable development. Various delegates also highlighted the importance for UNESCO to focus on sustainability science. Global Geoparks were also mentioned as an area on which the Sector should focus. Member States also requested more focused efforts and actions to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Many delegates emphasized the importance of IOC and the need to continue to prioritize IOC in future programmes and budgets. In particular, they highlighted the importance of tsunami warning systems and capacity building in the ocean sciences. Portugal asked that the role and governance mechanisms of IOC be clarified. Many speakers also highlighted the importance of IHP's work relating to integrated water resources management and water security, and the MAB Programme's work relating to conserving biodiversity and the creation of the transboundary biosphere reserves. Various delegates underscored the important work UNESCO was undertaking in the area of climate change, including through IOC, and in the area of disaster risk reduction. Several speakers expressed their satisfaction that UNESCO, notably through its intergovernmental and international scientific programmes, had taken on a leading role in the preparation of the 2030 Agenda, and underscored that UNESCO was well positioned to continue to play a key role within the new framework. Several delegates noted the importance of science, technology and innovation in achieving the SDGs. A number of countries stressed the importance of the Natural Sciences Sector working in an interdisciplinary way, including with the human and social sciences, and of taking advantage of its many strong networks such as category 2 centres and UNESCO Chairs to multiply its impact. In their reply to the debate, ADG/SC and ADG/IOC thanked the Member States for their positive comments and took note of the suggestions made by Member States to ensure that UNESCO play a key role in the 2030 Agenda.

12.9 I would now like to turn to the next item on the agenda, item **3.2**, "Consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017, Major Programme II – Natural Sciences". In addition to document 38 C/5, the Commission also considered the recommendations by the Executive Board contained in document 38 C/6 and its Addenda and Corrigenda and two draft resolutions submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. In her overview, the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences recalled that draft document 38 C/5 with respect to Major Programme II was a continuation of document 37 C/5 approved in the four-year programme cycle. She noted that for almost all expected results there were no proposed changes. Following the Executive Board decisions, the Director-General proposed two minor changes to the title of the main line of action (MLA) 4 and the associated expected result 7. She noted that as MLA 4 and expected result 7 were uniquely concerned with the earth sciences, and biodiversity-related issues were embedded within MLA 5, the word "biodiversity" had been removed from the title of MLA 4 and the words "ecological and" had been removed from the title of expected result 7. She observed that the Director-General proposed also to further align the allocated budgets by main line of action with the priorities set by Member States for Major Programme II, while adjusting the performance indicators and targets for each expected result. She noted that those small adjustments were reflected in document 38 C/6 and Addenda and Corrigenda.

12.10 Next to take the floor was the Assistant Director-General and IOC Executive Secretary. He noted that the Draft Programme and Budget document had been reviewed in-depth and endorsed by the IOC Assembly at its 28th session in June 2015. He noted that while expected results 4 and 6 remained unchanged, a small change had been introduced to expected result 5 to emphasize IOC's work on tsunamis based on the comments from Member States at the Executive Board and endorsed by the IOC Assembly. He underscored that the proposed budget would allow IOC to assist more small island developing States (SIDS) in the transfer of marine technology, to build capacity and to respond to some of the most pressing staffing needs by creating a new Professional post to coordinate the work on ocean warming and acidification.

12.11 Twenty-two Member States and one observer took the floor to express their support for draft document 38 C/5 as it concerned Major Programme II. Member States again emphasized the importance of appropriate funding for IOC, IHP and MAB and underscored the importance of science, technology and innovation, as well as sustainability science and Global Geoparks. At the end of the debate, the Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt the proposed resolution relating to Major Programme II in draft document 38 C/5 as amended by the Executive Board in document 38 C/6 and Addenda and Corrigenda. Following an explanation by ADG/SC of the Director-General's observations regarding the draft resolutions by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Commission decided not to retain them.

12.12 The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences introduced item **4.4**, which concerned the establishment of 17 category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO. Without a preliminary debate, the Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt the resolutions for the establishment of all 17 proposed institutes and centres. A number of countries then took the floor to elaborate further on the purpose of the centres and their planned activities. Germany noted that it would propose that the Executive Board review category 2 centres on a more strategic level as the number of centres was increasing rapidly.

12.13 The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences introduced item **4.16**, which concerned the renewal and revision of the operational agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands on the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and revision of the statutes of the Institute. She noted the process that was under way to negotiate those documents with the Government of the Netherlands. A number of delegates took the floor to support the

work being done by UNESCO-IHE. The delegate for the Netherlands then took the floor to acknowledge those comments. He noted that the Netherlands was committed to improving the operation agreement and statutes to ensure a solid foundation for the Institute's important work. The Commission recommended that the draft decision contained in document 38 C/56 be adopted without modification.

12.14 I now turn to item **4.20** relating to the contribution by UNESCO to combating climate change. The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences introduced the item, noting that document 38 C/67 described the current and future actions of UNESCO to combat climate change, including preparations for COP 21 and looking forward to COP 22 in Morocco in 2016. The document also referred to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 13 to "take urgent measures to fight against climate change and its impacts". She noted that the Director-General would maintain the intersectoral UNESCO task force on climate change, led by ADG/SC, and that an update of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change would be presented to the Executive Board at its 200th session. Finally, she outlined several areas of action that could be strengthened, provided that additional extrabudgetary resources were made available. The Executive Secretary of IOC underscored the key role IOC would be playing at COP 21. He added that it was imperative that negotiations led to a legally binding agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gases and that the ocean needed to be integrated into the activities of the future climate regime.

12.15 Twenty-eight Member States took the floor. A great number welcomed document 38 C/67 and expressed their appreciation of UNESCO's role in the preparations for COP 21 and its interdisciplinary approach to the issue. Member States in particular highlighted the role of IOC, IHP and MAB. A number of countries mentioned the importance of UNESCO's contributions in research, data sharing, indigenous and traditional knowledge and climate change education and public awareness. A number of countries emphasized the need for effective monitoring mechanisms for the new climate change framework. Tonga, speaking for 17 Pacific Member States, as well as the Philippines brought to the attention of the Commission the importance of highlighting the vulnerability to climate change of least developed countries and small island developing States.

12.16 In her response, ADG/SC thanked Member States for their support and underscored the importance of UNESCO's intersectoral approach to climate change. In response to a question from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, she reported that UNESCO had been invited for fast track accreditation to the Green Climate Fund and that the Secretariat would inform the Executive Board of any developments in that regard. She informed Saint Lucia that the issue of ethics of climate change was being addressed by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) and would be reflected when adopting the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change. Following a debate on the draft resolution and a number of proposed amendments, the draft resolution contained in document 38 C/67 was adopted with a modification proposed by Saint Lucia to eliminate text referring to specific temperature targets and deferring to the agreement to be reached at COP 21.

12.17 The Commission then considered item **4.19**, "Proclamation of 26 July as the International Day for the Defense of the Mangrove Ecosystem". ADG/SC introduced the item. She noted that the item had been presented at the request of Ecuador and was supported by GRULAC. She further noted that the proposal underlined the great importance of mangrove ecosystems to coastline protection, climate change mitigation and food security for local communities. She noted that MAB, the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Project, IHP, the World Heritage Centre, Global Geoparks and IOC worked closely together on the issue. Fourteen Member States took the floor to support the proclamation of 26 July as the "International Day for the Defense of the Mangrove Ecosystem". They underscored the important role mangrove ecosystems had in regulating climate change and conserving biodiversity. The Commission recommended adoption of the draft resolution in document 38 C/66 with slight modifications.

12.18 The Commission then considered item **4.15** relating to the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Strategy for the period 2015-2025. In her introduction to this item, ADG/SC noted that the strategy had been developed by the MAB Bureau and a group of international experts and adopted by the MAB International Coordinating Council of the at its 27th session. She noted that the MAB Programme Strategy provided a clear framework for MAB to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. Forty-one Member States took the floor. They strongly supported the MAB Programme and welcomed the new strategy document. They noted the important role MAB and its biosphere reserves should play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Delegates underscored the importance of MAB and its biosphere reserves in conserving biodiversity, protecting ecosystems, promoting the sustainable development of local communities, for research and training and awareness-raising. In her response, ADG/SC thanked Member States for their overwhelming support of MAB and assured the delegates that their comments would be taken into account when finalizing the Lima Action Plan for 2016-2025.

12.19 A draft resolution co-authored by France, Germany and Peru and supported by an additional 24 countries was put forward for debate. The sponsoring countries noted that they wanted to further emphasize the importance of MAB, notably in the context of the 2030 Agenda. They looked forward to the upcoming World Congress of Biosphere Reserves to be held in March 2016 in Peru and to the adoption of the Lima Action Plan for 2016-2025. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines proposed modifications to the text of the draft resolution to recognize different national circumstances in the implementation of commitments to the MAB Strategy. The Commission decided to recommend adoption of the draft resolution without the proposed amendments after a number of Member States objected to the amendments and taking note of the explanation by the Secretariat that different national circumstances were already taken into account in the MAB Programme's statutory documents.

12.20 ADG/SC then introduced item **4.7**, relating to the statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). She outlined the process through which Member States had been exploring how to formalize the link between the Global Geoparks and UNESCO, including at the 37th session of the General Conference, six Executive

Board sessions and seven meetings of the working group established by the Director-General. She noted that IGGP was a demonstration of UNESCO's ability to innovate and that IGGP provided the opportunity to bring the research profile of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) together with the outreach and educational strengths of Global Geoparks. The proposal would bring geodiversity to centre stage in UNESCO. She highlighted that geodiversity underlined almost all aspects of society, shaping not only biodiversity but also our cultural and intangible heritages.

12.21 Thirty-two Member States and three observers (the Global Geoparks Network, the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) took the floor on item 4.7. Delegates strongly supported the formalization of Global Geoparks as UNESCO Global Geoparks. Member States highlighted that Global Geoparks illustrated how UNESCO could work in an intersectoral manner, looking at natural and cultural resources and promoting the sustainable development of local communities. A number of delegates highlighted how Global Geoparks would give increased visibility to the geosciences, and underscored the importance of geotourism and the role of Global Geoparks in addressing geohazards. A few Member States commented on the collaboration between the different UNESCO designated sites and emphasized the need to build synergies between them. ADG/SC thanked the Member States for their extraordinary support for IGGP and Global Geoparks and noted that the issue of co-branding between Global Geoparks and other UNESCO sites would be addressed at the 200th session of the Executive Board. The draft resolution contained in document 38 C/14 was then approved by acclamation.

12.22 Mr President, this brings me to the conclusion of my oral report. I hope I have succeeded in capturing the essence of the rich debates and the orientations provided by the Commission for the programmes of the Natural Sciences Sector. On a personal note, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the UNESCO Secretariat and Member States. It has been an exhausting but enriching journey for me over the last two weeks. Thank you for your attention.

13. **The President:**

Thank you Madam Chairperson for your presentation. I wish to congratulate you for very effectively chairing the Commission. Are there any comments on the report so presented? I see Saint Vincent and the Grenadines followed by Portugal. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, you have the floor.

14. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

Thank you Mr President. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission for her excellent report which reflects all interventions and exchanges of views and the decisions adopted in the Commission and for the way she chaired the Commission. I just have one comment and one amendment. I think there is something missing in the French version of the report on page 20 on item 4.15 regarding the MAB Strategy. Page 20 in the French version, paragraph 2, is not aligned with the English version. In French, the paragraph says "*engage les États membres à faciliter ...*" and we should replace this with "*encourage*" as in the English version: "*Encourage les États membres à faciliter ...*" *Et à la troisième ligne, au lieu de "afin de contribuer..." c'est "en vue de contribuer..."*. I will explain: it is a translation of "with a view" because we replaced "with the aim of" by "with a view to" because we do not yet know the conclusion of COP 21 or COP 22, so we replace "*afin de*" with "*en vue de*" to align the French version with the English version. Thank you.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, the Secretariat has taken note of that and the necessary amendments will be made where appropriate. The distinguished representative of Portugal you have the floor.

16.1 **Portugal:**

Monsieur le Président, le Portugal souhaite tout d'abord, s'associer à tous ceux qui ont déjà exprimé au peuple et au Gouvernement de la France leurs condoléances et leur profonde solidarité suite aux événements tragiques de vendredi dernier.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

16.2 Mr President, please allow me to congratulate Ms Noorul Ainur Binti Mohamed Nur for her excellent chairing of the Natural Sciences Commission and in particular for the very accurate report that has just been presented to this plenary. In this regard, we wish to express our thanks to the Chairperson for having conveyed our message and concerns to the plenary regarding the status, future and image of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and on IOC's relationship with UNESCO. We take this opportunity to emphasize the broad support to enhance the role and capabilities of IOC as an intergovernmental body within UNESCO as key elements to define the future of IOC, thus responding to the expectations of the Commission expressed by Member States and governing bodies through the adoption of concrete measures to apply IOC's status, namely regarding its functional autonomy and as a joint specialized mechanism in ocean research, services and capacity building of the United Nations system in accordance with decision IOC-XXVIII/4 of the 28th session of the IOC Assembly. Taking this into consideration, the guidance provided by the governing bodies of IOC and the debate held in the Natural Sciences Commission as a constructive contribution to enhancing the relationship between IOC as an intergovernmental body and UNESCO, we encourage the Director-General, in consultation with IOC officers and with the Executive Secretary of IOC, to revise references to IOC's role and image in UNESCO documents, including draft document 39 C/5, clarifying the Commission's governance structures and the practice of its functional autonomy. Mr President, in our view, these are fundamental steps to realizing the potential of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, namely by promoting the mandate and work of the IOC and related capabilities in fostering a common national approach in intergovernmental fora, now reinforced by a standalone development goal for oceans adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr President.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Indeed we have taken note, but I also need to indicate that draft document 39 C/5 will be subject to discussions in the joint meeting of the programme commissions scheduled for tomorrow. I see the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to take the floor.

18. **Islamic Republic of Iran:**

Thank you, Mr President. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission. I have a comment on page 4, concerning the draft resolution not retained in paragraph 14. As far as I understand, we have two draft resolutions, DR.8 and DR.9. DR.9 was not retained but DR.8 was retained. In this report, neither of these have been retained. Please check whether it is correct or not. Thank you very much.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I think I would rather invite the Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission to intervene on that. Madam, you have the floor.

20. **Ms Nur (Malaysia) (Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission):**

Thank you Mr President. With regards to that, both are not retained. That was the decision made during the meeting, the last one that we had. Thank you.

21.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, I think that clarifies the consensus that was reached during the Commission's deliberations and I believe we can leave it like that. Thank you very much Excellencies, I do not see any further interventions. May I then consider that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Natural Sciences Commission and hereby adopts the draft resolutions proposed in document 38 C/92, subject to the decisions that the Conference may take when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for 2015-2016? I thank you very much. *It is so decided.*

21.2 Excellencies, before I invite the Chairperson of the Communication and Information Commission to present the report, I do have the pleasure to recognize the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Libya, His Excellency Mr Mohammed al-Dairi who has joined us this morning. Your Excellency, welcome and we appreciate your presence here today.

Report of the Communication and Information Commission (CI) (38 C/95)

Rapport de la Commission de Communication et information (CI) (38 C/95)

Informe de la Comisión de Comunicación e Información (CI) (38 C/95)

Доклад Комиссии по коммуникации и информации (CI) (38 C/95)

تقرير لجنة الاتصال والمعلومات (CI) (38 C/95)

传播和信息委员会 (CI) 的报告 (38 C/95)

22. **The President:**

Honourable Colleagues, we will now examine the report of the Communication and Information Commission and I am pleased to give the floor to His Excellency, Mr Abdulla El Reyes, who will introduce the report of the Commission. The report is contained in document 38 C/95. Your Excellency, you now have the floor, Sir.

23.1 **Mr El Reyes (United Arab Emirates) (Chairperson of the Communication and Information Commission):**

Thank you Mr President. I hope it won't be two minutes. I am sure I will make it less than one hour. First I will start in Arabic and then I will continue in English.

(The speaker continues in Arabic)

٢٣،٢ السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، أصحاب السعادة، المندوبون الكرام، السيدات والسادة، بصفتي رئيساً للجنة الاتصال والمعلومات ورئيساً للجنة الاستشارية الدولية لبرنامج ذاكرة العالم، أضرم صوتي إلى أصوات الآخرين للتنديد بما شهده يوم ١٣ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر في باريس من أعمال تنم عن إجرام مروع ووحشية همجية. وإننا إذ نواصل صلواتنا ترحماً على أرواح الأشخاص الذين لقوا حتفهم من جراء العمل الجبان الذي حدث في تلك الليلة، لتتقدم بأصدق التعازي إلى ذويهم، ونرفع الدعاء طلباً لشفاء جميع المصابين. وإننا نقف اليوم صامدين في وجه قوى الشر هذه عازمين على مواصلة التقدم نحو تحقيق هدف اليونسكو المتمثل في "بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر، رجالاً ونساءً" من خلال التربية والعلوم والثقافة والاتصال والمعلومات. ونعرب للأناس الطيبين سكان العاصمة باريس التي تستضيف منظمنا عن دعمنا التام لهم وتعاطفنا الكامل معهم في بداية خروجهم من صدمة تلك الأعمال المروعة التي تستحق كل الشجب والاستنكار، وفي الوقت الذي يعمل فيه المجتمع الدولي بدأ بيد للحيلولة دون تكرارها.

(23.2) *(traduit de l'arabe)* : Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, chers délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, en tant que Président de la Commission CI (communication et information) et Président du Comité consultatif international du Programme Mémoire du monde, je joins ma voix à celle des autres orateurs pour condamner les actes criminels, effroyables et d'une brutalité sauvage commis le 13 novembre à Paris. Nous continuons de prier pour les âmes des personnes qui ont perdu la vie suite aux lâches attentats commis le soir du 13 novembre, présentons nos plus sincères condoléances à leurs proches, et prions pour le rétablissement de tous les blessés. Nous tenons à exprimer notre ferme opposition aux forces du mal et restons déterminés à atteindre l'objectif de l'UNESCO, à savoir « élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes » par l'éducation, les sciences, la culture, la communication et l'information. Nous tenons également à exprimer aux admirables habitants de Paris, qui abrite le Siège de l'Organisation, notre plein appui et toute notre sympathie alors qu'ils sortent à peine du choc provoqué par ces actes effroyables, que nous dénonçons et condamnons avec la plus grande fermeté, et soulignons

que la communauté internationale tout entière œuvre pour éviter que de tels actes ne se reproduisent.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

23.3 I am honoured to present this oral report on behalf of the Communication and Information Commission, which examined nine agenda items in a series of eight debates on 10 and 11 November 2015. My name is Mr Abdulla El Reyes from the United Arab Emirates. I chaired the Commission, the Vice-Chairpersons of the Bureau including Her Excellency Ms Cristina Rodríguez Galán (Andorra), Mr Andrejs Vasilevs (Latvia), Ms Leticia Casati (Paraguay) and Ms Wang Hongmin (China). Mr Riche-Mike Wellington (Ghana) was the Rapporteur.

23.4 In my opening remarks to the Commission, I recalled the words of UNESCO's Constitution, which stress the development and use of the free exchange of ideas and knowledge for the purposes of mutual understanding. Seventy years ago, in the aftermath of World War Two, those words were bold, innovative and foreseeing. Allow me to remark that, after the terrible attacks against the people of Paris last week, this reminder of our highest goals resonates with particular strength in my heart. Our mission to build peace through the means of dialogue, communication and information, is a fragile and ongoing effort. It is essential work for humankind in the present and in the future. This is the meaning of the work that UNESCO carries through on a daily basis.

23.5 This brings me back to the CI Commission, where my introductory address was followed by Deputy Director-General, Mr Getachew Engida, who presented highlights of the CI's biennial achievements. He then introduced the Director-General's report on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP), followed by the presentation of the activity report of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme by its Chairperson, Ms Chafica Haddad. She stressed that the Programme had been recognized for its groundbreaking work under its six strategic priorities. Following the introduction of the biennial activity report of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) by the Deputy Director-General, the Chairperson of its Intergovernmental Council, Ms Albana Shala, presented the biennial report of the Council's activities. Ms Shala also informed the Commission of the new priorities of the programme, particularly countering hate speech, promoting conflict-sensitive reporting, and cross-cultural, cross-religious dialogue. Finally, she urged Member States to continue supporting IPDC with extrabudgetary contributions. Mr President, against the background of this introduction, please allow me to summarize the key points emerging from the debates of the Commission.

23.6 The CI Commission dedicated its first debate to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021, document 39 C/5, as well as to the consideration of the conclusions of the ninth UNESCO Youth Forum. In his introductory remarks, the representative of the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, presented selected achievements as foundations for the CI Sector's future work. He underlined the impact of UNESCO's intersectoral work on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and stressed the increasing importance that freedom of expression is taking on as a human right both online and offline. The United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, the development of open access activities in Member States, as well as UNESCO's promotion of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace are also key pillars. The Deputy Director-General also emphasized UNESCO's key role in the work on information and communication technology (ICT) for persons with disabilities, and how the global priorities, gender equality and Africa, continued to be foundations for future activities. Quoting the knowledge societies and other CI references in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Deputy Director-General also emphasized the Sector's role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

23.7 The representative from the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) informed Member States on the consultative process concerning the preparation of the future Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5), which would lead to its adoption at the 39th session of the General Conference in 2017. Two youth representatives presented the Commission with recommendations issued by the ninth UNESCO Youth Forum, including the creation of a toolkit on global citizenship education to ensure the universal enjoyment of human rights, the setting up of youth foresight forums and the establishment of a global environment youth organization fostering learning through a virtual university. While those recommendations were not part of document 39 C/5, a number of Member States voiced their support to youth initiatives during the ensuing debate for their implementation at country-level.

23.8 In their comments, Member States stressed the importance and quality of the work carried out by the Sector and the related Memory of the World Programme (MWP), Information for All Programme (IFAP) and International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). They agreed that UNESCO was uniquely positioned to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Many Member States voiced concerns about the budget allocation to Major Programme V. The need for additional financial resources and prioritization of activities along UNESCO's comparative advantages was stressed, emphasizing UNESCO's normative and conceptual leadership as well as its strong convening power through multi-stakeholder platforms. Member States also expressed their will to see vacant posts staffed as soon as possible, notably in field offices.

23.9 The universality of human rights, both offline and online, was recalled, as were the principles summarized by the acronym "ROAM" which underscore that the Internet should be human Rights-based, Open, Accessible to all and nurtured by Multi-stakeholder participation. Strong emphasis was also placed on the importance of freedom of expression and press freedom, with specific references made to media pluralism, independence and strengthening journalists' skills and capacities. Many raised the importance of continued strengthening of UNESCO's leadership on the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Many delegations noted the challenges of countering hate speech, radicalization and violent extremism. Member States thanked UNESCO for the work done in that area and encouraged the CI Sector's future work in that field. In response, the Deputy Director-General thanked Member States and stressed UNESCO's responsiveness to developments and its potential for crosscutting

implementation of the SDGs.

