

Statement by Ambassador/PR Ruchira Kamboj on Adoption of the framework for Action on Education on 4 November 2015 at UNESCO, Paris

Hon'ble Ministers,

Distinguished Ambassadors and colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a special day. Today, history has granted us an audience. It has given us the opportunity to wield the pen that will define our legacy to the world.

The ambition of Goal 4 on education is proof that the import of the occasion has not been lost on us. It has only pushed us further towards matching our ideals with experience to create a blueprint more comprehensive and holistic than the Millennium Development Goals. And to create a collective call for action that speaks for all those who believe in the transformative potential of education.

The Education 2030 Framework for Action answers that call. It contains the wide consensus among educational stakeholders on the way forward. I am aware that this consensus has not been easy to achieve, and I would like to congratulate the Drafting Group, especially UNESCO, for its perseverance, and most importantly, its patience.

However, the successful implementation of Education 2030 will require political resolve and a willingness to share knowledge and financial resources.

The presence of all of you here today is a reassuring demonstration of the political will that was also invoked by many distinguished speakers today. It is an acknowledgement that the attainment of our goal on Education will require cooperation – globally, regionally and nationally.

It is also a vote of confidence for the respect for the autonomy of Member States that the Framework for Action preserves. The autonomy to plan for and progressively capture annual, intermediate and accelerated steps towards meeting the targets.

The demand for education in India, and indeed globally, far outstrips the existing conventional systems' ability to provide it. If we are to meet the global thirst for education in the time frame that we have given ourselves, we will need to reinvent and reorient our educational systems while simultaneously improving our delivery mechanisms.

As the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has noted, if we are to truly transform our world, we will need to go beyond dichotomous and conflictual modes of thought that views the world as a battleground between Developed vs. Developing countries. We will need to engineer true, lasting and mutually beneficial cooperation for the implementation of the Education 2030 FFA.

We are at a critical junction. We have a historic opportunity to leave our imprints on the sands of time. Today marks the occasion when we seize the day.

Thank you.

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