



الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية
REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

Statement by Ms. Nouria BENGHABRIT

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Head of the Algerian Delegation at the 39th session

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**Madam President of the General Conference,
Madam General Director,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, allow me to express my congratulations and those of my delegation for the election of Ms. Audrey Azoulay as new Director General of UNESCO. I am convinced that she will spare no effort to promote the goals of our Organization.

On the other hand, I would like to thank Ms. Irina Bokova for her actions as Head of the Organization.

My congratulations are also addressed to you Madam Chairperson, for your election as President of our General Conference. You can be assured of our full cooperation.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to your predecessor, our brother Stanley Simata from Namibia, for his excellent work during his chairmanship.

Madam President

Since our last General Conference, my country, Algeria has undergone in 2016 a constitutional amendment initiated by his Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Republic, in which were involved all goodwill and vital forces of the Algerian nation. This constitutional revision has, among other things, introduced new provisions in line with the mandate of our Organization, such as:

- the constitutionalizing of Tamazight promoted as official language and the creation of an Academy to put in place the conditions of its promotion and its achievement, forward;
- the reinforcement of the guarantee of press freedom in all its forms;
- the opening of public media to the opposition,
- the prohibition of the punishment for press offenses by a penalty of deprivation of liberty.

These achievements came in addition to the previous reforms that have already enabled the establishment of independent Regulation Authorities such the Audio-visual Regulation Authority "ARAV", and another one in charge of the regulation of the written press "ARPE", as well as the creation of the Higher Council of Ethics and Deontology (CNESD).

Madam President,

As you are aware, the date of 1st November represents for Algeria a founding Act of our historical process of liberation. Hence it's with great emotion that I address this assembly in this commemorative day, because if a lot has been already done, many complex challenges still remain: on one hand, the adequate management of the constraints related to development such as schooling, inclusiveness, equity and quality and, on the other hand, the openness to the world with its categorizations and indicators.

Our country, by its ancient and recent history, of tragedies, external and internal dramas, but also by its aspiration and convictions for peace and stability, holds on to its vocation as a stabilizer of the region, by its educational, cultural, technical and scientific cooperation.

At the edge of the third Millennium, the modernization of training devices must now find the essential articulations between the global and the local, quantity and quality, algerianity and alterity. All these aspects are precisely at the heart of the structural reforms implemented since 2003.

The central challenge for the educational system is a better training of the teaching staff, and this is precisely the aim of the of the National Education Sector ethics Charter, set in 2015 and to which all the actors of the national education system including syndicates have agreed by consensus.

Madame President,

Youth represents the most important fringe of the Algerian population. Its involvement and participation in the economic, social and cultural development of the country is an essential ongoing objective of the National Youth Policy, which bases its action on responses adapted to the different needs of young people: need for listening, need for action, need of leisure, but also need for development, emancipation and accomplishment.

To face the threats driven by social networks, Algerian Authorities are working at the same time to subtract youth from the discourse and the sirens of radicalization, of nihilism and personal and social despair by creating adequate social and professional conditions.

To achieve this strategic objective, the new revised Constitution of 2016 set up the "High Council of Youth", composed by institutions and civil society representatives of youth.

This high Council will constitute a space for debate, research and consultation on all issues related to youth, by providing appropriate responses and efficient action plans to update and implement the national youth policy.

In the field of culture, the creation of the category 2 regional center for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Africa is in its operational phase. The last representatives of the five sub-regions of the Continent are to confirm soon their effective participation in its Governing Body, which will take place just after the accomplishment of this last administrative step.

On the other hand, the Algerian delegation welcomes and supports the African Group's proposals both for the governance reform and the implementation of SDG4 as well as the African Union Agenda 2063.

Madam President,

I cannot conclude my intervention without expressing our deep concern with regard to those acts against certain minorities, with even undermining the right to life, enshrined in all international and national charters and constitutions, as well as violations of human and intangible heritage in different parts of the world.

Thank you