23.10 The second debate was held on the consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017 Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and Information. In his introduction, the Deputy Director-General stated that CI would be operating with a revised expenditure plan, with shortfall from the budget of \$10,720,500. Some 55% of the budget would continue to be allocated to programmatic action in the field. He also stated that the Sector hoped to raise \$16.7 million for extrabudgetary activities during the upcoming biennium.

23.11 Twenty-two Member States took the floor on that item. Throughout the debate, they strongly reaffirmed the relevance of CI for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. Member States also stressed the need to promote gender equality and to empower youth. The promotion of inclusive knowledge societies, where all human rights are protected online and offline, calls for efforts pertaining to freedom of expression, access to information and knowledge, privacy and ethics. The importance of inclusion was highlighted, of overcoming digital and knowledge divides, and of giving access to information and knowledge to all, and particularly to women and girls. Member States also stressed the importance of the safety of journalists, press freedom and documentary heritage, including in digital form. Media development, media and information literacy, as well as knowledge sharing, were characterized as indispensable components for the SDGs. Member States expressed satisfaction with respect to the conference “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism”.

23.12 The Memory of the World Programme (MWP) was highly commended, notably for its work in Mali. IPDC and IFAP were considered to fulfil an important role. Member States asked that the CI Sector address the needs of least developed countries (LDCs), SIDS as well as conflict-affected countries, notably in Africa. Efforts should include and address vulnerable groups, notably persons with disabilities. Principles of results-based budgeting (RBB) were reaffirmed, as well as the need for performance indicators.

23.13 In his response, the Deputy Director-General welcomed Member States’ comments. He stressed UNESCO’s continuous efforts to improve its indicators framework. He recalled that budgetary constraints apply across UNESCO as a whole, and that the CI Sector sought to manage by innovating. He reaffirmed the strong commitment of UNESCO to human rights and info-ethics. He also stated that UNESCO would continue to prioritize post-disaster/post-conflict countries, and developing countries. Internet-related issues would remain high on UNESCO’s agenda. He drew Member States’ attention to the leading role that UNESCO played in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which would be reviewed at the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015. The Commission recommended for adoption by the General Conference the relevant paragraph of document 38 C/5 as amended by document 38 C/6 and its addenda, as well as by draft resolution 38 C/DR.4 and document 38 C/8. The draft resolution added a welcome reference to inclusive and pluralistic knowledge societies.

23.14 The third debate was on the outcome document of the “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” conference. The Deputy Director-General recalled that the General Conference, through 37 C/Resolution 52, had requested the Secretariat to undertake a comprehensive study on Internet-related issues in the mandate of UNESCO. The study had to be based on global multi-stakeholder consultations in the four areas of access to knowledge and information, freedom of expression, privacy, and the ethical dimensions of the information society.

23.15 The Deputy Director-General informed delegates that the final version of the study, entitled “Keystones to foster inclusive Knowledge Societies” was available. He added that information was also included in the “Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes” (38 C/INF. 4). He remarked that the 18-month multi-stakeholder consultation process for the study had culminated at the CONNECTing the Dots Conference in March 2015. The outcome document of that major event contained 38 options for future action by UNESCO that were reflected in the study.

23.16 Thirty-four Member States took the floor on the item, congratulating the Secretariat for the exemplary consultation process and the organization of the CONNECTing the Dots conference. One Member State stated that one had “rarely seen so much done with so little”. The conference and its outcome document were described as a model for multi-stakeholder processes. This demonstrated UNESCO’s capacity to convene a wide range of actors under its aegis and to find a common ground on very complex issues. UNESCO’s present and future work was stressed as timely. Member States noted that the Internet could be used to address sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda, to promote human rights, gender equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The need for capacity building was also noted with respect to countries and stakeholders lacking resources, including in Africa and small island developing States (SIDS).

23.17 Endorsing the study and outcome document was also an important contribution to the WSIS review process, said several Member States, which also welcomed the study’s relevance for their own ongoing work on Internet-related policies and enabling frameworks. Member States further endorsed the concept of Internet universality and its underlying ROAM principles, emphasizing their equal value and indivisible nature. A wish was expressed for that concept and others to be further developed and in an intersectoral manner, which should, for one Member State, include the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST).

23.18 In his response, the Deputy Director-General said he was encouraged that some Member States were already using the Internet universality principles in their national policy development. He also expressed his thanks to Indonesia for offering to host World Press Freedom Day in Jakarta in 2017. He stated that UNESCO would bring a significant contribution to the United Nations General Assembly WSIS+10 Review at the high-level event in December 2015. Finally he encouraged delegates to talk to their counterparts in New York to help them understand UNESCO’s role on Internet-related issues and how that related to WSIS and the 2030 Agenda. The Commission recommended by consensus that

the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 of document 38 C/53.

23.19 The fourth debate on the proclamation of 28 September as “International Day for Universal Access to Information” was introduced by Morocco, which stated that the international day would enhance the promotion of access to information, notably in developing countries, through public debates and exchanges of good practices, with a focus on gender equality. The representative of the Director-General welcomed the proposal’s alignment with UNESCO’s efforts. He also stressed its resonance with SDG target 16.10 “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms”. He signalled the imperative to mobilize extrabudgetary resources for an impactful implementation.

23.20 Seventeen Member States took the floor during the debate to express support. One country questioned the need for the international day, but expressed support for the overall objective. Speakers said the initiative would create new dynamics, and enhance visibility on information-related issues at all levels. It would benefit remote communities, in particular in Africa and developing economies. The new international day would reinforce human rights, democratic governance, transparency and accountability. It would also enable participation of civil society, information to the public, all forms of journalism, science and research, and bottom-up innovation. The representative of the Director-General recalled that access to information drew attention specifically to the right to seek and receive information, which complemented the right to impart information. He assured delegates that the Secretariat would collaborate with Member States on that observance. The Commission recommended by consensus that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 2 of document 38 C/70.

23.21 I turn now to the fifth debate of our Commission held on the “Draft Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to Documentary Heritage, including in Digital Form”. The representative of the Director-General outlined the multi-stakeholder consultation process, which led to the instrument, intended to harmonize policies and strategies for documentary heritage. It would also help strengthen international cooperation and raise public awareness.

23.22 Forty-one Member States took the floor. All commended the Sector for its work on the multi-stakeholder process resulting in a balanced instrument. Some affirmed that the instrument also pertained to issues such as respect for cultural diversity and privacy. Member States considered promoting documentary heritage crucial in the current age of communication and information. They hoped that the recommendation would eventually be afforded an equal footing with other heritage-related UNESCO instruments. Diverging views existed between those Member States wishing to work towards a convention and those holding that a recommendation was the best suited instrument.

23.23 The recommendation would support national policies as well as regional and international cooperation. It would serve professionals and academics and help raise awareness of the general public of both present and future generations. Member States recognised such threats to documentary heritage as negligence, technological obsolescence and commoditization, natural disasters, conflicts and targeted attacks. Several Member States noted that digital heritage came with new challenges, but reaffirmed that traditional forms of documentary heritage should remain high on the agenda. They called for deeper research on the synergy between physical and digital documentary heritage. The recommendation would raise the profile of the Memory of the World Programme as well as of documentary heritage at the national level and even at the level of families and individuals. Concerns were expressed as to monitoring mechanisms, capacity building, and funding, since it was insufficient to rely solely on extrabudgetary resources. Those were important issues for developing countries in particular. Germany agreed to the proposed recommendation on the understanding that the other 10 States Parties to the “Agreement on the International Tracing Service” had not expressed any reservations against its adoption.

23.24 In his response, the representative of the Director-General thanked Poland for sparking a rich consultative process. Funding concerns could be addressed since the preservation of documentary heritage was built into the regular programme. He added that a costed plan and guidelines were under preparation as well as guidelines to share best practices.

23.25 Finally, the Commission recommended by consensus that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 10 of document 38 C/24 with the integration in the appendix of references to the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the 1993 Mataatua Declaration on Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

23.26 Debate number six was held on the “Third consolidated report on implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace”. The representative of the Director-General introduced the item, noting that only 22 Member States had submitted the statutory report. He announced that a summary report prepared by the Secretariat would soon be available. He added that the Sector had taken the responsibility upon itself to revise UNESCO’s “Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger” and scale it up to include all the worlds’ languages.

23.27 Twelve Member States participated in the debate. They expressed gratitude to UNESCO for its work and provided information on their national experience. The 2003 Recommendation continued to trigger policy planning and action to promote diversity, indigenous cultures, inclusive learning and media pluralism. It did so also for access to open data and various governmental services. One Member State affirmed that multilingual systems and technologies should be developed. Member States regretted that only 22 reports had been submitted. Member States proposed to review and strengthen the monitoring mechanism of the Recommendation. One Member State suggested the creation of a collaborative observatory and portal for Member States and others, including the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, to publish relevant data.

23.28 In his response, the Deputy Director-General contrasted the importance of addressing multilingualism in

cyberspace with the extremely limited resources available. In concluding, he invited Member States to consult the publication on a decade of promoting multilingualism in cyberspace. The Commission recommended by consensus that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 4 of document 38 C/LEG/3.

23.29 Let me now briefly summarize the seventh debate on the establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a global centre for excellence for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through information and communication technologies. Kuwait introduced item 4.4 and affirmed its will to work closely with UNESCO to ensure fruitful work. The Deputy Director-General presented the feasibility report for the centre. The Commission recommended by consensus to the General Conference to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 3 of document 38 C/18 Part XXII.

23.30 The eighth and final debate of the CI Commission was on the “New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality”. The Declaration stemmed from the first international conference on the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for persons with disabilities attended by 80 countries in New Delhi in November 2014, in collaboration with the Government of India and with the support of Kuwait. While it was an item to be examined without debate, the Chair decided to grant the request of Member States asking for the floor to endorse the Declaration and commend the commitment of the Secretariat and the Government of India. Delegates recognized that the Declaration aimed at enhancing the accessibility of ICTs for persons with disabilities. ICTs could help change the lives of millions by facilitating participation in employment, education and more. Inclusion, it was highlighted, was not a burden but an asset.

23.31 In his response, the Deputy Director-General thanked Member States for their supportive comments. He recalled that more than one billion people lived with disabilities and that they often suffered from discrimination and social exclusion resulting in higher exposure to poverty. He stated that accessibility aspects should be included in every development phase. Persons with disabilities should be consulted and involved in the development of ICT applications and services. After the projection of a video message from Professor Stephen Hawking, he invited delegates to join an event in UNESCO with Professor Hawking on 3 December 2015. Finally, the Commission recommended by consensus that the General Conference endorse the New Delhi Declaration and adopt the proposed draft resolution contained in paragraph 12 of document 38 C/48.

23.32 Mr President, in conclusion, I would like to say that this was a particularly successful CI Commission. Once adopted by the General Conference, we will have a new recommendation concerning the Memory of the World Programme, a new category 2 centre and a declaration on ICTs for persons with disabilities, a new International Day for Universal Access to Information and a new framework for UNESCO’s future Internet-related action, endorsed by Member States. The Secretariat will enter the next biennium with a set of new tools and with very strong support expressed by Member States for the CI Sector’s innovative and forward-looking work. In this positive spirit, I close my report on the CI Commission and take the opportunity to thank the Rapporteur for his commitment and dedication. Thank you, Mr President, thank you all.

24. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for having presented such a clear and yet comprehensive report. I wish to thank all members of the Commission for their work. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 38 C/95? Grenada, do you wish to take the floor? You now have the floor.

25. **Grenada:**

Thank you, Mr President, for giving me the floor. I would like to start by expressing, on behalf of the delegation of Grenada, our sincere condolences to the people of France for the victims of last Friday’s attacks and to express our sympathy and solidarity to their friends and families. Mr President, I would like to commend the Chairperson of the CI Commission, Mr Abdulla El Reyes, from the United Arab Emirates, for his wise chairship and for the comprehensive report he has presented to the plenary of the General Conference. The report has indeed reflected the intense debate that took place during the Commission relating to the important topics discussed. It also stressed the relevance of communication and information, including freedom of expression, universal access to information and fighting violence and extremism in cyberspace, for building peace and inclusive knowledge societies for sustainable development. I would also like to commend the Secretariat for the good preparation of the work of this successful CI Commission as well as the Rapporteur for his contribution to the preparation of the report submitted to us. Finally, Mr President, I take this opportunity to commend your wise chairship of this General Conference. I thank you.

26. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam. Since I do not see any delegates wishing to take the floor, may I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the CI Commission contained in document 38 C/95 and adopts the draft resolution also contained therein subject to the decision that the Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for the next biennium? I do not see any objections. *It is so **decided**.*

Report of the Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS) (38 C/93)
Rapport de la Commission Sciences sociales et humaines (SHS) (38 C/93)
Informe de la Comisión de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas (SHS) (38 C/93)
Доклад Комиссии по социальным и гуманитарным наукам (SHS) (38 C/93)
تقرير لجنة العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية (SHS) (38 C/93)
社会科学及人文科学委员会 (SHS) 的报告 (38 C/93)

27. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now time to examine the report of the SHS Commission contained in document 38 C/93. I am pleased to give the floor to Ms Hadidja Alim Youssouf who successfully chaired this Commission. Madam, you now have the floor.

28.1 Mme Youssouf (Cameroun) (Présidente de la Commission SHS) :

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un honneur pour moi de vous présenter les points saillants des discussions de la Commission des sciences sociales et humaines. Nos travaux très fructueux se sont déroulés du 10 au 12 novembre 2015, en quatre séances, et ont porté sur l'examen de huit points inscrits à l'ordre du jour.

28.2 Avant de vous en livrer la teneur, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, d'exprimer, au nom des membres de la Commission et en mon nom propre, toute notre compassion au peuple français si durement frappé par des attaques terroristes d'une très grande violence. Nous formons le vœu d'un repos éternel pour toutes les personnes décédées et d'une prompte guérison pour les nombreux blessés. Nous prions Dieu le Tout Puissant d'accorder force, courage et ressources nécessaires au peuple de France et à toutes les familles des victimes pour surmonter cette dure épreuve.

28.3 Je voudrais ensuite dire que ce fut un honneur mais aussi un réel plaisir pour tous les membres de la Commission SHS et pour moi-même de prendre part aux travaux de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale et de siéger au sein de la Commission SHS. Je suis profondément reconnaissante du choix porté sur mon pays, le Cameroun, pour présider la Commission SHS et, de ce fait, représenter l'Afrique.

28.4 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, dans mon allocution d'ouverture, j'ai invité notre Commission, en ce moment si symbolique où nous célébrons le 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO et qui est marqué par l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030, à repositionner les sciences sociales et humaines à l'avant-garde de la réflexion sur les crises multiples et les transformations rapides de nos sociétés. J'ai tout particulièrement mis en exergue la dimension sociale et éthique du développement durable, et l'importance de la promotion du dialogue interculturel et de l'engagement actif des jeunes. J'ai également souligné la nécessité d'une approche innovante et intersectorielle pour une meilleure intégration des priorités globales Égalité des genres et Afrique dans les différentes initiatives.

28.5 La Commission SHS a pris note de la Déclaration conjointe des présidents des cinq programmes scientifiques intergouvernementaux et internationaux et de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale, présentée par M. Lubomir Faltan, Vice-Président du Bureau du Conseil intergouvernemental du programme Gestion des transformations sociales (MOST). Dans cette Déclaration, ils réaffirment leur engagement en faveur d'un renforcement du rôle des sciences à l'UNESCO et le besoin d'une collaboration encore plus accrue dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2030.

28.6 Par la suite, M. Juan Diego Niño Vargas, de la Colombie, et Mlle Royce Lyssah Malabonga, des Philippines, ont présenté les Conclusions du 9^e Forum des jeunes (Point 4.5). S'exprimant au nom de 500 participants de 159 États membres, ils ont résumé les principales recommandations liées aux thématiques des sciences sociales et humaines portant particulièrement sur les droits, les libertés et les responsabilités, et le respect de la diversité et de l'identité. Ils ont appelé à un rôle plus inclusif de la jeunesse dans le processus de prise de décision et dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Forum sur le terrain. Un délégué a proposé que les Conclusions du Forum fassent, à l'avenir, l'objet d'un débat spécifique à la Conférence générale pour une meilleure prise en compte.

28.7 Permettez-moi à présent d'en venir au Point 3.4 – Préparation du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2018-2021 (39 C/5). Le représentant du Bureau de la planification stratégique a introduit le document 38 C/7 et a présenté une feuille de route à cet égard. La représentante de la Directrice générale a exposé la vision et les orientations stratégiques de son grand programme pour les années à venir, en phase avec la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable, et a donné un aperçu général des principales réalisations du Secteur. Elle a souligné les efforts déployés en vue d'une meilleure adéquation entre les programmes et les priorités nationales, et d'une plus grande coopération entre les secteurs de programme et avec les partenaires de l'UNESCO. Vingt-huit États membres et un observateur sont intervenus sur ce point. Les délégués ont tous rappelé l'importance et la pertinence des sciences sociales et humaines, en particulier dans le cadre de la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030. Ils ont noté la nécessité de répondre aux différents défis, insistant par exemple sur les questions d'inclusion sociale, de crises migratoires, de discrimination et de montée de la violence et de l'intolérance. Ils ont appelé à un renforcement et à une revalorisation du grand programme III pour lui permettre de mieux contribuer à la fonction de laboratoire d'idées de l'UNESCO et de répondre plus efficacement aux différents enjeux. L'importance du programme MOST a été mentionnée de façon appuyée, et l'élaboration d'une nouvelle stratégie pour son renforcement saluée avec grand intérêt. Remerciant les délégués pour leurs commentaires positifs et leur appui au travail de SHS, la représentante de la Directrice générale a réitéré l'importance d'une approche intersectorielle et multidisciplinaire pour répondre aux nouveaux enjeux et a pris bonne note des orientations formulées

visant à renforcer le rôle des sciences sociales et humaines dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2030.

28.8 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs. Je me réfère maintenant à nos travaux sur le Point **3.2** – Examen et adoption du projet de budget pour 2016-2017 (38 C/5). Dans son introduction, la représentante de la Directrice générale a porté à la connaissance de la Commission les ajustements à l'allocation budgétaire faits au titre du grand programme III qui reflètent le renforcement des capacités du secteur dans le domaine du dialogue interculturel, ainsi que de ses activités opérationnelles sur le terrain, et notamment en Afrique. Vingt-deux États membres et une ONG ont pris la parole. Ils ont accueilli favorablement les orientations du 38 C/5 et le réalignement stratégique du programme des Sciences sociales et humaines, saluant son approche plus concentrée et ciblée. Tout en réitérant la pertinence du mandat du secteur, notamment dans le contexte actuel marqué par des transformations sociales, nombre d'États ont regretté les limitations budgétaires de ce grand programme et ont appelé à son renforcement. Référence a ainsi été faite au programme MOST ainsi qu'au travail du secteur en matière de dialogue interculturel, de lutte contre les discriminations, d'éthique des sciences et des technologies et de bioéthique, ainsi que de sport, en particulier avec la Convention internationale contre le dopage. L'engagement de l'UNESCO en faveur d'une participation plus active des jeunes au développement durable et à la paix a été salué, de même que la nécessité d'une implication accrue des femmes à tous les aspects de la vie publique. Les intervenants se sont félicités des efforts conjoints et efficaces des organes consultatifs de l'UNESCO pour la valorisation du rôle intellectuel et éthique de l'Organisation. Ils ont également rappelé l'importance de la dimension prospective à cet égard. Ils ont, par ailleurs, réaffirmé leur attachement aux thématiques phares du secteur et ce, notamment, dans le processus de mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable. Une meilleure coordination des actions entre les grands programmes III et II a été encouragée, eu égard à leur complémentarité pour aborder de manière plus efficace les questions liées au changement climatique, pour ne citer qu'un exemple.

28.9 En réponse à ces interventions, la représentante de la Directrice générale a remercié les États membres pour leur engagement constant. Elle a souligné l'importance de l'articulation des travaux normatifs et programmatiques concrets visant à assurer un impact stratégique. Elle s'est référée aux différentes initiatives du secteur dans ce domaine et a appuyé la nécessité d'élaborer des indicateurs qualitatifs, notamment pour ce qui est du dialogue interculturel. Elle a informé les délégués qu'une feuille de route pour la Décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures était en cours d'élaboration et offrirait un cadre de réflexion propice. Elle a également fait part des initiatives menées dans le domaine des droits humains, notamment dans la lutte contre les discriminations pour contribuer au processus d'élaboration d'un Nouvel agenda urbain.

28.10 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, notre Commission a examiné deux projets de résolution au Projet de budget pour 2016-2017 (38 C/5), présentés respectivement par la République islamique d'Iran et par la Chine. La Sous-Directrice générale pour les sciences sociales et humaines (ADG/SHS) représentant la Directrice générale a introduit les observations de cette dernière à ce sujet. Tout en accueillant leur esprit, elle a souligné que les projets présentés étaient déjà pleinement pris en compte dans les programmes en cours. La Commission n'a donc pas retenu les amendements proposés. Le représentant de la République islamique d'Iran a appelé à une participation plus active et une formation plus adaptée des jeunes au sein de l'UNESCO. Le représentant de la Chine a réitéré l'importance que son pays accorde à la promotion de la diversité et du dialogue interculturel pour lutter contre le racisme et l'extrémisme, et sa détermination à contribuer à la mise en place d'initiatives dans ce domaine, notamment dans la région de l'Asie-Pacifique. Mention a été faite à cet égard de la Décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures qui offre déjà une plate-forme adéquate de coopération et à laquelle les États ont été invités à contribuer.

28.11 La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution figurant au paragraphe 03000 du Volume 1 du document 38 C/5 concernant le grand programme III – Sciences sociales et humaines, telle qu'amendée par les recommandations du Conseil exécutif figurant dans le document 38 C/6 et Addenda. La Commission SHS a, par la suite, pris note des rapports du Comité international de bioéthique et du Comité intergouvernemental de bioéthique, du programme MOST, du Comité intergouvernemental pour l'éducation physique et le sport et de la Commission mondiale d'éthique des connaissances scientifiques et des technologies.

