

INTERVENTION
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNESCO CLUBS, CENTRES AND ASSOCIATIONS (WFUCA), MR. DHIRENDRA BHATNAGAR AT GENERAL POLICY DEBATE, 39TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO
4TH NOVEMBER 2017, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS-FRANCE

Honorable Mrs. President of the General Conference
Honorable Madam Director General
Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Dignitaries, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA), it is with great pleasure and pride, I share with this august gathering that UNESCO Club Movement has completed 70 years of its existence, rendering services to promote the ideals of UNESCO among the people through the network of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations spread in about 100 countries in all continents of the world.

70th anniversary celebrations of UNESCO Club Movement was held in Sendai, Japan, the birth place of the First UNESCO Association which was attended by the leaders of UNESCO Clubs and Associations from various countries and representatives of about 200 UNESCO Associations from all over Japan. Altogether, nearly 1,000 people who love UNESCO took part in this memorial event.

UNESCO Club Movement is a people's movement involving representatives of all sections of the society, particularly young women and men, rendering services voluntarily in advancing UNESCO's aims and objectives. As NGO's, under the guidance and support of the National Commissions in their respective countries, UNESCO Clubs and Associations are working at the grass root levels to promote International Understanding, Communal Harmony, Human Rights, Unity in Diversity, Culture of Peace and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

As majority of the world population consist of young people, we need to provide platforms from where they can make their voices heard, discuss world problems and find solutions with their active participation. UNESCO Clubs in schools, colleges and educational institutions provide such opportunities to discuss topics of national and international interests, observing UN Days etc, enhancing knowledge about world affairs.

Faster means of communication, advanced technologies and internet have shrunk the world and brought people closer. Young people are learning fast and adapting new technologies.

Through Skype, video conferencing they can establish closer links, exchange ideas and learn about each other's way of life, creating a network of peace activists. We solicit support of the National Commissions for UNESCO in different countries to promote UNESCO Clubs in educational institutions.

At the end, I would reiterate that the UNESCO Club movement has grown and expanded with the support of UNESCO. We are committed to strengthen the organization by supporting its programmes and activities and work within the guiding principles of UNESCO.

Thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to speak before this distinguished gathering.