

Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Madam President of the General Conference,

Madam Director-General,

Dear colleagues,

I would like to start by associating Grenada to the sentiments and perspectives shared by the GRULAC.

Grenada welcomes the willingness of the Director-General to go further in UNESCO reform's implementation and improve its management in a strategic way and in compliance with its Constitution. We look forward to see this process undertaken with the Member States and according to the General Conference resolutions, including on Governance, as well as the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation, the External Auditor and the IOS, which rely on the holistic diagnostic already undertaken by the Organisation.

As underlined by the Director-General at the General Conference, "Despite the limits and constraints ..., UNESCO has demonstrated, over its history, a real ability to provide creative responses to the challenges of our time." Grenada considers that the added value of our Organisation rests in its unique multidisciplinary mandate in Education, Culture, Sciences, Communication and Information, which allows it to respond to its Member States' needs in a holistic manner. Therefore, it is important that all Programme Sectors, with their specific expertise, work in an intersectoral manner.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda challenges us. We need to put forward our best efforts in trying to achieve the targets set out by the SDG's.

Grenada is committed to providing meaningful education and training for its people by ensuring access and promoting quality lifelong learning opportunities for all. Thus we greatly value the position of UNESCO as the lead global agency in education, entrusted to coordinate the monitoring and implementation of SDG 4, in order to help Member States deliver on their commitments.

Science, technology and innovation are critical for sustainable development, poverty eradication, protection of the environment and enhancement of global peace. As responsible for Science and Technology for CARICOM, Grenada seeks UNESCO's support for developing adequate policies in our region.

Mr. Chairman,

As stated by Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell "there can be no question that for us in the Caribbean, climate change is an existential threat".

We call for the continued support from UNESCO for the implementation of Early Warning Systems for Tsunamis which are of great importance to Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

We stress the importance of the SIDS Action Plan that frames UNESCO's contributions to the SAMOA Pathway and the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

We welcome the adoption by the General Conference of the Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change, and the focus of Social and Human Sciences on Youth to increase their meaningful participation in the developmental processes.

We support UNESCO's thrust in preserving the diversity of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and look for increased support to build capacity of Member States and preserve heritage in particular that in danger due to conflicts, looting, natural disasters and climate change.

Information and Communication Technology is a major tool in driving development. The CI Sector brings strong support to the other Sectors and must be at the forefront of UNESCO's activities to face the challenges of the digital era and contribute to building inclusive and sustainable knowledge societies.

We believe that in pursuing the SDGs, the role of statistics should be strengthened. Thus we welcome the proposed reinforcement of UNESCO Institute for Statistics which is a good example of the re-allocation to the

Programmes of the funds frozen for the contingency plan from their workplan.

Finally, we would like to welcome the nomination of new members of the Senior Management Team and strongly hope for an improved human resource strategy according to the Rules and Regulations, in order to advance Programme delivery and geographical representation.

Thank you.