28.12 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs. Dans son introduction au Point **4.9** relatif à la Révision de la Charte internationale de l'éducation physique et du sport, la représentante de la Directrice générale a souligné que la Charte révisée pouvait être considérée comme une feuille de route visant à intégrer le sport, l'éducation physique et l'activité physique dans l'Agenda 2030. Elle a ajouté que la révision reflétait la complexité accrue des politiques sportives, ainsi que les avancées scientifiques accumulées au cours des dernières décennies. Enfin, elle a rappelé que la promotion et l'impact de la Charte révisée dépendraient de l'engagement continu des États membres et des partenaires de l'UNESCO. Vingt États membres ont pris la parole pendant ce débat. Dans leurs interventions, ils ont largement soutenu l'adoption de la Charte révisée et ont félicité l'UNESCO et ses différents partenaires pour le travail accompli. Un grand nombre d'intervenants ont insisté sur les bénéfices individuels et sociaux du sport et de l'éducation physique en matière d'égalité des genres, de santé, d'inclusion sociale et de recherche, et de dialogue interculturel. Le rôle important de la Charte, en tant que référence et outil de plaidoyer, a été mentionné, et certains délégués ont confirmé leur engagement à promouvoir la Charte et sa mise en œuvre au niveau international. La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution telle qu'amendée. Un État membre a souhaité s'exprimer à cet égard pour rappeler le caractère non contraignant de la Charte.

28.13 S'agissant du Point **4.12** concernant la Proclamation d'une Journée internationale du sport universitaire, examiné sans débat, la Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution y afférente sans amendement. Le rôle crucial que jouent les universités dans la promotion de l'activité physique et des valeurs individuelles et sociales du sport a été souligné, ainsi que la contribution du sport au dialogue et à la solidarité entre les cultures.

28.14 Le Point 7.1, relatif au Rapport d'étape sur les mesures prises en vue de la révision de la Recommandation de 1974 concernant la condition des chercheurs scientifiques, a été introduit par la représentante de la Directrice générale qui a rappelé les mesures prises par le Secteur SHS en coopération avec le Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles en vue de cette révision qui refléterait ainsi les défis actuels d'ordre éthique, normatif et de gouvernance. Elle a informé les États Membres que les différentes consultations entreprises auprès des partenaires avaient confirmé l'importance des enjeux actuels, tels que les défis liés au développement durable, à l'émergence des nouvelles technologies et de nouveaux domaines de recherche, aux questions de justice globale, d'égalité des genres et de droits humains, entre autres. Elle a présenté la procédure en cours, tout en appelant à la mobilisation des ressources financières qui permettraient la tenue de consultations plus approfondies et la convocation d'un Comité spécial. Treize États membres se sont prononcés sur ce point. Les intervenants se sont félicités des efforts de l'UNESCO pour la révision de la Recommandation, jugée très opportune. Le statut des chercheurs scientifiques dans la société et l'esprit de liberté et de vérité scientifiques se verraient valorisés, contribuant ainsi aux « sociétés du savoir » promues par l'UNESCO. L'importance des notions de « dignité humaine » et de « conflits d'intérêt » a été mentionnée. Nombre d'intervenants ont réaffirmé la grande importance que leurs pays accordent aux sciences et aux technologies pour le développement et se sont référés aux différentes actions prises au niveau national. La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution telle qu'amendée.

28.15 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, un débat riche s'est déroulé autour du Point 6.4 intitulé Opportunité d'établir une déclaration de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique. La représentante de la Directrice générale a souligné que le document examiné sous ce point contenait les conclusions des travaux de la Commission mondiale d'éthique des connaissances scientifiques et des technologies (COMEST) sur un cadre de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique qui doivent servir de base technique aux États membres pour éclairer leurs discussions sur l'opportunité d'établir ou non une déclaration à ce sujet. Les représentants de 32 États membres et un observateur sont intervenus. Ils ont remercié la COMEST pour son travail et ont exprimé leurs préoccupations face aux conséquences du changement climatique dans leurs pays et à leur impact sur les populations, notamment les plus vulnérables. Les délégués ont souligné que les réponses aux défis posés par le changement climatique devaient être basées sur des principes éthiques solides, et l'accent a été mis sur l'importance du travail déjà mené par l'UNESCO. Le lien étroit avec les objectifs du programme MOST mais également d'autres programmes de l'Organisation, à l'instar du programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB), a été mentionné. Se référant aux travaux en cours au titre de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, certains délégués se sont exprimés sur les risques de duplication. Une majorité de représentants ont émis une opinion favorable sur l'engagement de l'UNESCO dans le processus d'élaboration d'une déclaration de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique. Ils ont noté, pour la plupart, que l'élaboration d'une telle déclaration devenait non seulement opportune mais urgente. Des clarifications ont été sollicitées sur la procédure institutionnelle applicable à l'élaboration de déclarations par l'UNESCO et les implications financières y afférentes.

28.16 Dans sa réponse, la représentante de la Directrice générale a souligné que la CCNUCC constituait le principal forum pour les négociations liées au changement climatique. Elle a rappelé que toutes les actions des entités des Nations Unies s'inscrivaient dans ce cadre commun et qu'il n'y avait donc pas de conflits ou de duplication. Ces travaux sur les nouveaux principes éthiques pouvaient, en fait, constituer une valeur ajoutée de l'UNESCO et étaient très pertinents pour le travail de l'Organisation en matière de transformations sociales. Elle a ajouté que les principes éthiques seraient pris en compte dans la Stratégie de l'UNESCO sur le changement climatique en cours d'actualisation. Elle a rappelé la nécessité de déterminer une feuille de route en ce qui concerne les coûts et le calendrier. Enfin, elle a réaffirmé, en réponse à certaines préoccupations soulevées, que la déclaration aurait un caractère non contraignant. La Commission a également bénéficié des éclairages de la conseillère juridique quant à la procédure en vigueur pour l'élaboration d'une telle déclaration. La représentante de la Grenade a introduit le projet de résolution présenté sur ce point et la Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution telle qu'amendée.

28.17 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, le dernier élément à l'ordre du jour de notre Commission était le Point 8.4 relatif au Soutien de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord pour la paix et la réconciliation au Mali des 15 mai et 20 juin 2015. Dans son introduction, la représentante de la Directrice générale a rappelé que le soutien de l'UNESCO au processus de paix et de réconciliation nationale au Mali faisait partie de l'ensemble des actions entreprises par l'Organisation pour promouvoir une culture de la paix et de la non-violence et répondait, de façon ciblée, à la mise en œuvre de la stratégie opérationnelle pour la priorité Afrique de l'UNESCO. Elle a également confirmé que l'Organisation apporterait un appui technique à ce processus, notamment à travers sa participation à l'atelier prévu en décembre 2015 à Bamako, qui constituait une étape préparatoire à un futur Forum national. Elle a signalé qu'à terme, il s'agissait de la mise en œuvre, au Mali, d'un programme national pour une culture de la paix fondée sur les valeurs locales. Neuf États membres sont intervenus sur ce point. Ils ont salué l'Accord de paix et de réconciliation au Mali et ont exprimé leur soutien au processus enclenché, souhaitant un retour rapide de la paix dans le pays et la région. Certains intervenants ont rappelé que l'UNESCO se replaçait ainsi dans son mandat véritable en accompagnant les États membres dans un dialogue inclusif pour la réconciliation et la paix. Le rôle central des femmes dans tout processus de paix et de résolution de conflits a été souligné. La pertinence d'une véritable mobilisation de la communauté internationale et d'expertises variées pour tirer les leçons de différents processus de paix et de réconciliation à travers le monde a été notée. En remerciant les États membres pour leur soutien, le délégué du Mali a appelé à davantage de mobilisation et d'appui des différents partenaires pour parvenir à une paix durable, en insistant sur le besoin d'impliquer la jeunesse. La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution, sans amendement.

28.18 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, les débats ont démontré la pertinence du programme des Sciences sociales et humaines, notamment face aux conjonctures actuelles, marquées par une augmentation des inégalités, de la pauvreté, de l'exclusion et des discriminations et par la montée de la violence et de l'intolérance, comme en témoigne

les récents évènements tragiques. L'importance du rôle mobilisateur du Secteur dans le renforcement de l'interface entre recherche, politiques et action pour soutenir les transformations sociales, l'inclusion sociale et le dialogue interculturel a été pleinement affirmée. Les discussions ont ainsi mis en valeur la contribution essentielle de l'UNESCO dans la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable et au-delà, pour mener à bien la mission qui lui incombe de bâtir, à travers ses différents programmes en sciences sociales et humaines, la paix dans l'esprit des femmes et des hommes.

28.19 Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je remercie tous les États membres pour leur participation très active et leur précieuse contribution aux débats. Nous avons travaillé dans un climat de parfaite sérénité et de franche collaboration. Mes remerciements et mes félicitations s'adressent ensuite à vous, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, pour le brio avec lequel vous avez conduit les travaux de la Conférence générale et pour votre accompagnement. Mes remerciements et félicitations vont également au Président du Conseil exécutif pour la très bonne préparation et l'organisation des travaux de la 38^e Conférence générale. Une mention spéciale à la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour toutes les dispositions sécuritaires et matérielles prises pour assurer le déroulement des travaux de la Conférence générale, la tenue du Forum des dirigeants et la célébration du 70^e anniversaire dans les meilleures conditions. Ce fut un défi au regard du contexte particulier dans lequel se déroulaient les travaux mais, Madame la Directrice générale, vous avez su le relever. Nous en sommes fiers et vous réaffirmons notre soutien et notre engagement.

28.20 Avant de conclure, permettez-moi d'exprimer toute ma gratitude aux membres du bureau de la Commission : les Vice-Présidents, M. Yacine Bellarab (du Maroc), M. Akif Kireççi (de la Turquie), Mme Pamela Mamani (de la Bolivie), M. Darko Strajn (de la Slovénie), et le Rapporteur, Mme Assel Utegenova (du Kazakhstan). Merci pour votre soutien et pour votre franche collaboration. Je voudrais ensuite remercier la Secrétaire de la Commission, Mme Maya Makhoul Sarrazin et toute son équipe (Kristina Balalovska, Claudia Maresia, Hugue Ngandeu-Ngatta, Linda Tinio-Le Douarin et Gloria Esther Vernizzi) pour leur travail dévoué et compétent. Mes remerciements vont également à Mme Nada Al-Nashif, Sous-Directrice générale pour les Sciences sociales et humaines, pour sa précieuse collaboration, pour son accompagnement et pour ses conseils. À la Conseillère juridique et à l'ensemble de l'équipe du Secrétariat de la Directrice générale, nous disons : « infiniment merci ». Je n'oublierai pas les interprètes, commis de salles, techniciens, traducteurs, dactylographes, stagiaires, médias et tous ceux qui ont contribué à la réussite de nos travaux. Je vous remercie pour votre bien aimable attention.

29. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for a very clear and elaborate report. I also wish to thank all the members of the Commission for their excellent work. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 38 C/93? Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, you have the floor.

30. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

Thank you Mr President, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the SHS Commission for her excellent report and we do notice all interventions and concerns expressed by the Member States during the discussions. I have just one amendment to propose on page 7 of the English version, under item 6.4 on the feasibility of preparing a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change. Page 7, paragraph 24, paragraph 1 in the draft resolution, if we could just move two words at the end of the draft resolution, so that the phrase reading "and to submit the text to it at its 39th session with funding from the regular budget and, if necessary, from extrabudgetary resources", has the words "if necessary" after "regular budget". I hope this is clear, to bring it in line with the French version. Thank you.

32. **The President:**

Thank you very much, I think before I invite the Chairperson of the Commission to take the floor, let me give the floor to Grenada.

33. **Grenada:**

Thank you Mr President. My delegation supports the amendment proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It was the spirit of the discussions and is reflected in the French version. Thank you very much.

34. **The President:**

Thank you very much, can I then invite the Chairperson of the Commission to take the floor.

35. **Mme Youssouf** (Cameroun) (Présidente de la Commission SHS) :

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Nous en avons pris bonne note.

36. **The President:**

Thank you very much. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the SHS Commission contained in document 38 C/93, and adopts the draft resolutions also contained therein, as amended and subject to the decisions that the General Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for the next biennium? Japan, you have the floor.

37. **Japan:**

Thank you your Excellency. I just want to know the reason why the English text has changed from the one that we agreed in the discussions, and that we saw on the screen in the Commission meeting. Is it for editorial reasons?

38. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me invite the Chairperson of the Commission to explain. I do not know whether we are looking at one and the same document. Perhaps we need to check and ensure that we are on the same level of

understanding in terms of the documents referred to, otherwise we may have serious difficulties. I invite the Chairperson of the Commission to take the floor and clarify.

39. **Mme Youssouf** (Cameroun) (Présidente de la Commission SHS) :

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, de me redonner la parole. Il convient de signaler que la version française fait foi. La version anglaise sera alignée sur la version française. Je vous remercie.

40. **The President:**

Thank you very much Japan. That will be taken care of by the Secretariat, I can assure you. Thank you very much for having raised the issue. I had almost concluded and I was on the verge of saying that I do not see any objections, and the intervention by Japan cannot be interpreted as an objection. Can I take it that we agree? *It is so decided*. Thank you very much.

Report of the Nominations Committee (38 C/77)

Rapport du Comité des candidatures (38 C/77)

Informe del Comité de Candidaturas (38 C/77)

Доклад Комитета по кандидатурам (38 C/77)

تقرير لجنة الترشيحات (٧٧/م٣٨)

提名委员会的报告 (38 C/77)

41. **The President:**

Your Excellencies, before we break for lunch, we will examine the report of the Nominations Committee, which is contained in document 38 C/77. The Chairperson of the Committee, His Excellency Mr Michael Worbs will now present this document. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

42. **Mr Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you very much Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The report you have before you in document 38 C/77 reflects the final proposals of the Nominations Committee concerning the composition of the Headquarters Committee, Legal Committee and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference, following the results of the elections held on Thursday, 12 November 2015 in Room IV. Mr President, once the report has been adopted by the plenary, I shall with your leave, make some comments on the work of this Committee.

43. **The President:**

May I take it that all of us have read the report being referred to? Are there any comments on the report? If not, then to conclude please, Mr Worbs, you have the floor.

44.1 **Mr Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

I assume that the report has been adopted by the plenary without any further comments or objections. Thank you very much, Mr President. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, allow me first of all to thank you for your open and positive cooperation throughout the General Conference. With your support the Committee has been able to carry out its task in a transparent and effective manner, namely to organize the election of Members of the Executive Board for the period 2015-2019 and subsequently to organize and hold the elections of the various subsidiary organs of the General Conference. The first task of the Committee, which coincided with the first meeting of the General Conference, consisted in the submission to the General Conference of the list of nominations for the posts of President of the General Conference, its Vice-Presidents and the Chairpersons of the commissions and committees.

44.2 The Nominations Committee then undertook to complete in the shortest possible time the composition of the bureaux of the programme commissions, APX Commission and the Nominations Committee itself. That task proved somewhat difficult and time-consuming as some electoral groups were not yet able to propose their respective candidates in due time. In particular, the Committee experienced serious difficulties in finalizing the list of Rapporteurs, a function that seemed no longer to be attractive to a majority of delegates. Despite sending several reminders, I was not in a position to announce the full composition of each bureau at the first session of each commission. In the end, two commissions were not provided with Rapporteurs, namely the APX Commission and the Nominations Committee itself. In my humble opinion, Mr President, the function of the Rapporteur needs to be revisited. I understand that since the last session of the General Conference, the Rapporteur is no longer given the task of reading the final report of the commissions for adoption within the commission, as in the past. Perhaps, as suggested by some delegates, we could simply replace the Rapporteur by a sixth vice-chairperson? It would be more correct and would reflect the actual situation.

44.3 As you will recall, the Committee organized the elections of Members of the Executive Board, under item 51, on Wednesday, 11 November 2015, for the first ballot and on Friday, 13 November 2015, for the second ballot. The elections were carried out successfully and in full compliance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. I am pleased to report that overall we had a high turnout during the election, as 183 out of the 186 Member States entitled to vote in that election took part in the process. I now turn to the elections of the Headquarters Committee, Legal Committee and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference, under items 12.2 to 12.15, that were held on Thursday, 12 November 2015. Among the 186 Member States entitled to vote, 163 took part in those elections. Thanks to fruitful consultations among the electoral groups and the achievement of clean slates in many of them, only six secret ballots were held. The elections took place in a harmonious and consensual spirit. The results of those elections were announced the same day.

44.4 Please recall that following the amendments to the Statutes of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), the Nominations Committee elected six new IBE Council members, one from each regional group whose term of

office will expire at the end of the 40th session of the General Conference. I have to mention that, as was the case at the last session of the General Conference, there was an insufficient number of candidatures for several subsidiary organs. Those included the Legal Committee, the Headquarters Committee, the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission, the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), and finally, the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo.

44.5 Mr President, allow me to thank you personally for your interest and continued support in the work of our Committee, and the electoral process. I am deeply grateful to my dear colleagues, the Vice-Chairpersons of the Nominations Committee, for their constant support and assistance, in particular during the elections. They are: Her Excellency Ms Lorena Sol de Pool (El Salvador), Mr Ram Babu Dhakal (Nepal), and His Excellency, Professor Manda Kizabi (Democratic Republic of the Congo). I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the tellers for the time and effort they devoted to the electoral process: His Excellency, Mr Abdullah Alneaimi (United Arab Emirates), Mr Mohammad Nazrul Islam Khan (Bangladesh), Mr Mohammad Firoz Uddin (Bangladesh), Mr Edouard Huot (Canada), Ms Annette Regine Ikouebe-Niabandza (Congo), Ms Rosa Ester Moreira De Lemoine (El Salvador), Ms Kourouma Soukeynatou (Guinea), Mr Victor Altamirano (Peru), Ms Teresa Salado (Portugal) and Ms Zeina Saleh Kayali (Lebanon). My thanks also go to the interpreters, technical and support staff to the UNESCO Secretariat and particularly to the Secretariat of the General Conference for its contribution to the Committee's work. I am also grateful to the temporary staff of the General Conference who assisted the Committee during the elections. Finally, allow me to express my deep appreciation to the Secretariat of the Nominations Committee, to Ms Laura Raymondi, Ms Nana Diara Thiam, Ms Hyeon Ju Kim, Mr Michee Detinho, Mr Alexandre Deganis and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr Firmin Matoko, for their professionalism, devotion and conscientious dedication to their work. Thank you, Mr President.

45.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for that report. I forgot to use my gavel in adopting the report by the Nominations Committee, which I am now doing, since I have the pleasure of using this instrument in my hand. Thank you very much, *the report is now adopted.*

45.2 Dear colleagues, we have thus finished our work for this morning. However, given the number of leaders still to speak, and further given the need to accommodate President Obama's message, which will be presented by the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the United States of America to UNESCO, the Bureau in its meeting this morning proposed that the afternoon session should start 30 minutes earlier, that is at 2.30 p.m. As you can see, we are concluding exactly 30 minutes before the scheduled time. We appeal to you, dear colleagues, as we have a very tight schedule in the afternoon and we would appreciate it highly if everyone could be here 10 to 15 minutes before 2.30 p.m. This is the last plea that you shall receive from your President. I will now invite the Secretary to quickly provide us with an overview of the afternoon's programme. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

46.1 **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Effectivement, la séance plénière reprendra à 14 h 30 précises cet après-midi. Il s'agira du dernier segment du Forum des dirigeants. La Conférence générale aura l'honneur et le plaisir de recevoir successivement : tout d'abord, la Présidente de Malte, S. E. Mme Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, suivie du Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Slovaquie, M. Miroslav Lajčák, qui sera suivi par le Président de l'Azerbaïdjan, S. E. M. Ilham Aliyev, qui sera ensuite suivi du message du Président des États-Unis d'Amérique, M. Barack Obama. Ce message sera lu par son S. E. l'Ambassadrice et déléguée permanente des États-Unis auprès de l'UNESCO. Ensuite, le Président de la République française, M. François Hollande, s'adressera à la Conférence générale, à partir de 16 heures. Et enfin, à 16 h 30, le Ministre de l'éducation du Bangladesh, S. E. M. Nurul Islam Nahid, clôturera ce segment du Forum des dirigeants.

46.2 Je termine en rappelant qu'après ce segment, il y aura l'adoption du dernier rapport de commission, le rapport de la Commission culture. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Secretary. Excellencies, enjoy your lunch and we will meet before 2.30 p.m. Thank you very much and see you then. *This meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.
La séance est levée à 12 h 40
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40
Заседание закрывается в 12.40
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ١٢,٤٠ بعد الظهر
会议于 12 时 40 分结束*

Seventeenth plenary meeting

Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 2.30 p.m.

President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Dix-septième séance plénière

Mardi 17 novembre 2015 à 14 h 30

Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Decimoséptima sesión plenaria

Martes 17 de noviembre de 2015 a las 2.30

Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Семнадцатое пленарное заседание

Вторник 17 ноября 2015 г. в 14.30

Председатель: г-н **Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة السابعة عشرة

الثلاثاء ١٧ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٢,٣٠ بعد الظهر

الرئيس: السيد **سيماتاا** (ناميبيا)

第十七次全体会议

2015年11月17日星期二 14时30分

主席：Simataa 先生（纳米比亚）

Leaders' Forum (continued)
Forum des dirigeants (suite)
Foro de dirigentes (continuación)
Форум руководителей (продолжение)
منتدى القادة (تابع)
领导人论坛 (续)

1. The President:

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the seventeenth plenary meeting of the General Conference, which will be dedicated to the continuation of the Leaders' Forum of the General Conference, and later on, the adoption of the report of the Culture Commission. First, we will have the honour of hearing addresses by our distinguished visitors.

Visit by H.E. Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of the Republic of Malta
Visite de S. E. Mme Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Presidente de la République de Malte
Visita de Su Excelencia la Sra Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Presidente de la República de Malta
Визит Ее Превосходительства г-жи Мари-Луизы Колейро Преса, Президента Республики Мальта
زيارة فخامة السيدة ماري-لويز بريكا، رئيسة جمهورية مالطا
马耳他共和国总统玛丽 - 路易斯·科莱罗·普雷卡女士阁下来访

2.1 The President:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our first speaker this afternoon is Her Excellency Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta. Ms Coleiro Preca became the ninth President of the Republic of Malta last year, by unanimous decision of the House of Representatives. Her Excellency thus became the youngest President of her country, and only the second woman occupying the office of Head of State.

2.2 Her Excellency has been active in politics for the past 40 years, starting at the young age of 16. Within the Labour Party, she served in a number of positions, including as Secretary General, between 1982 and 1991. Her Excellency is the only woman who ever occupied this important elected position in a Maltese political party. Her Excellency also served as a Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives between 1998 and 2014, and as a reform-minded Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity. Madam President, we are honoured today by your presence, and are looking forward to hearing your message today. I now have the pleasure of inviting you to take the floor.

3.1 Ms Coleiro Preca (President of Malta):

Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, we meet here today to commemorate UNESCO's 70th anniversary. The world of today is very different from that of seven decades ago. One would hope it is a better world, a world that has grown in its appreciation of peace, and respect for human rights and human dignity. One would hope that we have learnt lessons from the past, from our histories that are all touched by the horrors of war and human suffering. I wish we could believe that the world has transformed itself into a better and more beautiful place.

