

204TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MR ALI SULEYMAN, PERMANENT DELEGATE OF ETHIOPIA TO UNESCO

Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Mrs. President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement of group V.a.

Madam Director General,

Let me begin by expressing the pleasure of having my first official functions as the new permanent delegate of Ethiopia coinciding with your first board meeting.

I would like to thank you for your comprehensive introduction to the debate.

Pursuing the reforms the organization have been undertaking with fresh eyes is important, which is why I appreciate your leadership in undertaking the proposed strategic transformation. Indeed UNESCO's role in making the human dimension indispensable in the transformation and the crisis our world is

experiencing today is now relevant more than ever. Hence, we still need to deliver within our capacity and this strategic reform or change is timely. Until we have more details, I would like to give my support and some areas of actions that seems to me and my delegation important.

In the corporate World, we have the Business process Management that allows continuous improvement focusing on the analysis and design of workflows and business processes.

As for us, in December 2017, Mr Antonio Guterrez has announced major changes in the organization. Changes such as the establishment of a Management Strategy Department as well as for Operational Support in view of avoiding duplication of efforts. Indeed, in order to manage efficiently our organization, we need a management department with a global overview of UNESCO's activities, its strengths and weaknesses. I believe this department would be accountable for the management of the different sectors and would thus enable the organization to deliver comprehensively by creating more synergies between them.

The main part of the regular budget is still spent on Human resources. We need to be able to ensure that many labor intensive programmes with low priority, low visibility and low impact are not undertaken at the expense of structuring programmes. We need to create more synergies and make the

different divisions and sectors work together. As a member State, it is important to obtain economies of scale by avoiding fragmentation and duplication of efforts at national level. UNESCO should focus on the programmes where it has comparative advantages using its large network of field offices and category 1 and 2 centers with greater visibility on execution. This will allow us to deliver better on our core areas of competencies. We should then align with other UN Agencies to act on the rest.

Let us all agree to tackle the root cause of major issues of our World which is in our case education, out of school children and employability. UNESCO's vision to build peace in people's mind goes mainly through the acceptance of Cultural diversity and Education.

During his inaugural speech, our New Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed said that the key solution to solving our many issues of a big populated country is to be found in Education and more precisely on the quality of Education. Indeed, Education will enable people to fight for human rights, Education and employability of youth will help to tackle migration issues and to prevent violent extremism.

Hence, UNESCO's support to achieve SDG 4 should be more concrete in terms of manuals, learning equipment, teacher's capacity development and other elements of inclusive schools.

Ethiopia is very happy to host IICBA mandated to strengthen the capacities of teacher in our continent. IICBA has been undertaking many trainings and pedagogy related to gender responsiveness and to the prevention of violent extremism. Such institutions with measurable impacts on the ground should be reinforced.

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

We all agree that UNESCO is a standard setting organization and that its role as a laboratory of ideas should be strengthened.

However, elaborating policies far from the realities on the ground makes our organization inefficient. UNESCO's presence and relevance in the world can only be achieved by a better presence on the field.

Therefore, responding to the imbalance between the field and the Headquarter should be your priority Madame Director General. How would we promote UNESCO and make it relevant now more than ever if it is not by ensuring a better presence on the ground? Donors will only be attracted by UNESCO when the impact of its work will be visible. Several activities and events are undertaken in our continents but the impact is not yet measurable. we are very thankful for being a priority but we need UNESCO more on the field to be able to understand our real challenges.

Reinforcing UNESCO's field presence will enable a well-adapted fund-raising strategy targeting local donors; we need local solutions to local problems within the leadership of UNESCO. It will also help ensuring that Member States are on track with the implementation of the SDGS through National ownership.

Last but not least, let me thank my compatriot Mr Getachew Engida who is attending his last board meeting for his dedicated work, sincere and deeply felt attachment to UNESCO and its universal values and objectives, he has inevitably become so much part of our working lives in UNESCO.

To my delegation and I, it is not a goodbye but a see you soon at home.