

SPEECH
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HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION
ATTENDING THE 204TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD
(Paris, 10 April 2018)

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif de l'Unesco,
Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO
Mesdames et messieurs les délégués,

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, au nom de la Délégation vietnamienne, adresser mes plus vives félicitations à Votre Excellence Madame Audrey Azoulay pour votre élection au poste de Directrice générale de l'UNESCO. Ce choix a traduit non seulement la confiance mais aussi et surtout l'attente des pays membres pour réaliser des objectifs nobles de l'UNESCO.

(At the outset, I would like, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, to congratulate Mdm. Audrey Azoulay on your election as the Director-General of UNESCO. This is an expression of not only the confidence but also the expectation vested in you by member countries, that you will guide the Organization, along with us, towards the noble goals of UNESCO).

Dans un contexte international marqué par des mutations rapides et profondes qui comportent à la fois opportunités et défis, il est plus que jamais nécessaire de faire valoir davantage le rôle de l'UNESCO ainsi que celui d'autres organisations internationales pour lutter contre l'hégémonie et l'ultra-nationalisme tout comme pour participer à la

résolution de grandes questions comme écarts de développement, impacts négatifs du changement climatique ou encore l'atteinte des objectifs de développement durable, questions qu'aucun pays ne puisse à lui seul résoudre ...

Given rapid and profound developments in the world today with intertwined opportunities and challenges, the role of UNESCO and other international organizations need to be further promoted in order to stand against power politics and self-centered extreme nationalism, and address major issues that no single country could handle on its own such as the development gap, the adverse impacts of climate change and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this context, to fully tap into its own strength in the international arena and help promote peace and development, UNESCO needs to take measures to improve its operational effectiveness, create drivers and harness more resources. The UNESCO General Conference has identified sound orientations and roadmaps to realize these goals; and it is our common task to realize these orientations and roadmaps together. We highly value and stand by your initiatives, Mdm. Director General, as they clearly show your determination in advancing reforms. In this spirit, we understand that in the future UNESCO should focus on the following areas:

Organizationally, it is a practical requirement that UNESCO continues the reform of the General Conference, Executive Board and Secretariat so that its working mechanism would become more effective and transparent. Such reforms need to be holistic and include the issues of operational guidelines, staff and financial management, among others. More importantly, such reforms need to ensure broad-based participation of all member countries, at the permanent missions in Paris as well as at the National UNESCO Commissions in the capitals of member countries, while fostering consensus throughout the Organization's structure.

In *implementing cooperation programs*, UNESCO's orientation should focus on prioritized operations, on the basis of the Organization's mandate and capacity, as UNESCO is encountering budget constraints. We welcome the mainstreaming of UNESCO operations within the common goals of the United Nations, and the pioneering of areas that would raise the prestige of the Organization. To this end, we should tap into the sense of responsibility and spirit of sharing. Adjusting the budget towards increasing funding for cooperation programs and reducing administrative costs should be further promoted. In addition, reinforcing and strengthening cooperation and partnership with other organizations, in particular within the UN system, is essential to create synergy and harness resources to which UNESCO has limited access.

In implementing cooperation activities in various countries, drawing from our cooperation with the UNESCO Viet Nam office, we note that the role of Field Offices is vital. These offices ensure that the Organization can maintain its strategic vision on the ground, connect the orientations of UNESCO with the national strategy, and work closely with the country in question and other UN organizations as part of One United Nations, thus upholding the image and role of UNESCO in each country. Field Offices also helps to mobilize and coordinate various resources from state, international and private sector partners to fulfill the priorities of UNESCO and the development programs of the country in question.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last 40 years, many cooperation activities between Viet Nam and UNESCO have been implemented very effectively across all areas. In cooperation with UNESCO in the years to come, Viet Nam wishes to stress the following areas of interest:

In education, we always attach great importance to Education for Sustainable Development and support the inclusion in the present agenda of the Education for Sustainable Development beyond 2019 draft. In Viet Nam, we have received and hopes to continue receiving UNESCO's support in the establishment of the national education

performance indicators toolkit.

In culture, we continue to support UNESCO's initiatives and fulfill our responsibilities as a member of UNESCO conventions on culture. At the same time, we will pay special attention to the conservation and management of heritages that UNESCO has recognized.

In science, the United Nations has adopted the Decade of Ocean Science, and Viet Nam has been working with the UNESCO Office in Hanoi to include Viet Nam into the Maritime Spatial Planning Program. Viet Nam also greatly respects the values of sustainable development brought about by the title of Global Geopark recognized by UNESCO, and in the present agenda the profile of Viet Nam's Cao Bang Geopark, among others, will be considered.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mdm. Director General,

Viet Nam will continue to be a reliable partner and responsible member of the international community and at the UNESCO. We wish to reaffirm our commitment to work closely with all member states and the UNESCO Executive Board to realize the goals we have set.

Thank you for your kind attention./.