3.2 Yet how can we possibly think that our progress has been sufficient, in light of the events that took place last week in Beirut, in Paris, and in other parts of the world? Lives have been destroyed, families have been torn apart, and livelihoods disrupted. Our peace of mind is under attack, by the purveyors of fear and terror. We are confronted, in their acts of directed cruelty, with a stark reminder of the evil that hides behind a mask of ideology, of perverted religion, of disordered culture. And yet this cannot be so.

3.3 Culture grows from the ground of altruism. It is built on cooperation and connection. The roots of culture find deep and enriching sustenance in the relationships we form, within our homes and our communities, in openness and in respect, and in care of the ultimate fragility of the Other. In the words of Martin Buber, the philosopher, "All actual life is encounter", by which I understand him to mean that it is only in authentic encounters, even with those whose life paths seem most distant from our own, that we may initiate the kind of dialogue that shall lead to enduring and sustainable peace.

3.4 The opportunity presented by this Conference is of vital importance. In thinking about a vision for UNESCO's future, we are invited to consider those people, those children, who today most keenly need our help as an international community. In thinking about this future, we are challenged to find ways to foster peace and understanding on a global scale. UNESCO must be reoriented towards today's concerns, securing its relevance and affirming its mandate to foster a lasting peace.

3.5 I firmly believe that the founding mandate of UNESCO remains as valid today as it was 70 years ago. UNESCO remains critical in facilitating networks of solidarity between different communities at national, regional and global levels and in providing a carefully considered understanding of the challenges faced by humanity.

3.6 One of the Organization's key roles must be the championing of culture as a force for dialogue. Culture opens spaces where even the most embittered enemies and the most distant communities can come together, held by the spirit of human creativity and imagination. UNESCO is a driver for social cohesion, for economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development.

3.7 Culture provides a context in which the work of conflict resolution and transformation can take place, a common

denominator that can bridge difficult situations. Culture promotes mutual understanding and highlights shared priorities that transcend seemingly insurmountable barriers.

3.8 As an international community now committed to the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must remember that development is inseparably linked with the realities of culture. We must listen to cultural practitioners, and accept that their knowledge brings with it a subtle wisdom that can give depth and quality to the goals we envision. A vision in which diversity is celebrated, and mutual respect is given freely and openly. A vision that shall, if given its due importance, ensure that the atrocities we have recently witnessed shall not be repeated.

3.9 As leaders we must make sure that the principles of cultural diversity motivate all spheres of policy-making, at every level. This approach needs to inform the way we do things, and needs to play an integral role in our practices, our legislation and all other instruments and institutions through which the lives of our communities are affected.

3.10 UNESCO must be encouraged to continue in its role as a champion of culture. It must continue to foster intercultural understanding, by protecting heritage, supporting and celebrating the diversity of our planet's human culture. It is especially important that UNESCO continue to be a key voice for education so that every child, regardless of gender or socio-economic status, has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development.

3.11 In deliberating on our vision for UNESCO's future, we must build on this legacy. We must capitalize on UNESCO's strengths, to address the challenges and opportunities that exist today. The SDGs agreed upon at the United Nations Summit highlight some of the present challenges. In my address at the summit some weeks ago, I shared a vision for the future with my fellow leaders. The truth is that we are at a crossroads, a moment in time in which unity and global solidarity are of key importance. We must make a renewed commitment to safeguarding human dignity and human rights, not for the privileged few but for each and every one of us, wherever we live and whatever our circumstances.

3.12 Today, we still face a situation where poverty affects millions worldwide. Food security, gender inequality, access to education and threats to sustainability are some of the many challenges that require a concerted effort by the international community. The SDGs provide excellent guidelines on what truly merits the attention of world leaders at this critical moment in our history.

3.13 As leaders, future generations will judge us by the efforts we make. We must come together as partners to deliver tangible results and produce a real change that shall benefit all humankind. The role of UNESCO is critical, a guide and a companion in our journey. We need to see this moment in our history as an opportunity for the global community to uncover the root causes of inequality. We must openly and honestly explore the structural inequalities that perpetuate harmful cycles of privilege and oppression and, in the process, damage the lives of countless millions.

3.14 Let us also remember that measuring economic success is not enough. We often witness economies performing excellently in terms of economic output but the standards of living do not reflect a similar and corresponding improvement. Economies would, in many cases, register growth but people in poverty or at risk of poverty would still face the same precarious situations with devastating consequences for their future. This approach must change, and we thus need to be more comprehensive in our policy formulation and in the way we measure improvement.

3.15 In essence we need to go beyond measuring economic indicators and basing our policies exclusively on economic factors. We need to take into consideration wellbeing indicators within our communities, because these are determinants that are of equal importance. The means to measure wellbeing already exist. We need to use these innovative approaches to come up with policies that strengthen and nurture our communities, not only on the economic front but on all fronts, and place human wellbeing at the heart of our concerns.

3.16 As leaders, we are in a strategic position to make a difference. We need to make sure that equal access to opportunities is a reality for all. UNESCO's mandate to secure access to these basic rights is thus maintained. As leaders, we need to fully support the Organization's work in these essential areas. My vision for UNESCO's future is that it should always remain a global leader in advancing knowledge and understanding among people; in championing true equality; in furthering popular education and culture; and in increasing and diffusing knowledge on a global scale.

3.17 We also need to think about the tragedies that continue to unfold in this day and age. Migration is a reality that persists in creating situations of great concern. We need to continue finding tangible, dignity-affirming ways of addressing migration, anchored in a rights-based approach. Most importantly, we need to think about every human being risking their life at this very moment. We must ensure that no more lives are put at risk.

3.18 Our meeting here today will undoubtedly make headlines throughout the world. Nonetheless, those same news headlines will also include grim stories about migrants and their often thwarted journey in search of better lives, or mere life itself! In determining UNESCO's role and its place in the future, it is therefore essential that the Organization continue to place emphasis on the human face of migration. It is imperative that it continue to address the implications of the movement of peoples within its fields of competence. It is necessary that UNESCO, in an unhindered manner, continue to anchor its interventions within the framework of universal human rights.

3.19 Dear friends, gender equality is another SDG, and one of UNESCO's global priorities. Gender equality is an affirmation of basic human dignity, and is necessary to create sustainable and peaceful societies. It is a fundamental component in development. We must recognize that issues of gender are strongly linked with other goals, and will have tremendous effects on the overall success of the SDGs.

3.20 Even though some progress has been made, the fact is that women, girls and gender minorities continue to be

disadvantaged throughout the world. This inequality is not limited to location, or to whether their oppression occurs in poor households or in developing countries. Discrimination occurs in situations of peace with just as devastating an effect as in situations of conflict.

3.21 Reports continuously show that inequalities persist worldwide, affecting a wide range of rights, including health, education, public and political life, employment and access to justice. In looking at a more equal future, we must all recognize that gender inequality negatively impacts all people, regardless of their gender identities. The road toward gender equality should be viewed not merely as a transfer of opportunities or privileges from one group to another, but as a fundamental step in the enjoyment of all our rights.

3.22 One of the leading global campaigns on gender equality is the “HeForShe” campaign spearheaded by UN Women. Together with fellow heads of State, I am committed to this campaign and its message of gender equality. Together with other champions, we are determined to make a difference in the lives of women and girls worldwide. To this mandate, I have added a focus on the protection and empowerment of gender minorities through my foundation, the President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (PFWS). We encourage all other HeForShe champions to do the same, recognizing the importance of gender self-determination.

3.23 A key message of the campaign is that gender equality is not an issue faced by women or gender minorities alone. It is a human rights issue that affects us all. We all stand to benefit from gender equality, which can liberate us from prescribed social roles and the gender stereotypes of a binary system that must be interrogated and transformed.

3.24 We are here to acknowledge the 70th anniversary of the adoption of UNESCO’s Constitution. Perhaps one of the most quoted lines of the Constitution is “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”. This notion provides an impetus to acknowledge that UNESCO must continue to remain committed to peace always, and in all ways. As leaders we must continue to support this mandate, and support the overarching mission of UNESCO. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, we must all strive to promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

3.25 I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a project currently being finalized by PFWS. Together with a number of international academic and professional partners, we are in the process of establishing an International Institute for Peace and Wellbeing. We are interested in researching, motivating, and inspiring cultures of peace and wellbeing, exploring best practices and finding the most efficient and effective systems of knowledge sharing.

3.26 Through this Institute we shall engage with communities, with a special focus on our Mediterranean region. We want to learn about how communities can achieve wellbeing as active citizens who can effectively access and enjoy their rights. We want to promote inclusive spaces within societies, as a direct pathway to peace and wellbeing. In line with UNESCO’s priorities and objectives, we believe the Institute can be instrumental in fostering understanding and peace on a communal, national, regional and international level.

3.27 We believe that there is a deep need for dialogue. Many of the voices that are calling out, in need of answers, are met with deafening silence. We wish to be the voice that comes in reply to break the silence, small at first but insistent in our commitment to the great work at hand. Peace and wellbeing are the two pillars that provide the strongest foundation for our future and that of future generations. Let us strengthen this foundation by doing all that is within our power to eradicate poverty, diffuse conflict and ensure the equality of all the members of our human family.

3.28 My fellow leaders, in conclusion, I must mention the role of civil society and its place in the future of UNESCO. Civil society operates at a grassroots level, in direct contact with the lived experiences and realities of all communities. It is essential that we continue to collaborate with civil society and give its input the weight and importance it deserves. We have heard the cries of outrage, despair, fear and confusion provoked by last week’s atrocities. We have been touched by this great suffering, and we stand here with the heavy task of determining a path forward.

3.29 Once again, UNESCO is called upon at this moment in history to play its part. We must listen and respond to the hopes of our peoples. We must ensure that we do not fail them. I have no doubt that UNESCO will live up to its mandate, strengthening its resolve and keeping true to its foundational values. Together, we must promote equality and justice for all. Together, we must find ways of facilitating and brokering peace. Together, we must strive for the wellbeing of our world. Thank you.

4.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank you most sincerely for a very rich and enlightening speech. Before I proceed, I wish to acknowledge with pleasure, once again, the presence of His Excellency, the President of Cameroon. Mr President, we have the pleasure of welcoming you back. At the same time, we have the pleasure of receiving the President of Azerbaijan.

4.2 Thank you very much Your Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia. Mr Lajčák served as his country’s ambassador in Japan, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as the Special Representative of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, before being named the Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia three years ago. Your Excellency, we are happy to welcome you to UNESCO, and are looking forward to hearing your speech. Your Excellency, it is my pleasure and privilege to invite you to take the floor.

5.1 **M. Lajčák** (Vice-Premier ministre et ministre des Affaires étrangères de la Slovaquie) :

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs. La France – berceau des valeurs démocratiques, des droits de l’homme, de la liberté, de la culture – a été de nouveau brutalement attaquée. Permettez-moi d’exprimer mes condoléances les plus sincères aux proches des victimes et des blessés. En ce moment

tragique, notre pensée, notre soutien et notre solidarité appartiennent à l'audacieux peuple français. Nous sommes tous Paris !

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

5.2 Brutal and barbaric terrorist acts against defenceless civilians deserve our total condemnation. This is inhumane and goes against any religious beliefs. When some of the witnesses described what happened at the Bataclan theatre, they said that the terrorists had behaved like machines. Yes, because they lost their souls, their humanity! Without them, we can turn into machines. Terrorists all around the world – in Paris, Beirut or Kenya – are inhuman machines regardless of their motivation or ideology. They are simply killers, enemies of humankind. Their way brings no solutions, just death.

5.3 Our immediate spontaneous reaction must be resolve and unity, defence of our values and way of life. It is crucial that we do not to allow the terrorists to form our agenda. They declared themselves faithful to Islam. They want to force upon us their perverse version of one of the great world religions, Islam. We all know it is a shameful lie. They represent no religion. We will not allow them to bring hatred based on religion, race or ethnicity to the people of different faiths. His Holiness Pope Francis has said in his reaction to Friday's tragic events in Paris: "The road of violence and hatred does not resolve humanity's problems. And using the name of God to justify this road is blasphemy".

5.4 We in Europe are proud of our historic heritage including ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. We should remember and occasionally remind ourselves that during the Middle Ages, Greek ideas were largely forgotten in Western Europe. They re-entered the West through translations from Arabic to Latin thanks to Islamic philosophers such as Al-Kindi (Alkindus), Al-Farabi (Alpharabius), Ibn Sina (Avicenna) and Ibn Rushd (Averroes). The re-introduction of these philosophies, accompanied by new Arabic commentaries, had a great influence on medieval philosophers such as Thomas Aquinas. This has been a real contribution of Islam to Europe. We need more Islamic philosophers and scientists and less hate preachers.

5.5 Mr President, UNESCO is playing and will continue to play a key role in creating a world where there is no room for terrorists. We have gathered here today to share our views about its future. No terrorist can change that. Our Organization is celebrating its 70th anniversary. We are going to take stock of our efforts so far. But most importantly, we are going to help create a vision for the UNESCO of the future, one that is better equipped to deal with global threats and challenges. Their scale is unprecedented, including violent extremism and international terrorism.

5.6 Mr President, when UNESCO was created 70 years ago, it was in response to the shock and moral crisis triggered by the Second World War. Lessons learned from its atrocities called for the establishment of the universal platform for dialogue, to assist States in cooperating and promoting education, culture and science, and to safeguard our common heritage for the benefit of the nations. Hence, this idea has been firmly rooted as a main objective of UNESCO in Article I of its Constitution. Education, culture, science, communication and information are genuine parts of our lives, wherever we live and whatever we do. Human beings simply cannot exist without them. They contribute to the satisfaction of our material and mental needs, interests and aspirations. They are tools to enrich the welfare of all humankind. But, unfortunately, they are also abused for the promotion of false ideas and vicious ideologies of terror.

5.7 As our response to the recent wave of terror, the need to define a new humanism is more relevant than ever. It should be bringing nations and people back together through education, culture, science and communication. We have to refresh the spirit of London of 1945 and adapt it to the present world, its needs and challenges. UNESCO is a huge laboratory of thoughts. Let us together make better use of it for the creation of a new humanism further reflected in a new multilateralism. I fully agree with Madam Director-General Irina Bokova. She calls for a return to the original meaning of culture. From the very beginning of her tenure she wanted it to be accepted by all of humanity. Because we see that it matters. There can be no lasting peace and global prosperity without intellectual and moral cooperation among the nations.

5.8 Mr President, we are utterly devoted to the universality of UNESCO. We deem it capable of acting as one in a concerted manner at the worldwide level. But it is a political category rather than an arithmetic one. We have a joint responsibility to ensure that the Organization further enhances its capacities for effective global action. Today it is more necessary than ever.

(The speaker continues in French)

5.9 En parlant de l'UNESCO, on utilise souvent le mot « valeurs ». Dans ce contexte, j'ai surtout envie d'évoquer les valeurs qui ne sont pas cotées en Bourse, et de répéter avec René Maheu : « L'essentiel de la mission de l'UNESCO n'est pas d'ordre technique ; il est éthique ». En affrontant les difficultés, l'UNESCO doit rester fidèle à sa mission éthique. Dans toute organisation internationale à vocation universelle, il existe toujours des dossiers qui causent des divisions entre les États. Les désaccords sont naturels et inévitables. Ils sont également très utiles et, à long terme, ils renforcent notre capacité à délibérer sérieusement mais aussi à respecter nos différences et à trouver ensemble les meilleures solutions. Nous devons être bien conscients que les organisations intergouvernementales ne sont pas éternelles. Elles font partie et sont le résultat d'un processus d'évolution. Leur espace vital s'annonce plus darwinien que jamais. Elles sont parfois gourmandes, égocentriques et déjà trop nombreuses. Seules les plus aptes subsisteront. La capacité de réinventer et de s'ajuster au nouvel environnement et aux nouveaux défis est essentielle.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

5.10 Mr President, we need UNESCO more than ever. It should play an even more significant role in addressing present-day threats. It has to continue its efforts to eradicate illiteracy and poverty, to stand up against escalating conflicts and rising violent extremism, and resolutely reject barbaric attacks and savage destruction of precious cultural heritage. They serve as the common spiritual identity of us all.

5.11 The current threats to international peace and security have never been more complex. The increasing danger posed by terrorist and extremist groups requires a global response. We must face up to the twisted philosophies of ISIL, Al Qaeda, Al Shabaab, Boko Haram and others. There is no alternative to combating them upfront, because it is our obligation to protect and preserve priceless human heritage for many generations to come. We thus fully support the #Unite4Heritage campaign. We also encourage all Member States to protect the legacy of the past where it is threatened by extremists by offering voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund and the Fund of the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention. For our part, we are ready to do it.

5.12 The efforts to extend the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping missions to culture are a step in the right direction, because culture has been identified by the United Nations Security Council as a major component of global security and it is now generally regarded as one of the key elements of global peace. The year 2015 is a crucial year to establish a truly integrated sustainable global agenda. It embraces all nations and tackles all aspects of human existence. A UNESCO agenda has so much to offer in this respect, because it directly deals with poverty, healthcare and education, and also with climate, culture, science, communication and information.

5.13 Climate change is a truly defining issue of our time. Bold action is needed today to reduce emissions and build resilience. Paris will soon host the groundbreaking twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21). Slovakia will take part in it, fully supporting Paris and France as its hosts. UNESCO is in an extraordinary position to have its say, too. It can precisely address climate change by taking advantage of its multidisciplinary mandate.

5.14 The newly adopted Education 2030 Framework for Action is a milestone. It aims to improve and promote inclusive and equitable quality education, taking into account sustainable development, human rights and global citizenship. Inclusive education that respects gender equality is a key element for building a sustainable, tolerant and inclusive society. Young people shall be provided with essential competencies and the ability to use them, thus to contribute to building and shaping the societies they live in.

5.15 We live in an era of unprecedented dissemination of information. People often struggle to attach value to it or hesitate regarding how to use it properly. We need quality education institutions where people can learn critical thinking, to understand and appreciate our cultural and historical heritage, the fundamental values of freedom, democracy and tolerance. Education is crucial to our progress and sustainability, but it also significantly helps to guide us to peace and stability and, in the end, to our civilized future.

5.16 The suffering of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers calls for concerted efforts, a multidimensional approach and long-term strategies. Eliminating root causes, rather than only dealing with consequences, is a must. UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) has a good capacity to focus on all these urgent implications.

5.17 We will also continue supporting efforts to mainstream human rights across the UNESCO agenda. We remain committed to the promotion of gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls. We will strive to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and encourage equal access to education and employment. Our strong opposition to all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance is unwavering.

5.18 Science is what drives our lives to an ever more advanced level. There is an imperative to invest more in research. We have to attract young people in particular to devote themselves to science and make use of their talents to contribute to the wellbeing of future generations. Finally, the relevance of communication and information is truly unique. UNESCO's role in promoting universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms is irreplaceable. Specifically, press freedom and freedom of expression need to be reinforced. But the safety of journalists worldwide is worrying. Slovakia therefore acts along with the international community on this front. We are backing global efforts to end impunity for crimes against journalists.

5.19 Mr President, before concluding, I would like to come back once more to the vision of UNESCO as we see it. We need to have a "UNESCO for all". This expression embodies very well what we want to achieve, because we founded this Organization with a vision to serve us all for a better world. Thank you for your attention.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your very elaborate statement and indeed for the very rich, wise words conveyed to us. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I now have the pleasure of welcoming His Excellency, Mr Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who will be our next distinguished speaker. Under his leadership, Azerbaijan has experienced rapid economic growth and become a reliable partner of UNESCO, supporting our Organization in all areas of its mandate. I wish in particular to pay tribute to His Excellency's initiative to launch the Baku Process which brings together ministers of culture from two different geographical regions, encompassing the Council of Europe and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Over the past few years, Azerbaijan has successfully hosted three World Forums on Intercultural Dialogue and will soon organize the seventh Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). These are all signs of Azerbaijan's commitment to the promotion of intercultural dialogue. Mr President, we are pleased to welcome you to UNESCO, and are looking forward to hearing your message. It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to invite you to take the floor.

7.1 **Mr Aliyev** (President of Azerbaijan):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to express the deepest condolences of the people of Azerbaijan to the people of France regarding the appalling act of terror in Paris on 13 November. The Azerbaijani people share the pain of the people of France and stand shoulder to shoulder with them in this tragic moment in the history of the French

Republic. This awful act of terror once again shows that the international community should unite its efforts to combat this evil. No country in the world can be 100% protected against these terrible attacks. Therefore, only the unified efforts of the international community can help us to combat this evil. Azerbaijan, as a country that has suffered from numerous terror attacks in the past, will play its role in the battle against terrorism, and this role is appreciated by the international community.

7.2 Azerbaijan is an active member of UNESCO. It was more than 23 years ago, almost immediately after the restoration of our independence, that Azerbaijan became a member of UNESCO, playing its role in the promotion of the values of humanity. Azerbaijan has signed and ratified almost all of the conventions and other UNESCO legal instruments. In 2003, Azerbaijan and UNESCO signed the Framework Agreement for Cooperation in the areas of education, the sciences, culture and communication, which enabled Azerbaijan to become one of the donor countries of the Organization. This is our obligation and commitment to the least developed countries. Azerbaijan itself experienced poverty, economic devastation, occupation and economic decline at the beginning our independence, when we were the recipients of international aid. Now it is our turn to give back and contribute to the cause of development in the world. I am absolutely certain that the areas of UNESCO's activities – education, culture and, of course, science – are the main areas for the development of humankind, and that their development will make our world more secure and safe.

7.3 We are proud that Azerbaijani historical monuments such as the Walled City of Baku, Shirvansha's Palace and Maiden Tower, and the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape are among the protected historical monuments of UNESCO on the World Heritage List. Azerbaijan is a land of ancient culture, history and traditions, but is young as an independent State – only 24 years old. Those years were ones of transformation from one political system to another, from a planned economy to a market economy, and during those years our country managed to succeed. Today Azerbaijan is a reliable partner in the international arena and is an active member of many organizations. Our biggest political and diplomatic success was our election, with the support of 155 countries, to the United Nations Security Council in 2011. That was a form of recognition by the international community of the role of Azerbaijan, our positive activity in the global arena, and a sign of respect, trust and appreciation for what we have accomplished. As a reliable member of the international community, during the two years of our membership in the United Nations Security Council we addressed two important issues: the fight against international terrorism and intercultural dialogue.

7.4 Unfortunately, from the very beginning of its independence, Azerbaijan has become the object of Armenian aggression. The Armenian occupation of internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan continues today. As a result of the policy of ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis, more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Some 250,000 Azerbaijanis were deported and ethnically cleansed from Armenia and 750,000 became internally displaced in our own country. We suffered a humanitarian catastrophe at a time when we were not economically developed, but very poor. Today, watching the television reports about the migration crisis which Europe is currently facing, of course we understand the pain of the people who have to leave their homes. At the same time, we understand that it creates difficulties for those who live in Europe. But at the same time, we remember 1992 and 1993, those years when we in Azerbaijan had to accommodate one million people. At that time, the country's population was just over eight million, so we had one of the highest per capita number of refugees and IDPs in the world. We did everything in order to integrate refugees and IDPs into our society. Today, they play a very important role in the development of our country.

7.5 Armenia is not only violating international law and norms, but also historic justice. The United Nations Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, more than 20 years have passed since that time and these resolutions have not been implemented. Here we come to a very important issue of global security and global configuration: decisions and resolutions of leading international bodies are ignored, and there is no punishment for that. Armenia continues to ignore Security Council resolutions and there are no consequences for them. This issue must be addressed seriously and we need to develop implementation mechanisms for Security Council resolutions in order to avoid double standards, because we all know that in some cases, Security Council resolutions are implemented within days, if not hours. In our case, however, there has been no progress around the negotiation table for more than 20 years, because Armenia does not want peace. They want to keep an occupation policy for as long as they can, and unfortunately they have succeeded so far. Time is on our side, however; time is on the side of justice and international law, and I am sure that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity, which is respected by the whole world. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan has the same value as that of any other country. As a result of the occupation, our historical, architectural, and religious monuments have been destroyed. You can find the images and videos online. More than 600 historical and architectural monuments of Azerbaijan have been completely destroyed by Armenian armed forces; 22 museums were destroyed, along with the 40,000 items exhibited in those museums, including very precious items of our historical heritage, stolen from our museums and then sold at various auctions. Ten mosques were demolished by Armenian occupants, and today, in the centre of Baku, you can see an Armenian church restored by the Government of Azerbaijan. This is the difference in approach to multiculturalism and religious tolerance, and this again shows that terrorism has no religion or nationality, and that it is absolutely unacceptable to link Islam with terrorism. I represent a Muslim country, a country which has suffered from Armenian terrorism, occupation and destruction of our historic monuments. Of course, we will return to our lands, we will restore our cities, build new schools and hospitals there, but we will not be able to restore our historical monuments. Armenia has destroyed our historical heritage, but they cannot destroy our will, the will of refugees and IDPs who want to go back to their homes, and the will of their children and grandchildren, who were born in Baku and other Azerbaijani cities, who have never seen their historic land, but live with a strong will in their heart to return – and they will return. We will do everything in order to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

7.6 Again I would like to say that international law norms fully support Azerbaijan's position. At the same time, Nagorno-Karabakh is a historic land of Azerbaijan. The word "Karabakh" has Azerbaijan origins – it means "black

garden”, it has no meaning in Armenian. Armenians were settled in that area in the middle of the nineteenth century. If you look at the early twentieth century maps of Tsarist Russia, you will see that the majority of village names and current toponyms of Armenian territory in that area have Azerbaijani origins. In 1918, after the collapse of the Russian empire, the first Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established. One of the first decrees of that Republic was to transfer Yerevan from Azerbaijan to Armenia. Today, our historic city of Yerevan is the capital of Armenia, which at the beginning of the twentieth century had a population made up of 80% of citizens of Azerbaijani origin. Today it is completely ethnically cleansed. History and international law supports our position and, as you can imagine, this issue is number one for Azerbaijan and for every citizen of Azerbaijan.

7.7 Despite these tragic events and the occupation that continues to this day, Azerbaijan has managed to achieve a very successful transformation. We have created strong democratic institutions and a modern multiparty political system. Azerbaijan is a country where all the freedoms are respected: freedom of political activity, media freedom, and freedom of assembly. According to the World Bank’s assessment in 2008, only 17% of Azerbaijanis were Internet users; in 2015, this had increased to 75%, and our plan is to cover the whole country with free broadband Internet. Therefore, it is clearly demonstrated that media freedom and freedom of information are priorities. As the President of the General Conference mentioned, Azerbaijan has achieved successful economic development, despite this heavy burden of refugees. Economic growth of more than 300% during the last decade has been one of the fastest in the world. Investing in human capital, we have managed to reduce dramatically the level of poverty from almost 50% to 5% within 10 years. Unemployment is even less than 5%. We have very low foreign debt – only 12% of gross domestic product (GDP) and, according to the World Economic Forum, Azerbaijan is number 40 with respect to the global competitiveness of its economy. Economic reforms have allowed us to accumulate financial resources and to channel them into social and infrastructural development. We invest in the future. We invest in education – more than 3,000 schools have been built in the last 10 years in Azerbaijan, taking into account that the total number of schools is under 5,000. We have achieved almost 100% literacy rates, which creates a very strong intellectual potential for our future. More than 500 hospitals and medical institutions built during the last 10 years provide our people with access to modern medical services. Human capital development always has been, and still is, a major priority to us.

7.8 As mentioned by the President of the General Conference, Azerbaijan plays a very active role in the dialogue of civilizations and cultures. We are proud that UNESCO is an official partner of the three forums which were held on intercultural dialogue, and are proud of the unique role that Azerbaijan plays as a country which is situated between East and West, a country with a predominantly Muslim population, but a secular society and a secular government, a member of the Council of Europe and a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. We are trying to use this great opportunity to bring peoples and civilizations closer together. The Baku Process, which we launched in 2008 when we invited the ministers of culture of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to attend the meeting of ministers of culture of the Council of Europe Member States in Baku, was the first step. Then in 2009, we did the opposite: there was a meeting of ministers of culture of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and we invited Member States of the Council of Europe. Intercultural dialogue today is needed as never before. When we launched the Baku Process, the situation in the world in 2008 was completely different. Today we see that the level of mutual mistrust is growing. We can see that if we do not take adequate measures, confrontation based on religious and ethnic grounds will create even bigger problems for all of us. We can live in peace, however, and I think that the example of countries like Azerbaijan demonstrates that. In our country, representatives of all religions live in peace and friendship. Our Government, the State, invests in the construction and reconstruction of not only mosques, but also churches, – Orthodox and Catholic churches – and synagogues. We are proud that one of the oldest – maybe the oldest church in the Caucasus – is located in Azerbaijan near the ancient city of Sheki. In the same way, we are proud that one of the most ancient mosques, which was built in 743, is located in the ancient Azerbaijani city of Shamakhi. All the representatives of different religions celebrate religious holidays at the same table.

7.9 Therefore, to us, multiculturalism is not just an idea that is being discussed today, as to whether it works or does not work, whether it has failed or not. To us, multiculturalism is our tradition. Today it is not only tradition – it is a State policy and our lifestyle. It is possible because we have accumulated a lot of experience in that area. For example, this year, Azerbaijan hosted the first inaugural European Games. It was very odd that all the continents except Europe had their own games; although the motherland of the Olympic Games was ancient Greece, and Pierre de Coubertin later restored them here in France, Europe had never had their own games. That the European Olympic Committee (EOC) took the very wise decision to host the first European Games in a Muslim country shows that ideals of multiculturalism and tolerance are very important for all of us. The European Games were a real success, with more than 6,000 athletes representing 50 European Olympic Committees. In 2017, we will host the Islamic Solidarity Games and Azerbaijan will probably be the only country in the world for many years to come that will have held these two events in the same city, Baku. We will continue to contribute to the cause of mutual understanding, because multiculturalism is based on mutual understanding and mutual respect. We should respect other religions the same way that we respect our own. We should live side by side with our neighbours, not asking them their nationality or whether they pray in a church, synagogue or mosque. Only in this way can we reduce potential risks and eliminate growing tensions. The situation in the world is changing, unfortunately, not in the direction that we would like to see. We need to unite our efforts. We in Azerbaijan are doing our part in order to bring continents and civilizations together. As the President of the General Conference mentioned, next year we will host the UNAOC Forum, which will be a global event, particularly aimed at discussion on the issues of multiculturalism, religious and ethnic tolerance. I would like to underline the unique role of UNESCO concerning these issues. We fully support the activity of UNESCO and the strong leadership of the Director-General Ms Bokova, and Azerbaijan will do everything in order to support it in its noble activities. Once again, I would like to welcome you, express my respect to you, and congratulate UNESCO on its 70th anniversary. Thank you very much.

8. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your very elaborate and illuminating speech. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as I informed you earlier, His Excellency, Mr Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, has sent a message to this august assembly. His message will be delivered by Her Excellency, Ms Crystal Nix-Hines, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the United States of America to UNESCO. Madam Ambassador, it is my pleasure to invite you to deliver the message.

9.1 **Ms Nix-Hines** (Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the United States of America to UNESCO):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, I have been asked to share with you a statement from President Obama, in light of the tragic events that took place here in Paris on Friday evening. I also saw Secretary of State, Mr John Forbes Kerry, earlier today at our Embassy and he expressed again his commitment to advancing the support of the United States for UNESCO's important work at this critical time.

9.2 Secretary Kerry spoke to us about the recent attacks, saying that our challenge is to stop the immediate threat and destroy it, while we eliminate the people going into the pool by providing other options, by reaching them before they are radicalized, by getting people to see that there is better governance and there are better opportunities. And globally, he noted, we have a lot of work to do.

9.3 As you know, President Obama earlier this year in Washington organized a Summit on Countering Violent Extremism. He hosted another Leaders' Forum in New York during the United Nations General Assembly in September, and Director-General Bokova spoke eloquently about the work being done to enhance this Organization's mandate to promote global citizenship, specifically using education as a tool to prevent violent extremism.

9.4 Secretary Kerry and Deputy Secretary Blinken just announced a new public-private partnership with UNESCO and other partners to develop state-of-the-art training materials to deter impressionable youth from violent extremism - a need painfully highlighted by the horrific attacks here and elsewhere. Many of you have embraced UNESCO's leadership in this area during the latest session of the Executive Board and this session of the General Conference, as one way that we can collectively advance the mandate of UNESCO to build peace in the minds of men and women.

9.5 I have the privilege of sharing the following message from President Obama: "Once again, we have seen an outrageous attempt to terrorize innocent civilians. This is an attack not just on Paris, it is an attack not just on the people of France, but on all of humanity and the universal values that we share. This is a heart-breaking situation, and obviously those of us here in the United States know what it is like. We have gone through these kinds of episodes ourselves.

9.6 Paris itself represents the timeless values of human progress. Those who think that they can terrorize the people of France or the values that they stand for are wrong. The American people draw strength from the French people's commitment to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We are reminded in this time of tragedy that the bonds of *liberté, égalité* and *fraternité* are not only values that the French people care so deeply about, but they are values that we share. And those values are going to endure far beyond any act of terrorism or the hateful vision of those who perpetrated the crimes on Friday evening.

9.7 In closing, I note that like many of you, we suffered casualties during the attack, including the loss of a young student, Nohemi Gonzalez. Like many other young people, she came to Paris to expand her horizons and enrich her education. Sadly, as Secretary Kerry said, we do not have the power to bring these young people back. But as he challenged us, we must do instead what is in our power. And that begins with a fierce sense of solidarity among good and decent people everywhere, with the vow that we will never be intimidated by terrorists, and we will fight to ensure that the world that our children inherit is richer in love and shorter on hate." That is the peacebuilding work of UNESCO the United States Government affirms today. Thank you. *Merci beaucoup.*

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam Ambassador. May I please kindly request you to convey the appreciation of the General Conference to President Obama for his message, which is very much appreciated. Ladies and gentlemen, we will now suspend our meeting for a few minutes to allow us to welcome President Hollande. May I kindly request you to remain seated while we proceed to welcome our distinguished guest.

The meeting is suspended briefly to allow the President of the General Conference and the Director-General to welcome His Excellency, Mr François Hollande, President of France.

Visit by His Excellency Mr François Hollande, President of France

Visite de Son Excellence M. François Hollande, Président de la France

Visita del Excmo. Sr. François Hollande, Presidente de Francia

Визит Его Превосходительства г-на Франсуа Олланда, Президента Франции

زيارة فخامة السيد فرانسوا هولاند، رئيس فرنسا

法国总统弗朗索瓦·奥朗德先生阁下来访

11.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much Excellencies. May I please respectfully request everyone to take their seats? Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, it is my immense privilege and honour to welcome our next speaker, His Excellency Mr François Hollande, President of the French Republic. Your Excellency, before giving you the floor, and in my capacity as President of the General Conference of UNESCO, allow me to express our heartfelt condolences to the people and the Government of the French Republic in

the wake of the atrocious attacks which befell this beautiful city last Friday.

11.2 Mr President, UNESCO was born in London, but it grew up right here, on the left bank of the Seine. For the past seven decades, we have called Paris our home. The city and the Organization have grown together, sharing the same humanistic values, sharing the same principles and ideals. This is why we wish to send a clear message to the French people today. The attack against Paris is an attack against the values that we all share. Your loss, Mr President, is the loss of the whole of humanity. Your pain is our pain too.

11.3 Mr President, your presence in this room today sends a very powerful message. We sincerely appreciate your resolve not to give in to fear. We all need to show that humanism is stronger than hate, that hearts and minds are mightier than bullets, that peace will prevail, and joy will reign again in the streets of Paris, and indeed around the whole world. Mr President, it is my distinct honour and pleasure to invite you, Your Excellency, to take the floor.

12.1 **M. Hollande** (Président de la République française) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames, Messieurs, représentants de vos différents pays, je m'adresse à vous dans des circonstances particulièrement douloureuses, vous les avez rappelées. Mais je tenais à être parmi vous après le lâche et abject attentat qui a eu lieu dans mon pays, vendredi soir. Je veux dire tout le symbole que j'attache à ma présence. Je suis ici à l'UNESCO, l'organisation qui rassemble les pays pour la paix et pour la culture. C'est la raison pour laquelle il était si important à mes yeux de venir participer à cette conférence, pour en rappeler les valeurs, les principes, et cette volonté qui a été celle, au lendemain de la barbarie de la seconde guerre mondiale, de faire prévaloir l'éducation, la culture et la science contre le fanatisme et le totalitarisme.

12.2 Je veux ici saluer tous les gestes d'amitié et de solidarité qui nous sont venus du monde entier : de l'Opéra de Sydney, de la porte de Brandebourg, des pyramides d'Égypte, de la Perle de l'Orient en Chine et du Metropolitan Opera de New York, avec la Marseillaise qui a été entonnée par Placido Domingo. Tous ces lieux dans tous vos pays pavés aux couleurs du drapeau français, c'était le même message de solidarité qui nous était adressé. C'était aussi la même confiance, et vous vouliez une fois encore porter témoignage de la force que vous accordez à la France pour porter ces valeurs. Car ce que les tueurs voulaient atteindre, c'était l'idée même de la France : ses valeurs, sa jeunesse, sa vitalité, sa culture, son art de vivre. En visant des cafés, un lieu de spectacle, un stade, les terroristes djihadistes voulaient frapper une société – la nôtre, la vôtre – où l'on peut se rencontrer, échanger, partager, rire, faire la fête. Ils croyaient – ces assassins si lâches ! – atteindre cette cohésion précieuse qui rassemble dans nos villes tous les âges, toutes les nationalités, toutes les classes sociales, toutes les religions.

12.3 Ils pensaient aussi, en s'attaquant à un restaurant cambodgien, au concert d'un groupe américain, à un match de football international, à des lieux fréquentés par des ressortissants de multiples nationalités – hélas, 19 parmi les victimes du drame de vendredi soir –, ils pensaient affaiblir la passion française d'accueillir le monde entier, amoindrir cette fierté que nous avons d'être un pays qui échange avec toutes les cultures. Ils ont, d'ores et déjà, perdu ce combat-là. Car aujourd'hui, en nous tenant debout, déterminés face à la terreur, nous voulons marquer notre attachement indestructible à la liberté et au dialogue des cultures. Tout le contraire de l'obscurantisme, du fanatisme, du fondamentalisme, de l'islamisme radical. L'histoire nous l'apprend : ce sont toujours les totalitarismes et les intégrismes qui interdisent la musique, brûlent les livres, détruisent le patrimoine, tentent d'effacer la mémoire de ce qui les précède.

12.4 Et si nous sommes en guerre – oui, en guerre – contre le terrorisme djihadiste, nous ne sommes pas dans une guerre de civilisations car les assassins ne portaient aucune trace de civilisation. Notre réponse doit être impitoyable au plan extérieur comme sur le terrain intérieur. Elle est dirigée contre les commanditaires – nous savons où ils sont – en Syrie, comme contre leurs bras armés et leurs complices, y compris en France. Mais on ne lutte pas contre le terrorisme en se cachant, en se mettant entre parenthèses, en suspendant la vie économique, sociale, culturelle, en interdisant les concerts, le théâtre, les compétitions sportives. Non, nous ne céderons pas aux terroristes en suspendant notre mode de vie. Nous ne renoncerons à rien.

12.5 Voilà pourquoi, après l'émotion et le deuil, la France, dans la même dignité, saura faire face en restant elle-même, et Paris demeurera la ville des théâtres, des cinémas, des musées, du spectacle vivant. Parce que la culture sera toujours chez elle en France. Parce que le spectacle vivant est bien vivant en France. Parce que les salles de cinéma continueront d'accueillir un large public. Parce que tous les musées seront ouverts pour, là encore, faire découvrir aux visiteurs les merveilles qui existent dans notre patrimoine. La France est un pays ouvert et le demeurera. Ouvert à tous les arts, à toutes les musiques, à toutes les créations, à tous les publics. La jeunesse de France, celle qui a été meurtrie, blessée dans cette nuit de vendredi à samedi, sera la plus ardente à défendre cette liberté et cette conception de la vie en commun. Et pouvais-je trouver un meilleur endroit pour le dire, pour affirmer cette exigence de tenir bon, que cette enceinte de l'UNESCO ? Une institution qui est née de la volonté de réunir l'humanité par l'éducation et la culture, et qui a choisi Paris comme siège.

12.6 Oui, l'UNESCO, c'est « la conscience morale de l'humanité », et ce qui l'a fondé, c'est la promotion de la « diversité des cultures ». Une diversité fondée sur l'idée que la culture relie les hommes à leur histoire, à leur territoire. Une diversité ancrée dans la reconnaissance de l'égalité des cultures, chaque peuple ayant un message singulier à porter au monde. Une diversité qui refuse l'uniformisation et promeut la pluralité des opinions et des croyances. Une diversité qui fait de l'éducation le levier de l'émancipation universelle. Voilà pourquoi la Convention de 2005 sur la diversité des expressions culturelles, dont nous célébrons le 10^e anniversaire, est si importante à nos yeux. En soulignant que les biens culturels sont porteurs d'identité, de valeur et de sens, cette Convention a consacré le droit souverain des États à soutenir la création artistique et à ne pas faire de la culture une marchandise. C'est la raison pour laquelle la France a toujours refusé que les services audiovisuels soient inclus dans la négociation du partenariat transatlantique entre l'Union européenne et les États-Unis. Et je vous assure que cette vigilance demeurera tout au long

du processus.

12.7 Cette bataille de la diversité et de l'exception culturelle, nous devons aussi la mener alors que la révolution numérique bouleverse la création, la diffusion et le partage de la valeur économique liée aux œuvres. Et là encore, la France défendra l'application du principe de neutralité technologique et demande que la Convention de 2005 puisse s'appliquer aussi aux œuvres numériques. C'est la condition indispensable pour protéger les droits des auteurs et des créateurs.

12.8 Mais, si je suis venu devant vous, c'est aussi pour défendre le patrimoine, les œuvres que nous avons en commun, que nous avons héritées de l'histoire. Ces œuvres qui peuvent également être victimes du terrorisme. L'UNESCO a créé – c'était en 1972 – la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Plus de 1 000 sites sont aujourd'hui classés, dont 41 – et j'en suis fier – en France. Je sais que ce sont des cibles de choix pour ceux qui veulent annihiler la mémoire des peuples. Je pense aux Bouddhas de Bâmiyân, aux temples d'Angkor et de Palmyre. C'est toujours la même tentative des totalitaires de vouloir faire que leurs crimes touchent à la mémoire. Les fanatiques s'en prennent aux vivants mais ils s'en prennent aussi aux morts, ils s'en prennent à tout ce qui constitue l'humanité, à celle d'aujourd'hui, de demain et également à celle d'hier, celle dont on procède. Les terroristes voudraient tout effacer : la jeunesse, la culture, la vie et, en même temps, l'histoire et la mémoire.

12.9 L'UNESCO joue un rôle majeur dans la préservation de ces biens, ces biens communs. C'est elle qui alerte avant qu'il ne soit trop tard, qui prévient avant que des destructions et des pillages puissent avoir lieu. C'est l'UNESCO également qui lutte contre le trafic des œuvres et des antiquités. Mais l'UNESCO fait également davantage et je veux, ici, en remercier la Directrice générale. Elle participe aussi à la réhabilitation des sites détruits ou qui ont pu être endommagés, en Afghanistan, en Iraq, au Mali. Je me souviens encore de notre visite avec la Directrice générale, Mme Bokova. Nous étions à Tombouctou lorsque la ville a été libérée et nous avons constaté devant nous le saccage des mausolées, la destruction des manuscrits. Et c'est votre honneur et c'était aussi notre responsabilité de faire en sorte qu'en même temps que nous redonnions au Mali le retour à son intégrité territoriale, nous puissions aussi réhabiliter ce qui avait été détruit ou abîmé.

(Applaudissements)

12.10 La France a toujours été aux côtés de l'UNESCO. Elle a mis ses ressources et ses compétences au service de la restauration des sites. Ensemble, en 20 ans, 70 projets ont pu être menés à bien. Nous pouvons agir, même au Proche et au Moyen-Orient. Les destructions de monuments et de sites archéologiques en Syrie et en Iraq ont soulevé une émotion considérable. Je pense notamment à Palmyre où l'ancien conservateur a préféré rester alors qu'il savait le sort qui l'attendait. Il a été décapité par les bourreaux de Daech, qui ont eux-mêmes commis l'irréparable sur le site. Alors, face à cette émotion, j'avais demandé au Président du musée du Louvre, Jean-Luc Martinez, de travailler pour nous proposer un plan d'action. Il vient de m'être transmis. Il comporte trois priorités que je sou mets à l'UNESCO et sur lesquelles la France va s'engager.

12.11 La première de ces priorités, c'est la lutte contre les trafics des biens culturels. Il faut savoir qu'en ce moment-même, l'organisation terroriste Daech délivre des permis de fouille, prélève des taxes sur des biens qui vont ensuite alimenter le marché noir mondial, transitant par des ports francs qui sont des havres pour le recel et le blanchiment, y compris en Europe. La France a donc décidé d'introduire un contrôle douanier à l'importation de biens culturels et intégrera dans son droit les résolutions du Conseil de sécurité interdisant le transport, le transit, le commerce du patrimoine culturel mobilier ayant quitté illégalement certains pays.

12.12 La seconde priorité, c'est d'empêcher que les œuvres transportées puissent tomber entre les mains des terroristes. Alors la France créera des refuges pour que les biens culturels menacés puissent trouver, si je puis dire, un asile. Un asile pour les musées qui souhaiteraient, face au danger, mettre leurs collections à l'abri. Le droit d'asile vaut pour les personnes, et nous devons d'ailleurs le garantir même dans les circonstances douloureuses, éprouvantes que nous connaissons. Mais l'asile vaut également pour les œuvres, pour le patrimoine mondial. Et c'est la raison pour laquelle cette disposition figurera dans la loi « liberté de la création » que la Ministre de la culture, Fleur Pellerin, est en charge de faire voter au Parlement. La France offrira son assistance pour élaborer, avec les gouvernements légitimes et les musées volontaires, des plans de sauvegarde d'urgence, assortis d'un mécanisme permettant la sortie et l'hébergement temporaire de ces œuvres pendant le temps des conflits.

12.13 Enfin, la troisième priorité, c'est de conserver la mémoire des sites. Ces 20 dernières années, la France a consacré près de 170 millions d'euros à la protection du patrimoine et à l'archéologie du Proche et du Moyen-Orient. Aujourd'hui, mon pays accueille 460 boursiers syriens et plus de 300 boursiers iraqiens, dont une vingtaine travaille dans le domaine du patrimoine. Et je souhaite que mon pays, y compris dans ce contexte, y compris avec ce qui vient de se passer, puisse accueillir encore davantage d'archéologues et de chercheurs syriens pour qu'ils puissent continuer leur travail.

12.14 De la même manière, la France contribuera à la numérisation des archives archéologiques, de cartographie des sites et d'inventaires de collections, de manière à pouvoir reconstituer en 3D, comme l'on dit, le patrimoine qui aura pu hélas être détruit mais qui, finalement, pourra laisser une trace. J'ai demandé au Ministre des affaires étrangères, Laurent Fabius, et à la Ministre de la culture, Fleur Pellerin, de mobiliser également la Commission européenne pour que l'Europe puisse prendre des mesures d'harmonisation comme le contrôle à l'importation, les certificats d'exportation, sur la recommandation de l'UNESCO. Nous parlons beaucoup des paradis fiscaux et nous avons raison de vouloir, là encore, faire en sorte qu'ils puissent disparaître. Mais nous devons également éliminer les « paradis du recel » dans le monde.

12.15 Mesdames et Messieurs, la préservation du patrimoine de l'humanité est une grande cause et nous devons

coordonner tous nos efforts, mutualiser tous nos moyens pour assurer cette préservation de la mémoire. Mais il nous faut aussi associer le partenariat privé pour que les ressources publiques ne soient pas les seules qui puissent être sollicitées. Je propose donc qu'il puisse y avoir une structure internationale unique, bien identifiée, qui puisse rassembler les dons et les contributions et constituer un fonds de dotation internationale dédié aux biens culturels en danger. Tout ce que je viens de proposer autour de ce plan d'action, je suggère que l'UNESCO s'en empare. Je souhaite qu'elle puisse prendre l'initiative d'un instrument international permettant de garantir la pleine application de ses engagements.

12.16 L'UNESCO a été créée il y a 70 ans, après la tragédie, la barbarie déjà, et avec un principe qui, pour certains, était une utopie : les guerres naissant dans l'esprit des hommes, c'est dans l'esprit des hommes que doivent être élevées les défenses de la paix. Tel était l'esprit de ceux qui ont fondé l'UNESCO. Aujourd'hui, 70 ans après, à Paris, c'est au nom d'un pays attaqué, d'un pays éprouvé, d'un pays debout, que je m'exprime devant vous pour vous dire qu'il faut plus que jamais refuser la peur, la division et la haine, et choisir la vie, la culture, le partage, le respect, la dignité. À la barbarie des terroristes, nous opposerons l'invincible humanité de la culture qui, comme le disait André Malraux, « a fait de l'homme autre chose qu'un accident de la nature ». La culture, voilà pourquoi la France se bat aujourd'hui. Merci.

(Applaudissements)

*The meeting is suspended briefly while His Excellency,
Mr François Hollande, President of France, is escorted from the room.*

Leaders' Forum (continued)

Forum des dirigeants (suite)

Foro de dirigentes (continuación)

Форум руководителей (продолжение)

منتدى القادة (تابع)

领导人论坛 (续)

13.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much. Would you please take your seats so that we can continue with the remainder of our programme? Thank you very much. Notwithstanding that His Excellency, President Hollande, has left I wanted on your behalf to thank him most sincerely for having graced our Organization with his presence. The President had in his delegation three ministers who accompanied him, a clear indication of the importance that he attaches to UNESCO and we are truly humbled as Member States for that particular gesture.

13.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we will now proceed, and I have the pleasure of welcoming His Excellency, Mr Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister of Education of Bangladesh, who will deliver a message on behalf of the Head of State of his country. Your Excellency, you now have the floor, Sir.

14.1 **Mr Nahid** (Minister of Education of Bangladesh):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. On 4 November, I addressed this august body as the head of the Bangladesh Delegation to the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Today, it was our Honourable Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, who was scheduled to address this Leaders' Forum. She could not be here today owing to extraordinary circumstances. However, on her behalf, I would like to read out the statement that she would have delivered to this gathering.

14.2 Before beginning with the speech of the Bangladesh Prime Minister, allow me express our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of France for the loss of so many innocent lives owing to despicable acts of terror last week. Terrorists are terrorists, irrespective of their colour, creed or religion, and must have no place in any civilized society. Our Government stands ready to work with all governments to fight this global scourge in all its forms and manifestations.

14.3 Now, Mr President, let me read out my Prime Minister's address: "It gives me great pleasure to address this Leaders' Forum. I thank Ms Irina Bokova for inviting me here. As always, I am deeply touched by her warmth and friendship. For me, personally, UNESCO has a connotation of peace. I came here first in 1999 to receive the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize during my first term as Prime Minister. Last year, I was awarded a sculpture of UNESCO's "Tree of Peace" for our work in girls' education.

14.4 Over four decades ago, the father of our nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, said, "Peace represents the deepest aspirations of men and women throughout the world. Peace to endure must be peace based on justice". Inspired by his vision, Bangladesh steers United Nations General Assembly resolutions towards a "Culture of Peace and Non-violence" every year. We commend UNESCO for making the concept its own, and giving it global relevance.

14.5 Today, in a world torn apart by wars and conflicts, we are searching for lasting peace. We must mobilize the resources we have to defeat the forces that want to destroy our civilization. We need to build enough resilience within individual minds, families and communities. We must invoke the power of education, culture, science and communication to bring about a fundamental change in our understanding of peace and progress. Here, we find the enduring value of UNESCO and its call for "new humanism". We need a new impetus to promote quality and inclusive education, cultural diversity, and a rational, scientific outlook as critical enablers of sustainable development and human dignity.

14.6 Mr President, my vision for Bangladesh is for it to become a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed

nation by 2041. To implement these visions, we have made education a central pillar of our national development agenda. Our landmark national education policy is an outcome of the lessons learnt in working together with UNESCO for achieving education for all. Through our sustained investment in education, we have attained the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets of nearly 100% enrolment in primary schools, and gender parity in primary and secondary education. This year alone, we distributed 326.35 million text books free of charge on the first day of the year. This is perhaps the biggest such undertaking anywhere in the world. Our Government has given stipends to 13.4 million students, 75% of them girls. We are currently working on reducing drop-out rates, increasing pass rates, and having more girls in higher education.

14.7 Our focus now is more on quality education. I remain personally committed to this as a champion of the United Nations Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI). We are investing in teachers' training, setting up model schools, expanding technical, vocational and information and communication technology (ICT) based education, modernizing madrasa curricula, and reforming assessment systems. Our domestic efforts at achieving total literacy, promoting second chance learning, and creating life-long learning opportunities are being scaled up further.

14.8 In Bangladesh, we attach particular importance to girls' education. We consider this to be a must to keep improving our human development scorecards. I see girls' education as the prime investment to make in order to end child marriage, prevent violence against women and change mindsets about women's role in society. We have the empowering tools of ICT to make a sea change in our efforts. Our young boys and girls are growing up to be the main agents of our digital Bangladesh. We are using ICT to enable quality teaching to reach remote areas. It is important for our students to get access to new innovations and ideas. I want our children to grow up as truly global citizens.

14.9 Along with science, liberal arts, culture and sports are the other fundamental pillars of human civilization. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development duly appreciates culture as a driver of sustainable development. The people of Bangladesh turn to their rich cultural heritage in search of their identity and resilient spirit. Our *Baul Songs* and *Jamdani* now belong to the cultural heritage of humankind. We shall continue to work with UNESCO to promote cultural diversity to build bridges across communities and nations. As a cornerstone to that, our Government remains committed to upholding freedom of expression and speech. In the knowledge and information society we wish to build, we shall continue to foster dialogue, tolerance, fair play, and mutual understanding.

14.10 Mr President, language is the main vehicle for all human endeavours. I wish to recall UNESCO's seminal contribution to preserving mother tongues and promoting multilingual education. The Organization took a big step forward by declaring our "Language Martyrs' Day" on 21 February as the International Mother Language Day. We are again grateful to this Conference for recognizing the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) in Bangladesh as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). We wish to build an archive of all living languages in the Institute, and I invite you all to make the best use of it. For our part, we are introducing education through mother tongues for our different ethnic groups. We have established institutions to preserve their languages and showcase their cultures.

14.11 Mr President, we see UNESCO's added value in addressing two main challenges facing the international community. First, the threats of terrorism and violent extremism respect no borders. My Government and I have taken a zero tolerance approach to all forms of terrorism and violent extremism. We have made no compromise with our domestic terrorist outfits. We keep constant vigil on their possible links with any regional or international terrorist networks.

14.12 There is much that needs to be done to root out the mindset that turns to violent extremism. Education of the right kind is perhaps our only response to the wrong narratives being fed to our youth by the violent extremists. Second, climate change impact can reverse much of our development gains. Bangladesh remains on the frontline of that threat, but has not surrendered to it. We have taken a number of adaptation measures with our own resources.

14.13 UNESCO's work on conserving biospheres has been a wake-up call to the damage being done to our natural resources. The preservation of the world's natural heritage sites and underwater resources remains our shared responsibility. Less than two weeks from now, in this historic city, the international community will have the opportunity to deliver some hope to those affected by climate change. I add my voice to the call for a game-changing new deal to save our planet and its people.

14.14 Mr President, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal and ambitious. To deliver on those goals, we must set our ambitions higher for all major partners including UNESCO. There is room for creativity and innovation. There is also scope for reform and renewal. If we expect UNESCO to do what it does best, we must further invest in building its resources and capacity to do so. At 70, UNESCO is still a young organization. It is perhaps one of the best legacies we have from the ashes of the Second World War. With UNESCO on our side, let us join our hands to create a world where, in the Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore's words, "the mind is without fear and the head is held high", where "knowledge is free" and "words come out from the depth of truth". I thank you for your kind attention.

15. The President

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Your Excellency, may I kindly request you to convey on our behalf our sincere thanks and appreciation to Her Excellency, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, that brings to a close the segment in terms of the Leaders' Forum. I would like to once again request you to join me in expressing our thanks and gratitude to all the heads of State and government that graced our beloved Organization. We also thank the Director-General and the Executive Board for having prepared for this Leaders' Forum. I am sure that you will agree with me that notwithstanding the circumstances, the Leaders' Forum was a resounding success.

(Applause)

Report of the Culture Commission (CLT) (38 C/94)
Rapport de la Commission Culture (CLT) (38 C/94)
Informe de la Comisión de Cultura (CLT) (38 C/94)
Доклад Комиссии по культуре (CLT) (38 C/94)
تقرير لجنة الثقافة (CLT) (٩٤/م٣٨)

文化委员会 (CLT) 的报告 (38 C/94)

16. The President:

I now invite this session to examine the report of the Culture Commission which is contained in document 38 C/94. I invite His Excellency, Mr Arūnas Gelūnas, Chairperson of the Culture Commission, to present the report. Your Excellency, you have the floor, Sir.

17.1 M. Gelūnas (Lituanie) (Président de la Commission CLT) :

Thank you Mr President. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je tiens à remercier les États membres de l'UNESCO de m'avoir confié la tâche importante et enrichissante de présider la Commission Culture. De même, je voudrais exprimer ma gratitude aux membres de cette Commission qui ont participé activement aux débats et qui ont fait preuve d'engagement et d'efficacité, ce qui nous a permis de mener nos travaux de manière productive et ponctuelle.

17.2 La Commission a débuté ses travaux le jeudi 12 novembre et les a conclus plus tôt que prévu, le vendredi 13 novembre 2015. Les recommandations formulées par la Commission Culture apparaissent dans le document 38 C/94. La Commission a commencé ses travaux en élisant M. Roberto Ramírez Aldana (Honduras), Mme Christina Cameron (Canada), S. E. Mme Ruchira Kamboj (Inde) et S. E. M. Khalil Karam (Liban) comme vice-présidents de la Commission ; et M. Ali Ould Sidi (Mali) comme rapporteur.

17.3 La Commission a adopté son calendrier provisoire, qui a réparti son travail en six débats ; 242 interventions ont eu lieu au cours des deux jours, lors des débats et l'examen des projets de résolution. Quatre événements parallèles ont été organisés en marge de la Commission, les 12 et 13 novembre 2015, à savoir un événement sur la campagne #Unite4Heritage (#UnisPourLePatrimoine), le lancement des activités autour du 10^e anniversaire de la création du Fonds pour le patrimoine mondial africain, un événement concernant le 10^e anniversaire de la Base de données de l'UNESCO sur les législations nationales du patrimoine culturel, et un panel de discussion sur la condition de l'artiste et la liberté artistique.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

17.4 In its first debate, the Commission considered item **3.4** on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5) and item **4.5** on the conclusions of the Youth Forum. Under item **4.5** on the conclusions of the Youth Forum, two youth delegates presented the Forum's recommendations relating to culture, notably with regard to safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage, particularly threatened by conflicts and climate change, and to encouraging artistic and cultural creativity in all its expressions. The Member States fully endorsed the conclusions of the Forum.

17.5 Item **3.4** on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5) was introduced by the representative of the Director-General, Mr Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture, and Mr Jean-Yves Le Saux, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning. During the debate, a total of 28 Member States and two observers took the floor. The three main points highlighted by the delegations that participated in the debate were the 2030 Agenda, the need to respond to emergency situations when heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions were put at risk and the standard-setting instruments of UNESCO in the field of culture. Cultural diversity, youth, gender, and the need for greater intersectoral cooperation, especially in the area of heritage education, were among the other issues highlighted by a large number of delegations.

17.6 Almost all delegations highlighted the importance of aligning the priorities of Major Programme IV – Culture with the 2030 Agenda, which should be considered as an overarching framework of all UNESCO activities, including those relating to culture. Most delegations emphasized more specifically the importance of culture having been included for the first time in the international development agenda, with specific entry points in nine of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as culture's role as an enabler and driver for sustainable development. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of delegations also highlighted the significance of UNESCO's culture conventions not only as crucially important standard-setting instruments but also as key tools for achieving the SDGs and for preventing the destruction of cultural and natural heritage in conflict and emergency situations. The role of UNESCO in emergency situations was frequently underscored, as well as the need to protect and promote cultural diversity. The Commission also emphasized the importance of youth at the core of UNESCO's actions towards achievement of the SDGs, as well as the importance of continuing to mainstream gender equality in all culture programmes. The need for enhancing synergies between UNESCO conventions as well as between major programmes was another recurrent theme.

17.7 Dear colleagues, I have only introduced the main lines of this rich and inspiring debate which touched upon a number of crucial aspects of the Culture Sector's programme priorities for the future. I will stop here and invite you to read the more detailed outline, included as an annex to the report of the Commission, contained in document 38 C/94.

17.8 Dear colleagues, I will now move to the second debate of our agenda. The consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget, 2016-2017 (38 C/5) – Part II A: Major Programme IV – Culture, under item **3.2**, was

introduced by the representative of the Director-General. Mr Bandarin informed the Commission that the programme and budget contained in document 38 C/5 were a direct continuation of the four-year programme defined for the 2014-2017 period and that some minor adjustments had been introduced to the culture programme, among which were the denomination of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the title of expected result 7, with a view to including the Creative Cities Network and the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC), enhanced references to cities and the protection and safeguarding of culture in emergency situations, as well as streamlined performance indicators. He also recalled the Director-General's proposal mentioned in document 38 C/INF.17 to transfer expected result 5 from Major Programme IV to Major Programme III with effect from 1 January 2016.

17.9 During the debate, a total of 27 Member States took the floor. The three main points highlighted by the delegations that participated in the debate were: the alignment of the 2030 Agenda with the culture programme and budget; the effective implementation of the statutory obligations of the standard-setting instruments of UNESCO in the field of culture, especially capacity building and monitoring, and the need for their governing bodies to prioritize, taking into consideration the challenging financial situation; and the need to respond to emergency situations when heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions were put at risk.

17.10 The Culture Commission then recommended that the General Conference adopt the recommendation of the Executive Board on Major Programme IV contained in document 38 C/6 and its Addenda. Under item 3.2, the Commission then considered draft resolution 38 C/DR.3 submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, in conjunction with document 38 C/8. The Commission decided to recommend that the General Conference adopt the core text of the resolution, excluding the explanatory note attached to it. The status of the explanatory note was questioned by the delegation of Norway and several other delegations and was clarified by the representative of the Director-General and the Legal Adviser. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran also took the floor and agreed to the proposal to adopt the draft resolution without the explanatory note.

17.11 Under item 3.2, the Commission then considered draft resolution 38 C/DR.12 submitted by China. Taking into account the considerations of the Director-General in document 38 C/8, the structural changes proposed for Major Programmes III and IV and the intervention of the sponsor, who agreed with the proposed approach, the draft resolution was not retained. The Commission concluded its second debate by recommending that the General Conference adopt on a temporary basis the draft resolution in paragraph 04000 of document 38 C/5 Volume I, as amended.

17.12 During the third debate, a total of 29 Member States took the floor. Under item 4.4 the Commission considered a proposal for the establishment in Beijing, China, of an international centre for creativity and sustainable development as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). Further to the decision taken by the General Conference at its first plenary session, no debate took place on the item and the Commission decided to recommend that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 3 of document 38 C/18, Part XXI. China took the floor after the resolution was adopted.

17.13 Regarding item 4.21 on the proclamation of 5 May as African World Heritage Day, many delegations of African Member States and from other regions of the world took the floor and emphasized that the proclamation of that Day would contribute to mobilizing support for the safeguarding of African world heritage properties and to promoting South-South cooperation. The annual event would also be rotating in order to strengthen regional collaboration in the field of heritage conservation. The Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 2 of document 38 C/68.

17.14 In the framework of the same debate, the Commission also considered items 7.7 and 7.4, both of which had been examined previously by the Legal Committee. On item 7.7, concerning the report on the implementation by Member States of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), including a glossary of definitions, a number of Member States considered it important to enhance the implementation of the Recommendation, while some noted that no reports had been submitted and that no specific budget for the monitoring of the implementation of the Recommendation had been allocated. Some Member States stressed the need to ensure synergies with other cultural conventions, in particular the 1972 and 2005 Conventions, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new urban agenda. UNESCO's contribution to the forthcoming Habitat III conference foreseen in 2016 was welcome. On the specific topic of reporting by Member States, it was suggested that synergies with other instruments, more specifically the 1972 World Heritage Convention reporting process, should be explored.

17.15 In his reply, the Assistant Director-General for Culture highlighted that the 2011 HUL Recommendation had become a reference in the past four years and stressed the importance of linking the Recommendation to the 2030 Agenda. He also stressed the role of urban heritage in the new urban agenda and the fact that contributing to the Habitat III conference was a rare opportunity to advocate the link between culture and development. He referred to the process of developing the report which would be discussed at the International Conference in Hangzhou, China, in December 2015. The Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 3 of document 38 C/83, as amended by the Legal Committee.

17.16 Under item 7.4 on the consolidated report on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, a number of Member States stressed the need for synergies with the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and highlighted the impact of digital technologies on the creation and distribution of artistic expressions. In their interventions, several delegations called for enhancing the implementation of the Recommendation and agreed with the four crosscutting themes identified by the Secretariat relating to digital technologies, transnational mobility, social protection and artistic freedom. Some delegates emphasized the importance of providing facilities to ensure the increased mobility of artists. They encouraged the Secretariat to continue its monitoring functions, despite the fact that there were no resources available, and suggested that the

synergies created with the 2005 Convention were an efficient way forward to maintain an “observatory function”. The Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 5 of document 38 C/83, as amended by the Legal Committee and by the Commission.

17.17 In the fourth debate, the Commission recommended, by consensus and without debate, that the General Conference adopt the two draft resolutions submitted by Palestine and Qatar under item **4.2** on Jerusalem and the implementation of 37 C/Resolution 44, and item **4.3** on the implementation of 37 C/Resolution 67 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories.

17.18 During the fifth debate on items **4.11** and **7.3**, a total of 47 Member States took the floor. Under item **4.11**, the Commission considered the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict, which was introduced by the representative of the Director-General. Mr Bandarin explained the main objectives of the strategy presented in document 38 C/49 as well as the financial and organizational requirements for its successful implementation. He further recalled the revisions made to the original document following its discussion at the 197th session of the Executive Board, notably the clarification of the terminology used, as well as the integration of a rapid response mechanism at the request of Italy and other Member States.

17.19 All speakers stressed the importance of the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict. The delegates also underlined the need for UNESCO to cooperate and coordinate with other United Nations bodies, as well as with Member States, to implement the strategy. A number of delegates underlined the need to further discuss its implementation modalities, including those of the rapid response mechanism. Several delegates provided an overview of national initiatives undertaken for the protection of cultural heritage, including on the subject of safe havens, and expressed their wish for those to be seen as part of the comprehensive efforts of the international community.

17.20 In his reply, Mr Bandarin provided clarifications on the nature of the intended cooperation with the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of humanitarian action and peacekeeping operations. The draft resolution was extensively discussed and some amendments were introduced, including a reference to the United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) as an important benchmark in the reinforcement of UNESCO’s activities to protect cultural heritage. The Culture Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 55 of document 38 C/49, as amended by the Culture Commission.

17.21 Under item **7.3**, the Commission examined the reports on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The item had previously been examined by the Legal Committee. Mr Bandarin introduced the item and recalled the creation of a new organ for the Convention in 2012, namely the Subsidiary Committee to the Meeting of State Parties to the 1970 Convention. He also proposed an amendment to the draft resolution, the purpose of which was to streamline the reporting process of the 1970 Convention and to harmonize it with other conventions.

17.22 During the debate, several Member States mentioned the progress achieved at the national level in the fight against trafficking and provided examples of restitution cases in recent months. Some delegates stressed the importance of prevention measures and the role of customs, bilateral agreements and partnerships in the context of the 1970 Convention. The Culture Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 5 of document 38 C/81, as amended by the Legal Committee and by the Culture Commission.

17.23 Also during the fifth debate, the Commission took note, without debate, of the reports concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the Administrative Council of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, as well as by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (2014-2015), the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (1-2 October 2014) and the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (June 2012 – June 2014).

17.24 In its sixth and last debate, the Commission examined items **4.22** and **6.2**. During the debate, a total of 43 Member States and one observer took the floor. Item **4.22** concerning the re-design of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists and amendment of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC) was examined further to the respective decision of the Executive Board at its 197th session. The delegations that addressed the item agreed with the proposed resolution. The Czech Republic asked that the oral report reflect its request that the reports submitted to the governing bodies of the 2005 Convention include a specific chapter on the use of the funds in the UNESCO-Aschberg programme for artists and cultural professionals. The representative of the Director-General recalled that a certain number of reporting tools and mechanisms, including the System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER), existed to track programme activities. He also recalled that the funds would be used for the 2005 Convention as well as for the UNESCO Creative Cities Programme. The Culture Commission recommended the adoption of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 5 of document 38 C/69.

17.25 Item **6.2** on the proposal for a non-binding standard-setting instrument on the protection and promotion of various aspects of the role of museums and collections was introduced by Mr Bandarin, followed by a presentation by Mr Nicolas Dimic, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO and Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Meeting of legal and technical experts relating to the draft Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society, which had taken place on 28 May 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters.

17.26 Almost without exception, the speakers that took the floor during that debate expressed their full support, highlighting that the need for a new international instrument on museums had been increasingly called for. It was noted that the preliminary consultation process and the intergovernmental meeting had allowed discussion and agreement on

all different aspects of the Recommendation. Some specific issues raised by some delegations, such as, among others, the High-Level Forum on Museums and digitization, could be addressed at subsequent workshops and conferences, as suggested by the representative of the Director-General at the end of the debate.

17.27 Several Member States took the floor to propose amendments to the draft resolution on item **6.2**, contained in paragraph 14 of document 38 C/25, which was recommended for adoption as amended by the Commission. Some Member States had perceived subparagraphs (a) to (e) of paragraph 3 of the draft resolution as redundant and had suggested deleting them. As the majority of Member States agreed to retain the subparagraphs as drafted by the Secretariat, the delegations of Sweden and Norway requested that their view be reflected in the oral report. Also, the delegation of the United States of America, while supporting the consensus, had some issues as to how Member States were meant to follow up on the specific recommendations contained in the above-mentioned subparagraphs which were addressed to museums and museum professionals, and requested that that be reflected in the oral report. The International Council of Museums (ICOM), also took the floor as an observer and important partner in drafting the text, and expressed its full support to the Recommendation.

17.28 Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to express my gratitude to all my colleagues in the Culture Commission for the spirit of cooperation and constructive dialogue that prevailed throughout our debates. My gratitude also goes to Ms Petya Totcharova, the Secretary of the Commission, Mr César Moreno-Triana, Ms Doyun Lee, Mr Arturo Rey da Silva, Mr Francisco Gomez Duran, Ms Naïma Boumaiza, Ms Suzanne Martin-Siegfried, and Ms Nathalie Valanchon for ensuring the Secretariat of the Commission.

17.29 Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, as it was expressed by the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, in the wake of the barbaric attacks perpetrated in Paris only a few days ago in which violent extremists struck places of culture and conviviality, they represent “an attack against the whole of humanity”. On behalf of the Members of the Commission, I would like to condemn these terrible crimes and present my heartfelt condolences to the French people. I am also very proud that my President yesterday laid flowers at the place where the massacre took place. On that note, I would like to conclude with the words of the Lithuanian and Polish poet Czesław Miłosz, Nobel Laureate in Literature in 1980:

“Human reason is beautiful and invincible.
No bars, no barbed wire, no pulping of books,
No sentence of banishment can prevail against it.[...]
It puts what should be above things as they are [...]
It does not know Jew from Greek nor slave from master”

Thank you very much.

18. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for having delivered such an elaborate report and let me thank the members of your Commission for their dedication and for having concluded the work of the Commission quite effectively and efficiently. Are there any comments or suggestions on document 38 C/94? I see the distinguished representative of Ecuador, followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

19. Ecuador:

Gracias, señor Presidente. Aprovecho esta oportunidad para expresar nuestras condolencias al pueblo francés por los tremendos ataques terroristas que ha sufrido París y todo el pueblo de Francia y la humanidad entera, el viernes pasado. Le pido que transmita mis sinceras felicitaciones al distinguido Embajador de Lituania, que ha presidido la Comisión de Cultura de una manera tan eficiente, principalmente por su dinamismo, su ecuanimidad y su objetividad. No solamente en la presidencia de la Comisión, sino también en otros foros que han tenido que ver con la cultura, el distinguido Embajador ha liderado estos procesos de una manera muy adecuada y su liderazgo ha quedado patente. Como ha dicho el distinguido Embajador de Lituania, la cultura es una de las funciones fundamentales de la Organización y ahora más que nunca tenemos que preservarla. Tenemos que dar a la UNESCO la función que le corresponde en la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015. Varias de las convenciones relativas a la cultura de las que disponemos los Estados Miembros pueden coadyuvar al desarrollo sostenible. Particularmente para nuestro país y para varios países de América Latina, la Convención sobre las Medidas que deben Adoptarse para Prohibir e Impedir la Importación, la Exportación y la Transferencia de Propiedad Ilícitas de Bienes Culturales de 1970 se refiere a un tema fundamental en el cual se ha avanzado muchísimo. A este respecto, la UNESCO puede sentirse orgullosa de haber aprobado justamente en este año, al celebrar su septuagésimo aniversario, las directrices operativas de esta convención, que permitirán su aplicación plena. Son también de suma importancia otros instrumentos como la Recomendación relativa a la protección y promoción de los museos y colecciones. En este sentido, quisiera alentar a los Estados Miembros a que apliquemos de manera oportuna y ágil estos instrumentos que nos ha dado la Organización. Gracias, Señor Presidente.

(19) **Ecuador** (*translation from the Spanish*):

Thank you, Mr President. I would like to take this opportunity to offer our condolences to the French people following the tragic terrorist attacks of last Friday that affected not only Paris, but all French people and humanity itself. Please convey my sincere congratulations to the distinguished Ambassador of Lithuania, who was a very efficient chairperson for the Culture Commission, mostly owing to his dynamism, fairness and objectivity. The distinguished Ambassador led these processes in an appropriate way and the quality of his leadership was patently apparent, not only as Chairperson of the Commission but also in other forums relating to culture. As the distinguished Ambassador of Lithuania said, culture is a part of the Organization's core functions, and today more than ever we need to preserve it. We must enable UNESCO to play its role in the post-2015 development agenda. Several conventions involving Member States and relating to culture can contribute to sustainable development. For our country and several other Latin American countries, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting

and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property particularly addresses a fundamental topic which has seen tremendous progress. In this respect, particularly this year on its 70th anniversary, UNESCO can be proud to have adopted the operational guidelines of this Convention, which will enable its full implementation. Other tools such as the Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society are also of major importance. In that regard, I would encourage Member States to apply these tools given to us by the Organization in a flexible and timely manner. Thank you, Mr President.

20. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take the floor.

21. **Islamic Republic of Iran:**

Thank you so much, Mr President. Regarding the recommendations of the Commission concerning draft resolution 38 C/DR.3, which was proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to remind the Chairperson of the Commission of Culture that in our deliberations during the sessions, the distinguished representative of Norway only suggested omitting the operational part of the explanatory note, not the whole explanatory note. Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to request that the explanatory note, with the exception of its operational part, remain as it is and be maintained. This can be also confirmed by the distinguished representative of Norway. Thank you so much.

22. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Where is Norway? Yes, you have the floor.

23. **Norway:**

Thank you, Mr President. I confirm that Norway only requested the deletion of the operational paragraph in the explanatory note. Thank you.

24. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the Chairperson of the Culture Commission to comment on that.

25. **Mr Gelūnas** (Chairperson of the Culture Commission – CLT):

Thank you very much dear colleagues for your requests and the explanation by the Member State of Norway. This is well noted. I will contact the Secretariat, and it is probably just a typo, because as you can see, the document is of enormous size and we will take the necessary measures. Thank you very much.

26.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. I believe that will be taken care of and that indeed the necessary amendments will be made. Are there any further comments to be made? I do not see any. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Culture Commission and adopts the draft resolutions contained therein, subject to the decisions that the Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution tomorrow? I see no objections. *It is so **decided**.*

26.2 Dear colleagues, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our agenda for this afternoon. And again I have very good news up my sleeve. The good news is that tomorrow we will not have any plenary meeting, we only meet in the afternoon to adopt the report of the joint meeting of commissions that will meet in the morning, including item 3.4, preparation of document 39 C/5, and the Appropriation Resolution for 2016-2017. Let us try to be on time tomorrow so that we can conclude and land our flight properly without any turbulence. Enjoy the evening and we will see you tomorrow. *This meeting is **adjourned**.*

*The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.
La séance est levée à 17 h 20
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.20
Заседание закрывается в 17.20
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٥,٢٠ بعد الظهر
会议于 17 时 20 分结束*

Eighteenth plenary meeting

Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 4.10 p.m.

President: **Mr Simataa** (Namibia)

Dix-huitième séance plénière

Mercredi 18 novembre 2015 à 16 h 10

Président : **M. Simataa** (Namibie)

Decimooctava sesión plenaria

Miércoles 18 de noviembre de 2015 30 a las 16.10

Presidente: **Sr. Simataa** (Namibia)

Восемнадцатое пленарное заседание

Среда 18 ноября 2015 г. в 16.10

Председатель: **г-н Симатаа** (Намибия)

الجلسة العامة الثامنة عشرة

الأربعاء ١٨ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، الساعة ٤,١٠ بعد الظهر

الرئيس: السيد سيماتا (ناميبيا)

第十八次全体会议

2015年11月18日星期三, 16时10分

主席: **Simataa** 先生 (纳米比亚)

Report of the joint meeting of commissions (38 C/96)
Rapport de la réunion conjointe des commissions (38 C/96)
Informe de la reunión conjunta de las comisiones (38 C/96)
Доклад совместного заседания комиссий (38 C/96)
تقرير الاجتماع المشترك للجان (٩٦/م٣٨)
各委员会联席会议的报告(38 C/96)

1.1 The President:

Good afternoon, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the eighteenth plenary meeting, the very last one of the 38th session of the General Conference. We have exchanged our views, we have shared our best national practices, we have also shared our vision for the future of our Organization. We have, during the past weeks, greeted many a distinguished guest, we have deliberated many an important issue, and we have experienced moments of very strong emotion.

1.2 Indeed, ladies and gentlemen, we have accomplished a lot together over the past 15 days, and our work is almost done – unbelievable! However, there are two very important items which we are yet to consider – the examination of the report of the joint meeting of commissions, and the adoption of the Appropriation Resolution.

1.3 Let us therefore start with the first of these items, and examine the report of the joint meeting of commissions. The joint meeting was held this morning, under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Sudders, Chairperson of the APX Commission. He will present the report contained in document 38 C/96. Your Excellency, Ambassador Sudders, you now have the floor, Sir.

2.1 Mr Sudders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chairperson of the joint meeting of commissions):

Thank you very much Mr President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Deputy Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates and dear colleagues, I had the honour of chairing the joint meeting of commissions, which examined three items in two meetings held on 4 and 18 November, and it is now with great pleasure that I submit for your consideration the last report of the 38th session of the General Conference.

2.2 The draft resolutions that the commissions jointly recommended to the General Conference for adoption are contained in document 38 C/96. The draft appropriation resolution for 2016-2017, which was examined this morning at the last joint meeting, is contained separately, in document 38 C/13.

2.3 The first joint meeting of commissions, held on Wednesday 4 November, discussed agenda item **3.5** relating to the adoption of the provisional budget ceiling for document 38 C/5 (2016-2017). Herein the recommendation of the Executive Board to the General Conference with regard to the budget ceiling as contained in document 38 C/6, which is a programme and budget scenario of \$667 million, including \$653 million of assessed contributions from Member States as well as \$14 million in additional appropriations, and the related \$518 million expenditure plan based on an expected cash flow of \$507 million and additional appropriations of \$11 million for 2016-2017. These were both endorsed. The joint meeting of the commissions also provided guidance on the budget envelopes for each major programme.

2.4 By endorsing the relevant paragraphs contained in document 38 C/6 at an early stage of the General Conference, the joint meeting of commissions provided a clear direction for the work subsequently undertaken in programme commissions, as was reported to you separately by the chairperson of each commission between Friday 13 and Tuesday 17 November.

2.5 Mr President, now let me turn to the discussions that took place this morning at the second meeting of the joint commissions. Following the adoption of the relevant parts of documents 38 C/6 and 38 C/6 Addendum by each programme commission, Member States adopted these documents in their entirety after having taken into account the structural adjustments that had been proposed by the Director-General at the 197th session of the Executive Board and as reflected in document 38 C/INF.17 and Corr. These adjustments only concerned budget transfers from one line to another within major programmes - between culture and social and human sciences, and from the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) to a newly created "Field Support and Coordination" (FSC) service. Those were the two major changes. They did not impact the overall budget envelope.

2.6 As is customary, the last joint meeting of commissions also examined the draft appropriation resolution under item **3.3** of the agenda. This resolution is contained in document 38 C/13 for consideration and approval at this plenary meeting of the General Conference.

2.7 With regard to the section of the draft appropriation resolution dealing with transfers, and based on a draft resolution, the limit of the transfers which the Director-General could make between appropriation lines without the prior approval of the Executive Board was changed to 2% from the 5% initially proposed. It was noted that a 2% margin would continue to allow a sufficient level of flexibility, while ensuring stability for the smaller programmes. The joint meeting of commissions was also reassured that during the course of the biennium the Director-General would take into account both the letter and the spirit of the resolutions and decisions of the governing bodies.

2.8 In response to more technical aspects, the Secretariat noted that the original proposal to increase the level of transfer flexibility had stemmed from the decision of the Executive Board to increase the level of flexibility in order to compensate for the proposal to lower the appropriation level from the major programmes to main lines of action. The Secretariat had also conducted a review of eight United Nations agencies, wherein it was noted that the level of transfer flexibility varied from one agency to another and that it was related to the number of budget appropriation lines.

2.9 Member States reiterated that any savings identified in the biennium should go to strengthening the major programmes. This was a decision that they felt that they had taken in the previous biennium, and on this occasion, given the experience of the last biennium, they decided to include this principle in the draft appropriation resolution in order to make it a binding principle. Once again it was stressed that decisions should be implemented, not interpreted. One Member State urged particular attention to be given to reinforcing the World Heritage Centre (WHC).

2.10 The section of the draft appropriation resolution dealing with staff was also amended slightly to clarify that the Director-General should request prior approval from the Executive Board for any change in Annex II to the total number of Assistant Director-General (ADG) posts and to the total number of grade D-1 posts and above. Member States also requested a clearer link be made between the number of ADG posts and those receiving salaries at that level and this was established in the draft appropriation resolution which was duly amended to that effect.

2.11 One Member State further noted that the posts of the category 1 institutes which were funded by the regular budget should also be included in Annex II of the C/5 document. One Member State requested that, to the extent possible, and within the budgetary prerogatives of the Director-General, the secretariats of the culture conventions should be reinforced, particularly with a view to the fulfilment of statutory obligations.

2.12 Before approval, the joint meeting of commissions was reminded that by approving the draft appropriation resolution and its revised appropriation table, which includes the Director-General's proposed structural adjustments, the joint meeting of commissions would also be adopting the recommendations of the Executive Board contained in documents 38 C/6 and 38 C/6 Addendum, with emphasis on the fact that the balance of the Emergency Fund would go to fund the zero nominal growth plus ceiling, and that any remaining balance of the Emergency Fund would go to the Invest for Efficient Delivery Fund. With that in mind, I draw your attention to subparagraphs 8, 9 and 10 of document 38 C/6, paragraph 18, which we are hereby adopting.

2.13 Mr President, the joint meeting of commissions then examined item 3.4 on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5). As this was on the agenda of each commission, there were constructive debates in each of them and the Secretariat had provided an information document (38 C/INF.19) summarizing those debates. The chairperson of each commission also briefly took the floor in the joint meeting this morning to present the outcomes of those debates. The two draft resolutions that had been submitted on this were in fact complementary rather than contradictory and were thus examined as such – in a single merged draft resolution.

2.14 Some Member States expressed their reservations concerning the singling out of a specific programme when the draft resolution should have been general in nature. This was in particular related to the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) Programme. A Member State also reminded us that youth too was a priority and should not be neglected.

2.15 Mr President, document 39 C/5 will be crucial for UNESCO's positioning on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, for Sustainable Development and so preparations for it are of critical importance. On that, allow me to quote a Japanese strategist, Miyamoto Musashi, "Perception is strong and sight weak. In strategy it is important to see distant things as if they were close and to take a distanced view of close things."

2.16 Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Deputy Director-General and dear colleagues, it was my last Finance and Administrative (FA) report in the Executive Board and my last APX report on Friday 13 November, and this is my last joint meeting of commissions report, and I believe the last report of the General Conference. I wish to pay tribute to all the Member States for their active participation and for their support for me in my functions. Allow me to recall the words of Albert Camus, "Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present". I thank most particularly the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of all the commissions who were at my side in our meetings. Finally, allow me also to express my thanks to the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, Mr Tang, the officer-in-charge of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), Mr Jean-Yves Le Saux, the Legal Adviser, the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources Management (HRM) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who were all available to provide the necessary clarifications and answers to our queries. Thanks, as ever, to the interpreters, the translators, the conference room clerks and technicians for their support. And last, but by no means least, thanks to Mr Sachin Bhatt and his excellent team, who have supported me throughout this work. Thank you for your attention.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Ambassador Sudders, for presenting a very comprehensive but very clear report. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on the report? I do not see any. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report? Argentina, you have the floor now, Madam.

4. **Argentina:**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Mi delegación quiere felicitar muy especialmente al Embajador Sudders por haber conducido de una manera excelente esta reunión conjunta, por su energía y su profesionalismo. También deseamos agradecerle muy especialmente su especial habilidad para acordar consensos. Muchas gracias.

(4) **Argentine (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Ma délégation souhaite féliciter en particulier l'Ambassadeur Sudders pour l'excellente manière dont il a conduit les travaux de cette réunion conjointe, ainsi que pour son dynamisme et son professionnalisme. Nous tenons également à saluer son aptitude remarquable à créer des consensus. Je vous remercie.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I see the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. **Islamic Republic of Iran:**
Mr President, I would like to echo strongly what was said by Argentina. Thank you.
7. **The President:**
Thank you very much. I see El Salvador would like to take the floor.
8. **El Salvador:**
Gracias, señor Presidente. Mi país quiere dar las gracias de la manera más especial al Embajador Sudders por haber conducido de una manera extraordinaria, durante estos cuatro años, las reuniones de la Comisión Administrativa y de Hacienda. El Embajador Sudders nos ayudó muchísimo a llegar a buenos consensos y se tendieron puentes entre todos los grupos regionales, por lo cual le damos las gracias, Embajador y amigo. Usted ha sido un excelente presidente, y cualquier persona que le vaya a suceder tendrá mucho trabajo para llegar a la excelencia suya. Muchas gracias.
- (8) **El Salvador (traduit de l'espagnol) :**
Merci, Monsieur le Président. Mon pays souhaite tout particulièrement remercier l'Ambassadeur Sudders pour la façon remarquable dont il a dirigé, ces quatre dernières années, les réunions de la Commission financière et administrative. L'Ambassadeur Sudders a grandement contribué à trouver de bons consensus et à établir des ponts entre tous les groupes régionaux, ce dont nous lui sommes reconnaissants. Cher Ambassadeur et ami, vous avez été un excellent président, et celui ou celle qui vous succèdera devra déployer des efforts considérables pour atteindre votre niveau d'excellence. Je vous remercie.
9. **The President:**
Thank you very much. United Arab Emirates.
- 10.1 **Émirats arabes unis :**
Monsieur le Président, merci de m'avoir donné la parole. Ces moments de gravité sont aussi des moments de récolte, et je peux témoigner que la présence des Émirats arabes unis lors de cette Conférence générale a été intense et fructueuse et que nous n'avons pas lésiné sur les moyens pour venir en aide à tous les projets de construction et de modernisation de l'UNESCO.
- 10.2 Je voudrais mettre l'accent sur le rôle prodigieux qu'a joué M. Sudders durant les années où il a présidé la Commission APX. Il a été d'une grande patience, d'une grande diplomatie. Il a toujours su arrondir les angles et il a construit les consensus dont on avait besoin, grand besoin. Je pense qu'avec lui, nous avons pu faire une autopsie en profondeur de la situation financière de l'UNESCO et des programmes, parce que tous les éléments sont organiquement liés et qu'il est très difficile de les séparer les uns des autres.
- 10.3 Je voudrais dire un dernier mot de remerciement à tous ces soldats, connus et inconnus, qui se sont employés, en donnant de leur personne avec un extrême dévouement, à conférer sa cohérence à la Conférence générale et à ses différents volets. Nous avons vécu un grand moment et je pense que l'UNESCO repart aujourd'hui mieux armée pour affronter les difficultés et pour rayonner sur un monde parfois obscur et obscurantiste. C'est à nous tous, à présent, de jouer, et de bien jouer. Merci.
11. **The President:**
Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I like your choice of words with "financial autopsy." But I like the context in which it was used, Sir, not the literal context; I really like it. Thank you very much. Next, the distinguished representative of Portugal, and then I see Bangladesh.
12. **Portugal :**
Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Le Portugal souhaite s'associer à ce qui vient d'être dit par l'Argentine et, de manière tellement éloquente, aussi bien par Mme l'Ambassadeur d'El Salvador que par le distingué représentant des Émirats arabes unis. En effet, l'Ambassadeur Sudders a su traiter avec une sensibilité extraordinaire des matières qui, à première vue, pouvaient paraître difficiles, complexes, incompréhensibles même, et a su prendre chez chacun de nous ce que nous avons de mieux à proposer en éclaircissant parfois les points que nous souhaitions mettre en valeur. Le Portugal remercie donc très vivement l'Ambassadeur Sudders pour tout ce qu'il a fait dans le cadre de la Commission financière et administrative, et aussi pendant cette Conférence générale. Merci beaucoup, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Sudders.
13. **The President:**
Thank you very much. I believe that we have exhausted our list and once again let us thank Ambassador Sudders for a job well done because I, too, sat in so many of those Commission meetings and indeed he was able to drive us to the desired conclusion. Once again, thank you very much. Sorry, I forgot about Bangladesh. My sincere apologies, Bangladesh. Yes Sir, bring our discussion to a close, Honourable Minister.
14. **Bangladesh:**
Thank you, Sir. Mr President, I thank His Excellency, Ambassador Sudders, for an excellent report which reflects his knowledge and insight of UNESCO administrative and financial issues. The Bangladesh delegation also acknowledges his excellent work as Chair of the FA Commission and in the Executive Board, and in the APX Commission of the General Conference. Thank you very much.
15. **The President:**
Thank you very much Your Excellency for adding to the portfolio of gratitude that was expressed by several Member States. Even those who chose not to take the floor, I am sure you agree in silence. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the joint meeting of commissions and adopts the draft resolution contained therein, subject to the decisions that the Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the

Appropriation Resolution for the next biennium? Since I do not see any differing opinions, I take it that we have so **decided**. Thank you very much.

Item 3.3: Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2016-2017

Point 3.3 : Adoption de la Résolution portant ouverture de crédits pour 2016-2017

Punto 3.3: Aprobación de la Resolución de Consignación de Créditos para 2016-2017

Пункт 3.3: Утверждение Резолюции об ассигнованиях на 2016-2017 гг.

البند ٣,٣: اعتماد قرار فتح الاعتمادات المالية لعامي ٢٠١٦-٢٠١٧

项目 3.3: 通过 2016-2017 年拨款决议

16. The President:

Dear colleagues, the last item remaining on our agenda is item **3.3**, “Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2016-2017”. The document pertaining to this item is document 38 C/13. In his report, Ambassador Sudders presented the draft appropriation resolution which the six commissions, at their joint meeting, recommended for adoption. Are there any comments on this resolution? I see none. May I take it that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the APX Commission and adopts the Appropriation Resolution for 2016-2017 contained in document 38 C/13? It is so **decided**.

Closure of the 38th session of the General Conference

Clôture de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale

Clausura de la 38^a reunión de la Conferencia General

Заккрытие 38-й сессии Генеральной конференции

اختتام الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام

大会第三十八届会议闭幕

17. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our formal agenda for this session of the General Conference. Allow me at this particular point in time to give the floor to the Deputy Director-General, who wishes to say a few words as the session draws to a close. Mr Deputy Director-General, you now have the floor.

18.1 The Deputy Director-General:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Director-General I wish to thank every Member State for their commitment to UNESCO. This is especially meaningful in this year when we are celebrating the Organization's 70th anniversary. This is especially meaningful after the devastating terrorist attacks that Paris suffered on 13 November. This criminal, barbaric act of violence affects us all.

18.2 Violent extremism is a global challenge, and we must respond together. This year, in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, we have seen women and men, communities, killed, persecuted on the basis of religion and ethnicity. We have seen humanity's cultural heritage attacked, looted, to finance terrorism. These are all faces of the same violent extremism. Fuelled by hatred, intolerance, false interpretations of faith, violent extremism seeks to divide humanity, to tear it away from the history it shares, to destroy the culture that brings it together.

18.3 We can never accept this. Never. We must stand together, with France, with all women and men, with all societies across all corners of the world. This violence reminds us of the vulnerability of all societies today. It also reminds us of the steel of our resilience and resolve. This resilience finds shape in the Constitution of UNESCO, written 70 years ago after a devastating world war that flouted human rights and dignity like never before.

18.4 This session of the General Conference has seen a renewed commitment to the values, principles and objectives at the heart of UNESCO. More than ever, the world seeks the “soft power” that is within the DNA of UNESCO. This was true 70 years ago, and it has never been so relevant – one month after the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in New York, when Member States agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; one month before the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris, which many Member States see as part of the same, single agenda for sustainability; at a time when women and men shoulder the burden of change, oftentimes discontinuous change, across the world, we are determined to move forward.

18.5 We are determined to support every government in advancing quality education and learning opportunities for every girl and boy, every woman and man, throughout life. We are determined to lead forward education for the twenty-first century, education for sustainable development, and global citizenship education. We are determined to lead the change and take on the charge to prevent and counter violent extremism and cultural cleansing, wherever it may be. We are determined to defend freedom of expression and press freedom, to enhance the safety of journalists, to end impunity and help build knowledge societies. We are determined to support societies in managing social transformations, to promote inclusion and justice. We are determined to advance science cooperation, to deepen ocean sustainability and water management, to bolster disaster readiness. We are determined to empower girls and women everywhere, as a human rights issue, as a development multiplier, as a sustainability and security imperative. We are determined to support Africa's renaissance, working with African governments, with the African Union, and regional communities, to advance the culture of peace, to bolster capacities at every level. This requires a stronger UNESCO – and we will continue the reform of the Organization to sharpen delivery, to ensure the Organization is fit for purpose at every level.

(The Deputy Director-General continues in French)

18.6 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, les décisions de cette Conférence générale s'appuient sur une mobilisation sans précédent des États membres, des organisations internationales, des ONG. Vous l'avez rappelé, Monsieur le Président. Cette participation donne une assise robuste à l'ensemble des décisions qui ont été prises – sur le budget, le programme, la stratégie pour la protection du patrimoine culturel et du pluralisme, pour l'éducation contre l'extrémisme violent, pour la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 où les priorités de l'UNESCO sont fermement intégrées. Cette participation est aussi un signe de confiance très fort dans la pertinence et l'avenir de l'UNESCO. Et nous le constatons aussi avec l'adhésion de Montserrat comme nouveau membre associé. Chacun mesure la nécessité de traiter ensemble, de manière intégrée, avec une approche globale, les enjeux de l'éducation, de la culture, de l'information et du partage des savoirs pour créer une culture de la paix, pour lutter contre l'extrémisme, pour créer une nouvelle conscience de l'environnement durable. L'UNESCO est la seule plate-forme mondiale qui permet d'aborder ces questions de manière transversale. Et ces dernières semaines, elle a prouvé, une fois de plus, sa capacité à être un laboratoire d'idées, avec des initiatives et des propositions, sur l'éducation inclusive, le droit d'asile pour les biens culturels, une équipe spéciale d'intervention pour la protection du patrimoine associant civils et militaires, et tant d'autres choses.

18.7 Lors du Forum des jeunes, lors du Forum des dirigeants et dans le cadre de dizaines d'événements parallèles, cette Maison a vécu au rythme des idées, des initiatives, du partage des énergies qui nous font avancer. Toute cette énergie, toutes ces idées, nous allons les porter ensemble, et nous allons commencer immédiatement avec la COP21 qui se réunit dans quelques jours. Merci à tous de votre engagement. Merci de votre confiance. Il y a beaucoup à faire, alors au travail !

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

18.7 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have many challenges ahead of us. Standing in unity, we will defeat violent extremism. We will get rid of the scourge of poverty. We will build societies that are inclusive and tolerant. Above all, we will anchor our societies in justice, freedom, sustainable development and peace. This is the promise of UNESCO. This is the mandate of UNESCO. Excellencies, allow me now, Mr President, as is customary, to offer the President of the General Conference an honorary gavel in recognition of your excellent work. It is with great pleasure that I hand you the gavel on behalf of the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova. Thank you very much.

19.1 The President:

Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Director-General for your very wise and kind words. Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Honourable Ministers and heads of delegations, Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates to UNESCO, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. We have now come to the end of our engagement for the 38th session of the General Conference and I must admit that I have a feeling of nostalgia. It is not too long ago that I took those steps coming from the podium very carefully, like a baby learning how to walk for the first time, but after two weeks, I now have a level of comfort, and I can take those steps even with my eyes closed. So if I had a wish, it would be, "Can we extend our engagement for another week?"

19.2 This session has been exceptional in many respects. First and foremost, it is ending on the first day which follows the three-day national mourning of our host Member State following the terrorist attack last week. Here again, Excellencies, I would like to reiterate our sincere condolences once more and express our sympathy to the French people, their government and all the other nations that lost nationals during the attacks of the past week.

19.3 It is also the week of the 70th anniversary of our Organization and I am grateful and greatly appreciative of the fact that we were able to maintain the Leaders' Forum and plenary sessions notwithstanding the attacks. In this regard, I wish to renew, in particular, our deep gratitude to all the staff who organized the security not only of our building, but of all the participants and those who were involved in the organization of the sessions and events.

19.4 Despite the current extremely difficult context of our host country and city, our deliberations concluded with the participation of all of us as Member States at the highest level of representation. I believe that this is a strong message, a clear indication that together we refuse to give in to the pressure, threats and destabilization attempts of extremism. Our unreserved condemnation of terrorism goes hand-in-hand with our common will to continue debating key topics on education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information.

19.5 As we bring the proceedings of the General Conference to a close, I must admit that it has been an extremely enriching experience for me – from the first day I made the solemn pledge that I would do my utmost to preside over our meetings in a fair and reasonable manner. I must say that I am humbled and gratified by the atmosphere of frankness, trust and mutual respect established during the series of plenary sessions that we have had. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to you all for your commitment to following the highest standards for our Organization. Even in moments when we could not reach consensus and had to resort to a vote, we displayed high levels of maturity and tolerance, whereby the different positions of Member States were listened to, but above all, were respected by all.

19.6 The work of the committees and commissions has been completed in the most effective and transparent manner. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the chairpersons of the respective commissions for their effective leadership and management of the work of their commissions. Mr Deputy Director-General, I would also like to thank the Director-General and your good self as well as your team, for the invaluable support provided to me. I acknowledge the commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism of the Secretariat.

19.7 It was indeed a pleasure for me to work closely with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the General Conference, Mr Jacques Rao and Mr Luis Salamanques, and I am taking this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the

entire Secretariat of the General Conference, an extremely dedicated team of highly professional colleagues for a job extraordinarily well done. And I would like to mention their names here: Mr Boris Falatar, Ms Anna Bonetti, and Ms Martha Milanzi-Nguni. Many thanks also to – and I have dubbed this team the inner circle of the President – Ms Dorine Dubois, Personal Assistant, Ms Catherine Thiounn, Senior Assistant, and Ms Yasmine Babiard. My respectful and warm thanks also go to the Chair of the Executive Board, my dear brother Mr Mohamed Amr, who, and I am speaking from experience, led the Executive Board effectively over the past two years. Let me also thank the silent supporters of our meetings, the very important people, those who we do not always see, but who have ensured the smooth functioning of the Conference, the dedicated staff behind the stage, in their offices at all times of the day, sometimes even during the night. Your contributions, my dear colleagues, wherever you are, created the environment required for the harmonious interactions that we have had as Member States.

19.8 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO, as any multilateral institution, needs to rely on the unity and cohesion of its constituencies. Our tripartite configuration with a General Conference, an Executive Board and a Secretariat needs to be strong, stable and united, to deal with both external and internal issues, while working in harmony in pursuit of the Organization's constitutional mandate. For this reason, I undertake today, before you, to provide the support and guidance necessary for the checks and balances in our Organization. I am determined to do so within the framework of my two-year term of office, as I sit *ex officio* in an advisory capacity on the Executive Board, as an honest broker when needed, always, and I am emphasizing this, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, while providing visibility to the Organization and enhancing its profile whenever possible. Member States indeed have the sacred responsibility to create the necessary enabling environment for the Secretariat to effectively implement our Organization's programmes.

19.9 Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I wish to thank you once again for your participation, for your enlightened and stimulating statements and for your wise decisions over the past two weeks. I wish you safe journeys back home to your families, and look forward to our continuous joint cooperation to promote the ideals of our Organization, so that, beyond our respective mandates, it can continue to support human development over decades. Thank you very much for your attention.

(Applause)

19.10 Thank you very much. After democratically giving the floor to my good self, I now have to democratically recognize those who wish to intervene, and indeed I have the pleasure of recognizing the distinguished representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

٢٠٠١ الجمهورية العربية السورية

شكراً سيدي الرئيس، أهنئكم على الجدارة والحنكة التي تحلتم بها في رئاستكم للمؤتمر العام، وأهنئ سعادة السفراء، رئيس المجلس التنفيذي ورئيس اللجنة الإدارية والمالية على أدائهم، وتنمى لهم التوفيق في مهامهم المستقبلية. وتقدم بالشكر لأمانة المؤتمر العام على حسن إدارتها وجهوزيتها وكذلك المترجمين وكل من عمل على إنجاح المؤتمر. ونثنى السيدة المديرية العامة على نجاح المؤتمر العام في الذكرى السبعين لتأسيس منظمنا العتيدة، رغم الظروف العصبية التي يشهدها العالم وبلدي سورية.

٢٠٠٢ بتاريخ ١٤ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٥، أصدرت وزارة الخارجية السورية بيان الإدانة التالي ضد الجرائم الوحشية التي طالت الشعب الفرنسي: "إن الجمهورية العربية السورية تدين بشدة الاعتداءات الإرهابية التي وقعت في باريس، وتعرب عن تعاطفها ومواساتها للشعب الفرنسي وعائلات الضحايا وتمنياً بالشفاء العاجل للرحى. وإن الشعب السوري الذي يعاني منذ خمس سنوات جراء جرائم الإرهاب التكفيري المدعوم خارجياً يدرك أكثر من غيره بشاعة ما حصل في باريس والأخطار الجسيمة التي يشكلها الإرهاب على الأمن والسلم في العالم أجمع. إننا نؤكد ما سبق وحذرت منه مراراً. إن الإرهاب لا حدود له، وسيرتد على داعميه، من أجل مكافحة فعالة للإرهاب وخططه وفرض السلم والاستقرار في المنطقة والعالم". أثنى البيان وأنضم إليه بصوتي وباسم وفد بلادي والوفد الرسمي المشارك في المؤتمر العام، مع تمنياتنا للجميع بالتوفيق، شكراً السيد الرئيس لمنحي الفرصة لأخذ الكلمة، وشكراً مرة أخرى للجميع.

(20.1) République arabe syrienne (traduit de l'arabe) :

Merci Monsieur le Président. Je vous félicite pour l'efficacité et la sagesse avec lesquelles vous avez assuré la présidence de la Conférence générale, je félicite également les Ambassadeurs, le Président du Conseil exécutif et les Présidents du Comité juridique et du Comité des finances pour le travail effectué, et je leur souhaite plein succès dans leurs futures fonctions. Je remercie le Secrétariat de la Conférence générale pour sa bonne gestion et son état de préparation, ainsi que les traducteurs et tous ceux qui ont contribué au succès de la Conférence. Je félicite enfin Madame la Directrice générale pour le succès de cette Conférence générale, qui coïncide avec le 70^e anniversaire de la création de notre auguste Organisation, malgré les circonstances difficiles que traversent le monde et mon pays, la Syrie.

(20.2) Le 14 novembre 2015, le Ministère syrien des affaires étrangères a publié le communiqué suivant condamnant les crimes barbares commis à l'encontre du peuple français : « La République arabe syrienne condamne fermement les attaques terroristes perpétrées à Paris, et tient à exprimer sa solidarité et sa sympathie au peuple français et aux familles des victimes ainsi que ses vœux de prompt rétablissement aux blessés. Le peuple syrien, qui souffre depuis cinq ans des crimes de groupes terroristes excommunicateurs appuyés depuis l'étranger, comprend mieux que quiconque l'atrocité de ce qui s'est passé à Paris et les graves dangers que le terrorisme représente pour la paix et la sécurité du monde entier. La République arabe syrienne réitère ce qu'elle a déjà affirmé à maintes reprises, à savoir que le terrorisme n'a pas de frontières et se retournera contre ceux qui l'appuient, d'où la nécessité d'unir tous les efforts sincères qui sont déployés au niveau international afin de mettre un terme à ce fléau et de corriger les politiques erronées et à court terme qui servent les intérêts des terroristes, l'objectif étant de combattre efficacement le terrorisme et ses plans et d'instaurer la paix et la stabilité dans la région et le monde ». Je joins ma voix à ce communiqué, ainsi que celle de la délégation officielle de mon pays participant à la Conférence générale, et vous souhaite à tous plein succès. Merci Monsieur le Président de m'avoir donné la parole, et encore merci à vous tous.

21. **The President:**

Thank you very much your Excellency. I now recognize the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

22.1 **Islamic Republic of Iran:**

Thank you very much, Mr President. Before you were called to be given the gavel, you told us that we have come to the end of our formal agenda. Then what about our informal agenda? Then you said in your speech that you would be our President for two years. Therefore I am sure you will not leave your gavel lying in a corner, you will not hide it, you shall use it. I am sure you will try to bring us together for the informal agenda that we are going to pursue for two years. I can see the formal governing bodies, the formal parts, I see you there, distinguished Chair of the Executive Board who prepared the agenda for us and our distinguished Deputy Director-General representing our Director-General. But all in all there is also an informal agenda. There should be. Why? Because when we talk about the formal agenda, we are taking care of legalities, regulations, finally we say what is wrong or right, but there lies a field beyond right and wrong, and that field is the field of beauty and ugliness. When we talk in our Constitution about intellectual and moral solidarity, when we talk about intellectuality and morality, then we come to the concept, to the categorization of beauty and ugliness. When it is combined with the concept of wrong or right, then we will find our informal agenda.

22.2 Therefore, while I would like to thank all of you, our distinguished President, the Board, the Chair of the Board, our Director-General and our Deputy Director-General, I would like to ask you to please continue to chair us for our informal agenda, because beyond this or that idea, beyond being legally right or wrong, there lies another field. We shall meet there when the soul lies down on that beautiful grass, where the world is too full to talk about ideas, languages, and even the phrase "each other" shall not make any sense, if we think about our beautiful, informal agenda. Thank you.

23. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, the President of the 31st session of the General Conference. That was very wise and timely counsel. And when the elders offer us counsel, young people, like some of us, can only do one thing and one thing only, and that is to listen and accept the wise counsel. Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Bangladesh would now like to take the floor. You now have the floor, Sir.

24. **Bangladesh:**

Thank you Sir. Mr President, as the 38th session of the General Conference is drawing to a close, I wish to register my sincere appreciation for the manner in which you have presided over this historic session of the UNESCO General Conference. Your straightforward and transparent approach, your wisdom and even-handedness played a pivotal role in the smooth and fruitful conclusion of the 38th session of the General Conference. We look forward to working closely with you for the next two years. I would also like to thank the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and the able members of the Secretariat for their efficient support to the work of the General Conference. Before I conclude, I wish to reiterate Bangladesh's unflinching support to UNESCO in the fight against extremism and terrorism through education and intercultural dialogue and by strengthening a culture of peace. Thank you, Mr President.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for those very kind words. Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, we have thus come to the end of our last plenary meeting and I wish to once again thank you all for your active participation, for your very thoughtful statements and your very wise decisions over the past two weeks. Before I mark the end of the session, we will have the pleasure of listening to a short musical performance prepared by Maestro Jorge Lozano-Corres, and performed by none other than the UNESCO Choir. The first musical piece we will hear is a traditional Bulgarian song, followed by an extract from the *Sonnambula* by Vincenzo Bellini. The performance will conclude with another traditional song, this time from Oaxaca, Mexico. Let me now invite the performers to present their musical interlude.

(Musical interlude)

26. **The President:**

What an end to our meeting! Could we show our appreciation once again, colleagues? *(Applause)* When we say UNESCO turned 70, the fact that we have our staff members, also exercising their talent, unlike some of us, particularly my good self, then you know that the Organization has matured. And one of them, by the way, is the head of our security. He was there, not only taking care of our security but also letting us enjoy the pleasure of listening to music. What an Organization! Before I declare the meeting closed, colleagues and friends, allow me to say *bon voyage, buen viaje, rihlah sa'idah, shchastlivovo puti, Yilù ping'ān*. On that note, my dear friends, I now declare **closed** the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, and God bless.

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.
La séance est levée à 17 h 25
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.25
Заседание закрывается в 17.25
رفعت الجلسة في الساعة ٥, ٢٥ بعد الظهر
会议于 17 时 25 分结束*

List of delegates,
representatives and observers

Liste des délégués,
représentants et observateurs

Lista de delegados,
representantes y observadores

Список делегатов,
представителей и наблюдателей

قائمة بأسماء أعضاء
الوفود والممثلين والمراقبين

代表团成员、代表及观察员名单

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2. In the absence of the Head of Delegation, it is understood that the first listed delegate present becomes Head of Delegation, unless otherwise specifically stated.

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 2. A menos que se indique lo contrario, se entiende que, en ausencia del Jefe de la delegación, le reemplazará el primer delegado presente que figure en la lista después de aquél.

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1. Фамилии и звания, указанные в настоящем документе, взяты из списков, представленных соответствующими правительственными организациями. Принятые здесь наименования отнюдь не отражают мнения Секретариата о юридическом статусе какой-либо страны или территории, ее властей, равно, как и границ какой-либо страны или территории. То же самое относится к званиям членов делегаций.
 2. В отсутствие главы делегации предполагается, что указанный первым в списке делегат является лицом, заменяющим главу делегации, если нет других указаний.

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- ١ - إن الأسماء والألقاب الواردة في هذه الوثيقة هي التي قدمتها الحكومات والمنظمات المعنية، ولا يجوز تأويل التسميات المستخدمة على أنها تعبر عن موقف السكرتارية من الوضع القانوني لأي بلد أو إقليم، أو من حدوده، أو من السلطات القائمة فيه. وينطبق هذا التنبيه أيضاً على ألقاب أعضاء الوفود.
- ٢ - من المفهوم أنه في حالة غياب رئيس الوفد، يحل محله في هذه الصفة أول مندوب حاضر ورد اسمه بعد اسم رئيس الوفد على القائمة، إلا إذا نصَّ على غير ذلك.

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1. 本文件中出现的专有名词和头衔系由有关政府和组织提供。所使用的称呼不应该被理解为秘书处对某国或某一区域的合法地位或制度以及边界划分的表态。对于各代表团成员的头衔，本通知同样适用。
 2. 除非有相反的指示，在代表团团长缺席的情况下，出席的代表名单中第一名代表（位于团长后的）不言而喻将接替团长的职务。

States and organizations are shown in the English alphabetical order of their names.

Les États et les organisations sont mentionnés suivant l'ordre alphabétique de leur nom en anglais.

Los Estados y las organizaciones se mencionan en el orden alfabético de los nombres en inglés.

Страны и организации перечислены в порядке английского алфавита.

أدرجت أسماء الدول والمنظمات وفقاً للترتيب الهجائي الإنجليزية

国家和机构以其名称的英文字母顺序排列。

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États membres
Estados Miembros
Государства-члены
الدول الأعضاء
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Afghanistan/Afganistán/Афганистан/

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